



PASTOR'S CORNER

A Winter's Day Meditation

Hans Urs von Balthasar, in *Heart of the World*, writes from Jesus' perspective as the Vine to us, the branches...

I AM THE VINE, you are branches. I am the root, the trunk and the bough, inconspicuous, cut back and stunted, half-covered by the ground, under snow and shale. But you are my blossoms, you my fruit. During long winter nights I gather up my power. Out of the dry rubble of barren earth I suck up the tasteless water, drop by drop. But under the action of the year's storms and blasts of the sun I send out shoot after shoot; I sweat my precious blood, my golden wine. This blood, this wine: this is you. I am the vine, you are wine I have wept. Tendrils at first, succulent and supple as snakes, you shoot out. Greedy for life, for freedom, you crave to escape the barked trunk and try out an independent existence, and you stretch out in the sun for sheer love of life. You hold out long, prehensile arms to grasp, to snatch, to fetter, to bind to yourselves anything alive with movement. You call it knowledge and love. The intertwining tendrils curl up to heaven, up towards the light and the stars, greedily grasping for God, but all they seize with the crooked fingers is air and nothingness.

I am the vine, and I myself have partaken of this craving drive, for summer presses hard on spring and wisdom grows from disillusionment. My Father is the vine-dresser and he prunes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit. Under the cutting knife, the tendrils' wild eagerness falls to the ground. Once again I stand bare; the greater part of you withers and is destined for the fire. Burning, the blade cuts through your greed for world and God. Struck at the root, it collapses with a powerless flicker; what still appears to be ordinary life is but the glow of death, which scorches and consumes branch after branch. Allow this fire to burn in your members, for you burn in me and for me. To me has all judgment been entrusted, and no one comes to me unless it is through fire. And the covetous will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Content with the fires of the dead of winter, because God alone suffices,
Fr. Eric.

Mass Intentions

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 1, 2015

Saturday – January 31st – St John Bosco

4:00PM – Julius Meyer (B)
by Jim and Carmela Meyer

7:00PM – The Poor Souls in Purgatory
by Irene Vomero

Sunday – February 1st – 4th Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Margaret Burdell Templeton
by Daughter

10:30AM – Harper Mae Martucci
by St Paul's Child Care Center Staff

Monday – February 2nd – Presentation of our Lord

8:00AM – Mary Kalamar (B)
by Husband, Joe

Tuesday – February 3rd – St Blaise

8:00AM – Ann and Glen Oswald
by Daughter, Louise

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – February 4th – St Joseph/Leonessa

6:00PM – John Schmidt
by Schmidt Family

Thursday – February 5th – St Agatha

8:00AM – Polly O'Donnell
by Jack and Joanne O'Connell

Friday – February 6th – St Paul Miki

8:00AM – Rose Tassie
by Ross Prickler

Sacred Heart Novena after Mass

Saturday – February 7th – St Colette of Corbie

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners

4:00PM – Steve Steffie
by Ann Spengler

7:00PM – Edward Marth
by Daniel and Bernadette Klucsarits

Sunday – February 8th – 5th Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Margaret and John Nicholas
by Great Grand-daughter, Elizabeth Gontkosky

10:30AM – Scott A McCloskey

by Family



Pray the Rosary each Sunday:
8:15AM and 10:15AM

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$ 3,470.30
Catholic Relief Service \$ 883.00

The Second Collection next weekend will be the **Fuel Collection**.

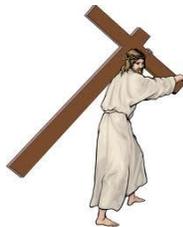


NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	J. Shaul S. DeLong	J. Englert	J. McAllister
7:00PM	A. Muschko A. Urban	P. McCarty	J. Ottinger
8:30AM	M. Popovic D. Popovic	B. Molchany	C. Molchany
10:30AM	H. Heffner C. Ritter	B. Petro	J. O'Connell

The Living Stations are BACK!

With all the devotions and projects of Lent comes the Living Stations performed by **children of our parish between the ages of 6 and 18 years old**. This year, the Living Stations will be performed *twice* at St. John Fisher Parish – Palm Sunday, March 29th at 7pm to help us all enter Holy Week, and on Good Friday, April 3rd at 7pm to help us pray this most solemn day of the year. Rehearsals are being held on Sunday nights from 6 - 7:30 PM in the church. So all you thespians (that's "actors," you know) ages 6 to 18 in our parish come and help us make the Stations come to life – help our parish to draw closer to Jesus in His Passion. Parents, we also give a shout out to you as well – we need your help with the props, the costumes, lighting, etc. All adult help is WELCOMED! Any questions? Call Louise Oswald 610-264-2435, Jen Delong 610-762-4380, Jane Rucci 610-264-7312.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers were placed on the altar last weekend in loving memory of **Jack McCarty** by the **McCarty Family**, and by the **Longenhagen** children with love and respect to their mother.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION



Please remember to mark your calendar to spend some time with our Lord in **Adoration** this **First Friday, February 6th**.

