

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD February 2, 2025

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the Capital Improvement Fund. We are only \$19,518.00 from reaching our goal.

The Fund will remain open indefinitely and contributions can be dropped in the collection basket, dropped off at, or mailed to St. John the Baptist office at 25 Benton Avenue, Walton, NY 13856. Kindly write "Capital Improvement" in the memo space if you make your offering with a check. Again, I thank you very much.

Father Golding

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

As the feast of St. Blaise, February 3, falls on a Monday this year, Father Golding will bless throats at each of the Sunday Masses.

FIRST FRIDAY

February 7th is the First Friday of the month and an additional opportunity to worship Our Lord. Please join us at Mass; St. Peter's at 8:00 am and St. John's at 9:30 am.

?? DID YOU KNOW??

There is a beautiful treasury of prayers in our Sunday Missalettes? Beginning on page 366 you will find a wonderful selection of prayers that perhaps can assist you in preparing for your attendance at Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Thursday, from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm, Our Lord is exposed for Adoration in the Eucharistic Chapel at St. John's in Walton. All are welcome!

MARRIAGE MOMENTS by Susan Vogt

Communication tip #1: If a verbal and non-verbal message conflict, the non-verbal message is always stronger. That's why if you ask if anything is wrong and she says, "NO" but rolls her eyes, believe the eyes.

MONEY MATTERS

The general collections for January 25th & 26th: Holy Family \$197.00, St. John's \$1,530, St. Peter's \$1,429.00. Thank you.

FAITH FORMATION

The next Faith formation class will be February 9, 2025 at 12:00 at St. John's. Contact Katherine with questions. 607-437-7474

THIS WEEK'S DAILY SCRIPTURES

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

St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6

St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13

St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29

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

St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

Sunday: Is 61-2a, 3-8; 1Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

ST. BLAISE

St. Blaise was a bishop and martyr of Sebastea, Armenia in modern-day Turkey. He suffered martyrdom in 306 during the persecution by Emperor Diocletian, when he was captured, scourged, imprisoned, and beheaded. Though little is known of his life, he is widely venerated as the patron of throat diseases. His feast day is celebrated with the Blessing of the Throats when the priest holds two tapers in a crossed position over the faithful's shoulders to touch the throat. The priest speaks the blessing, "through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.

The tradition stems from two different stories from the saint's life. In one story, a mother entreated St. Blaise to save her young son from a fishbone stuck in his throat. The second story tells of a woman who visited St. Blaise in prison and brought two candles to illuminate his cell. Known also as a lover of animals, he is said to have once escaped persecution by hiding in a cave of wild animals, where the animals offered him protection after he healed them. His feast day is February 3rd.

USCCB WORD OF LIFE

"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned." *Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021* © 2020, *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*.

KNOWING YOUR FAITH

GOD THE CREATOR OF ANGELS, ALL HUMAN BEINGS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE

What are evil spirits?

Evil spirits are fallen angels, become devils, who hate God and try to harm us in body and soul, especially for eternity.

According to Old Testament teaching, Satan or the Devil is a personal power hostile to God (Job 1:6; Zec 3:1, Wis 2:24). In the New Testament there are frequent manifestations of the devil and evil spirits. Even Christ was tempted (Mt 4:1-11). And St. Peter puts us on guard against the devil, *Remain sober and alert, for your enemy the devil is on the prowl like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him and be firm in your faith*" (1Pet 5:8-9).
Knowing Your Faith, Rev. Raymond B. Fullam, S.J.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SOULS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PASSING

Feb 3 - Ronald Condon, Nora Rossley

Feb 5 - Arline Anslow, Evelyn Anderson

Feb 6 - Helen Stoppel, James Denham, Jim Walsh, Floyd Eighmey

Feb 7 - Ronald Mehegan, Mary Brady, Emma Crossman, Ellen Wall, Moses Richard, Rev. Lahilaus Guzielik, Alphonse Maurais

Feb 8 - Mary Helsey, Carmella Paolillo

Feb 9 - Ronald Favret, Louis Aliperti, Dorothy Cermuska

2024 TAX REPORTS

If you would like a letter, for tax purposes, of your 2024 financial contributions to the church, contact the offices; for St. Peter's please contact Katherine at 607-746-2503 or stpetersdelhiny@gmail.com. For St. John's and Holy Family, contact info is 607-865-7394 or stjohnthebaptistwalton@gmail.com. Please let us know whether you'd like to receive it by mail or email.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Our priests speak to the faithful with their hearts and faith. Fill them with burning zeal for the conversion of sinners.

Please remember these priests of the Diocese of

Albany in prayer on the following dates:

Feb 2 – Bishop Edward Scharfenberger

Feb 3 – Rev. Pascal Iannotti & Rev. Matthew Frisoni

Feb 4 – Rev. Kenneth Swain & Rev. Paul McDonald

Feb 5 – Our Holy Father

Feb 6 – Rev. Frank Sabatte, CSP & Rev. Michael Melanson

Feb 7 – Rev. Dojin Na & Rev. Anthony Barratt

Feb 8 – Rev. Brian Slezak & Rev. Adam Feisthamel

O Jesus, Eternal Priest, look with love upon Your priests.

MARCH MAGIC RAFFLE

Catholic Charities is holding a March Magic Raffle and tickets are available throughout February and March, with the drawing date of March 31st. First prize is a PlayStation 5, second prize is a 65" TV, third prize is a Verturo Coffee Machine, and fourth prize is a bundle of Scratch Off Tickets.

Only 300 tickets will be sold for this raffle and tickets are \$20.00 each. You can purchase a ticket from Alice Kane, 607-865-6289, Maureen Roberts, 607-832-4239, Teresa O'Leary, 607-865-5345, at St. John's parish office during regular office hours or the Catholic Charities office in Oneonta and Sidney. *Thank you for your support and good luck!*

ROSARY CORNER

The Annunciation (continued): The Angel Gabriel saluted Mary with the words "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was deeply troubled at these words and wondered what sort of greeting this might be.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Dale Hart, Teri Macchio, Barbara Cocks, Rick Kean, Roberta Lacey, Will, John Meinke, Al Furrer, Alyson Bruse, Mia Morris, Helen Pratti, Marilyn Olson, Anthony Contello, Ralph, Brian Conway, Jeff Fritz, Loretta O'Brien, Richard Guiles, Derek, Linda Barr, Ann Chiques, Mike Hodge, William Nagel, Kirstin Alderman, Peggy Haywood, Pat D., Jim Romaglia, Parker Michael Pruikmsa