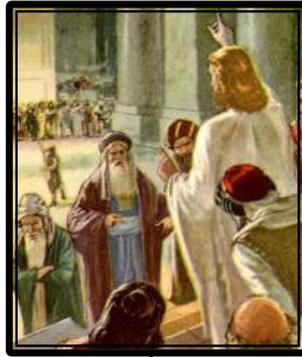


The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2016

Weekend Mass Intentions

5:00 pm: *The Kester Family*
7:30 am: *Pedro Mercuri*
9:00 am: *Alexander Donnelly;*
The Kester Family
11:30 am: *Ryan Davis*



Weekday

12 Noon Mass Intentions

2/1- *Pedro Mercuri*
2/2- *Pedro Mercuri*
2/3- *Pedro Mercuri*
2/4- *Pedro Mercuri*
2/5- *Pedro Mercuri*

RCIA
Christian Formation Process



We Pray for the Sick

Sr. Agnes Rose McNally, George Hays, Greg Neifert, Noel Rendor, Jo Gerber, Alfonso Janoski, Jim Albanese, Enrico Salvatierra, Stephanie MacAdam, Lisa Brennan and new babies - Bryan, Andrew, and Padraigh, Carole Ripken, Joseph Debes, Stella Vincent, child named Luke, Geraldine McDonald, Debby Gerber, Beverly Frick, Joan Reed, Penelope Cogle, Lex Bishop, Bernard Zuchowski, Arnold Gerber, Theron Chauvin, Jean Dugan, Robert Dugan, Richard Bratman, Joseph Michael Kelley, Angela Morton, Mary Carol Forbus, Anne Head, Dorothy Burnham, Anthony Tackett, Odell Scott, Bill Wurst, and Annabelle Penyak.

Every springtime...

God, as it were, rewrites the Book of Genesis and Creation. Appropriate to the coming spring, Jesus is the Divine "Sower." He sows "seed" in the soil of our souls, covered with "rocks" of hardening pride, "thorns" of softening "pleasures!"

"DAILY MASS OPPORTUNITY: Please... join us for Daily Mass Monday through Friday at 12 Noon.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The office will be open Monday – Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM.



Winter Weather



Announcements and Closings

Weekdays: If Baltimore City

Schools have canceled school and/or after school events, 12 noon Mass will be canceled as will other scheduled events.

Weekends: Please refer to the "Home" page of our website, theshrine.org. If such weather occurs on a Saturday, it is likely that the 5pm Mass will be canceled.

Celebrants-Feb 6th and 7th

5PM: Msgr. Moeller
7:30AM: Msgr. Moeller
9AM: Fr. Au
11:30AM: Fr. Au

Poor Box Recipients

January – March

Jan-March Poor Box receipts will be going to Paul's Place.

- Are you interested in becoming Catholic?
- Do you know someone who is?
- Are you an adult Catholic who has not yet been confirmed?

Perhaps you just want to learn more about the Catholic Faith, or have questions about it.

RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process for preparing adults for full communion with the Catholic Church, and for instructing adults returning to their faith or who simply want to learn more. RCIA is open to anyone interested in exploring Catholicism; registering at this parish is not required. Classes have started, however, registrations are still being accepted. The next RCIA session is this Wednesday, Feb. 3rd @ 7pm

All are welcome to attend! For information, please contact Steve Cox in the Parish Office.

3rd Grade Catechist Needed!!

A third grade Catechist is greatly needed. If you would love to share your faith with young children twice a month on Sunday mornings, please contact Bernetta Palasik at the office.

2nd Collections – February

February 7th – Church Restoration Fund

February 21 – Shrine Endowment Fund

Book Club



The Shrine Book Club meets one Thursday per month at 6pm in the Undercroft. Upcoming gatherings and readings are:

February 25th - Caryll Houselander,
A Rocking Horse Catholic Please join us!

Ministry Opportunity

Volunteers from the Shrine regularly take the Eucharist to patients at Sinai Hospital and other local healthcare facilities. We are looking for people who feel called to help in this ministry. Please contact Stephen Cox in the parish office if you are interested.

"Mothers' Prayer Group"

The group will meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 PM in the undercroft. All mothers are welcome, regardless of how old your children are - they still need your prayers! For information contact Steve Cox at (410)466-6884, ext. 11.

Greeters/Hospitality Ministers Needed!

If you are interested in being a hospitality minister at one of our masses, please contact the parish office, 410-466-6884.



FINANCIAL CORNER

Did you know that collections for the church restoration fund average close to \$2,000 per month? The monthly collection for our church restoration fund is the first weekend of every month. Thank you for your generous contributions to this important second collection. This fund was severely depleted in 2015 when we utilized the fund on the undercroft renovation project and on chapel repairs.

Spiritual Adoption

January - Month 4



Your little baby now weighs 6 ounces and has his own set of fingerprints. The taste buds are working and the sense of hearing is developing. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed both internally and externally...all is needed is more time to gain weight and grow strong.

What a miracle!

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters of the Poor from St. Martin's Home will visit our parish on the weekend of February 6 & 7, 2016.

By helping the Little Sisters fulfill their mission of caring for the elderly poor, you are partnering with us in the care of God's most vulnerable children. Pope Francis said, "The elderly are those who carry history, that carry doctrine, that carry the faith and give it to us as an inheritance. They are like a good vintage wine who have this strength from within to give us a noble heritage."

Please help the Little Sisters as they continue the work of their foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan.

The Presentation of the Lord

February 2nd

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is referred to as the "Purification of Mary." This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity Creche or other Christmas decorations until this feast.

The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

"In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2 falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence. There are two ways of celebrating the ceremony, either the *Procession*, which begins at a 'gathering place' outside the church, or the *Solemn Entrance*, celebrated within the church."