Adoration begins at the end of morning Mass and continues throughout the day until Holy Hour beginning at 7:00pm.

SAINT BLAISE

Throats will be blessed after all Masses this weekend, **Saturday, January 31st and Sunday, February 1st**, in anticipation of the feast day of Saint Blaise, as well as on **Tuesday, February 3rd**, the feast day itself.

St. Blaise was born to rich and noble parents and received a Christian education. He was a physician before being consecrated a bishop at a young age.

During the persecution of Licinius, St. Blaise, receiving a divine command, moved from the town and lived as a hermit in a cave. Wild animals visited him and he healed any that were sick and wounded.

One day, a group of hunters, gathering wild beasts for the games in the amphitheater, discovered St. Blaise and seized him. As he was being taken to the governor Agricolaus, St. Blaise encountered a woman whose pig was being seized by a wolf; St. Blaise commanded the wolf to release the pig and it was freed unharmed.

While in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Also, the woman whose pig had been saved brought St. Blaise candles so that his cell would have light and he could read the sacred Scriptures.

While we invoke St. Blaise for his protection against any physical ailment of the throat, we should also ask his protection against any spiritual ailment — profanity, cursing, unkind remarks, detraction or gossip. St. James reminds us, "If a man who does not control his tongue imagines that he is devout, he is self-deceived; his worship is pointless".

Therefore, may St. Blaise protect us from all evil, physical and spiritual, which may attack the throat.



Save The Dates!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events being held at St John Fisher Parish, and watch the bulletin for further details.

Sunday, February 22nd – Church Hall Pierogies
 Monday, February 23rd – Church Hall Pierogies
 Saturday, March 7th – School Hall Pierogies
 Friday, March 13th – Fish Dinner
 Saturday March 28th – Soup Sale
 Sunday, March 29th – Soup Sale
 Friday, April 10th – Ladies' Night Out

SLOVAK FOUNDATION

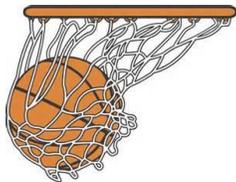
It is our privilege to continue to offer St. John Fisher parishioners of Slovak ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to give to the Slovak Federation. It had been the annual custom to hold a collection at St. Andrew's on the feasts of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in February, but this year, envelopes for this collection -- benefitting the unifying and promotion of Slovak ethnic identity for second, third, fourth generations and beyond, -- can be picked up at the doors of the Church and deposited in any Sunday collection of January or February.

GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS



Please join Father Keith Laskowski and the Helpers of God's Precious Infants at the Prayer Pilgrimage for the unborn, and all those involved in abortion on **Saturday, February 14th**. The pilgrimage begins with Mass at 8:00AM at Notre Dame Church

of Bethlehem, and continues with The Rosary at the abortion facility located at 31 South Commerce Way in the Bethlehem Industrial Park. Come and be part of the call to let your prayers and presence bring God's everlasting, unconditional love to all those involved in abortion. Contact: 610-674-4624 or hogpi@hotmail.com.



VIKETTES BASKETBALL CAMP

Any current 6th, 7th and 8th grade girl interested in attending Allentown Central Catholic's Girls Basketball Camp this summer

should email Coach Kopp at mkoppccchs@gmail.com. Camp will be held **June 15th to the 18th, from 9:30am to 2:30pm** at the St Joseph the Worker Gymnasium, Orefield.

CAT'S MEOW OF ST ANDREW

A second shipment of the former St Andrew Roman Catholic Church Cat's Meow has been ordered! The St. Andrew Church Cat's Meow replica is a wooden image of the church that measures 6 3/8"H x 5 1/2" W in color and includes a history of the church on the back. **Order forms are available at both church entrances or call 610-264-1225 to order.** The Cat's Meow replicas make a great gift for anniversaries and birthdays, or as a special keepsake to remember St. Andrew Church.



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST TRICKY TRAYS

Saint John the Baptist Church, Whitehall, will sponsor their Ninth Annual Tricky Trays/Basket Social on **Saturday, February 14th from 9:00AM to 7:00PM** and **Sunday, February 15th, 9:00AM to 4:00PM** at their Social Hall, 3120

Chestnut Street, Whitehall. You can purchase tickets at the door. There will be a special raffle for big-ticket items. Plenty of parking can be found behind the hall. You do not have to be present to win. Kitchen will be open. Winners can pick up baskets Monday, February 16th between 4:00PM to 6:00PM at the hall.

CYO Spring Sports Signups:

Baseball – 7th and 8th grade boys - \$60.00

Co-ed Track – 5th to 8th grade - \$50.00

Co-ed Volleyball – 5th to 8th grade - \$50.00

Sign-ups are **Thursday, February 5th at 6:00PM** and **Thursday, February 12th at 6:00PM** at Good Shepherd Gym. CYO is available for all the children of our parishes. Info: kellymilisits@gmail.com.