

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

11:30 A.M.

This Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Denise Keagy, Anniv. (Keagy Family)

Next Sunday, February 5, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catherine "Kate" Starr (Paula Hall)

Cathedral Mass Intentions

January 29, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM +Robert Beck (Mary Ann Bell)

10:00 AM +Eleanor Fischer (Mary Kowalski)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

January 30, Monday, Weekday

12:00 PM +Roy, Sr. & Roy, Jr. Miller (Mary Louise)

January 31, Tuesday, St. John Bosco, Priest

12:00 PM +Robert Simanski (Fred & Joanne Simanski)

February 1, Wednesday, Weekday

12:00 PM +Debbie Fornwalt Beiswenger, Birth. (Bob & Cathy Chirdon)

February 2, Thursday, The Presentation of the Lord

12:00 P.M. +Bishop Joseph Adamec (Anonymous)

February 3, Friday, St. Blaise, Bp. & Martyr

12:00 PM +Orvita Knott (Joe & Dan Angeski, Marcy Yurinko)

February 4, Saturday, Weekday

12:00 PM +Jim Davidson (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)

Vigil: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM +Patrick Duffy (Jeff Mayernick)

February 5, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM +Janet Tomlinson (David & Kathryn Baronner)

10:00 AM +Maurice & Jane McNulty (Rita & Jerry Kibler)

5:00 P.M. Pro Popolo/For the People

There is Mass at 11:30 A.M. at Our Lady of Fatima Parish.



TABERNACLE CANDLE

During the month of January, the Sanctuary/Tabernacle Candle has been donated by the Peter Starr Family for Ukraine. Thank you.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JANUARY 29
2023

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain and began to teach them.

Matthew 5:1

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You humble of the land, seek justice and humility, and the Lord will be your protection (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13).

Psalm — The Lord blesses the humble and gives them the heavenly kingdom (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — God chose the weak of the world, those who count for nothing, so that whoever boasts should boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

Gospel — Jesus taught from the mountain: Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12a).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32;
Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14,
17-18a; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;
Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6;
Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5;
Mt 5:13-16

Thank You Very Much

Your prayers, volunteerism, and financial support are deeply appreciated.

The contributions for Sunday, January 22, were
\$3,047.61.





Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

You need more than water for a bath. Most family bathrooms contain an arsenal of soaps and emollients, lotions, shampoos, and conditioners to combat grime and honor the body. A bath without oil is still unthinkable. No wonder early Christians used lavish amounts of oil to “paint” the skin of people drawn dripping wet from the baptismal font on Easter. There were two oils used in baptism long ago. “Oil of exorcism” (now called Oil of the Catechumens) protected candidates from “evil spirits”; it strengthened their resolve and purified their purposes.

The second oil (Holy Chrism), slathered over them after baptism’s bath, “sealed” them, making them like Christ, the anointed one, the priest, the prophet, the king. Chrism has always had a powerful odor; rich resinous perfumes are stirred in before it is consecrated. As the newly baptized were embraced by new brothers and sisters in Christ, the scent permeated the hall of Eucharist, a sign of our connection to Christ and to one another.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Catholic Schools Week 2023 **January 29–February 4**

www.NCEA.org/csw
#CSW23

This week, we are invited to pray for and encourage the ministry of Catholic education. This year,

Our Lady of Fatima Parish will contribute \$17,761.46 towards Holy Trinity Catholic School.



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2nd

The Presentation of the Lord (February 2) **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

In some cases, by Candlemas, forty days after Christmas, February 2, the season of Christ’s coming has depleted our candle supply. Soon, the parish will order a new paschal candle from a catalogue or candlemaker, or in some communities, wax will be collected to be melted and molded. Last year’s paschal candle shows the wear and tear of summer heat, or many funerals or baptisms.

Paschal candles have been around since at least the fourth century, when Constantine’s biographer Eusebius reported that the night of the sacred vigil was “transformed into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the city pillars of wax, while burning lamps in every place so that the splendor of this night was brighter than the brightest daylight.”

Light was a precious commodity in the ancient world, and this lavish use of precious beeswax was a sign of the Christian’s call to bear Christ’s light into the world’s darkness. In a pre-electric age, a whole city aglow from the paschal flame must have been a glorious sight, and a reminder to every baptized Christian of our vocation to “be the light of the world.” —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Pittsburgh Pirates great Neil Walker will be visiting Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg on Saturday, February 4, from Noon to 2:00 P.M. He will speak about his Catholic faith and be available to meet and greet. There is no cost to attend; donations will be accepted to help support Holy Name School.



Our Lady of Fatima Parish raised \$147.85 for this year’s March for Life. Gratitude is extended to Chris Keagy for facilitating the fundraiser in our parish.



Due to the generosity of 35 contributors, Our Lady of Fatima Parish has reached our \$8,641 target in last year’s Catholic Ministries Drive. We were \$10.00 over target! Thank you very much and God bless you.



JANUARY
29
2023

FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

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**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.”**

Matthew 5:3

GOD'S REIGN HERE AND NOW

Our readings this week all speak of the distinctive characteristics of the people God gathers to achieve God's purposes. The deep communion of love that God envisions requires a community that is humble and lowly, as Zephaniah describes. God chooses the weak and foolish to reveal God's strength and wisdom, as Paul says. And in the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches that a people who know their weakness and vulnerability can most fully place their trust in God and work for a just world. As Christians, we believe God will fully heal our world when Christ returns. But Christ also invites us to experience a foretaste of this future right now, through our life in Christian community, and in our work of peacemaking and justice-seeking in the world. Our poverty in spirit can enable us to be both recipients and instruments of the “kingdom of heaven” here and now.

THE BLESSED COMMUNITY

We turn to the first action of Jesus' public ministry described by Matthew—Jesus preaching to the crowds in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon begins with today's Gospel passage, the Beatitudes. Having just called his first disciples to form a community, Jesus begins to spell out what this community is all about. The Beatitudes lay the foundation, describing the primary values and practices, and the core identity of this community.

Jesus tells his followers, first and foremost, that they are blessed by God. The community will reveal its blessed character through its humility, meekness, and hunger for justice. Knowing they are loved as God's children, they will have open and pure hearts, free to be merciful, and they will be able to endure suffering gracefully. Listening anew to the Beatitudes, we remember how far we fall short of Jesus' vision. But we know God has gathered us, and continues to transform us, to receive the fullness of blessing.

WHOM GOD HONORS

In Jesus' time, honor and shame were key markers for who is up and who is down in their society. Typically, those with wealth and power over others were to be honored. And in our own time, often we find ourselves drawn strongly toward having more abundance, control, and options to choose from. We avoid vulnerability and limitations. But Jesus says in the Beatitudes that the poor and meek are truly blessed, that is, honorable and privileged by God. How can this be?

Perhaps Jesus is first exposing the opposites to the poor and meek, the “rich in spirit.” These develop such confidence in themselves, based on achievement or inherited privilege, that they isolate themselves from God, and either ignore or exploit others. Jesus also knew that the humble in heart realize that they cannot build an illusory self-affirmation, so they can be most open to God's affirmation of them. They can then become more deeply empowered to participate in God's work. God blesses and honors the open-hearted.

TODAY'S READINGS

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12–13
Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10
1 Corinthians 1:26–31
Matthew 5:1–12a

