



**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**  
**February 2, 2025**

**Monday, February 3**  
12:00pm (SPJ) - Larry Blanchard by Margaret Smith

**Tuesday, February 4**  
11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour  
12:00pm (SE) - Frances V, Ketts by Marie Scampini

**Wednesday, February 5**  
*No Scheduled Mass*

**Thursday, February 6**  
**St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs**  
11:00am (CVSC) - Nancy Thorley by Anonymous

**Friday, February 7**  
11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour  
12:00pm (SPN) - The Trainor/Farragher Family  
by Maggie Trainor

**Saturday, February 8**  
4:30pm (SE) - Jerry Geiling Jr. by A. Martin

**Sunday, February 9**  
8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo  
10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Arnold & Thoma Families by the Mosher & Weissmann Families

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown  
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro  
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport  
(CVSC) = Champlain Valley Senior Community, Willsboro

**Readings for the Week of February 3**  
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20-24/Mk 5:1-20  
Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26-28, 30-32/Mk 5:21-43  
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18  
Mk 6:1-6  
Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-4, 9-11/Mk 6:7-13  
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9/Mk 6:14-29  
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-6/Mk 6:30-34  
Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-5, 7-8/1 Cor 15:1-11  
Lk 5:1-11

**THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION**

**Readings: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32**  
Simeon and Anna waited for the Lord to come to the Temple, and when Mary and Joseph came to present Jesus according to the law, they praised God and spoke joyfully of this child a light to the nations but also one who was destined for the rising and fall of many. Christ will not save anyone against their will. Some will follow him gladly; others will scorn him. We all must make a choice, to follow or not.

**CATHOLICS A'GATHERIN**

A deep appreciation to all who participate in the monthly Coffee Hour! The next gathering will be Sunday, February 16th. We are trying to run this program with no cost to the parish. Any way you can help would be graciously accepted: help hosting (you will not be left on your own, it is a team effort), a dish to share or a monetary donation.

Contact Desiree or Bill 518-335-2106 to offer your help!

**Last Weekend's Collection**

**Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 21**  
Envelopes: \$392.25; Plate: \$7.00  
Fuel: \$10.00  
Total: \$409.25  
Respect Life Collection: \$108.00

**Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 28**  
Envelopes: \$534.00; Plate: \$55.00  
Total: \$589.00  
Respect Life Collection: \$118.00

**St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 38**  
Envelopes: \$480.00; Plate: \$142.00  
Fuel: \$120.00  
Total: \$742.00  
Respect Life Collection: \$212.00

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**

The monthly fuel collection will take place next weekend. Thanking you in advance for your anticipated generosity.

**WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2025**



The Presentation at the Temple  
WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

“The Church must keep the lamp of hope burning and clearly visible, so that it may continue to shine as a sure sign of salvation.” (Pope Francis). This “lamp of hope” must be kept burning bright and shining in the world today. As we begin the **Jubilee Year of Hope: Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace**, the Church celebrates **World Day for Consecrated Life** on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple on February 2. The Church honors consecrated men and women who have radically set aside their lives to serve Christ and His Church by means of their vowed lives of poverty, chastity and obedience within their respective religious community or living in the world for the sake of the Gospel. Let us pray for each of our Religious Congregations who continually pray for and serve the needs of the People of the North Country and to pray for more vocations to the Consecrated Life.

**READING THE ENCYCLICAL ON CHRISTIAN HOPE**  
**An online brownbag discussion**

Join us for a lunchtime discussion of the encyclical letter by Pope Benedict XVI “**Spe Salvi: On Christian Hope.**” **We will meet on Wednesdays, February 12, 19 and 26 from noon until 1 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS.** The document is relatively short (about 30 pages) and can be downloaded [HERE](#). Please join us for this wonderful opportunity learn about Christian Hope and so enter more deeply into this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope. If you would like to participate, please register at [rcdony.org/brownbag](http://rcdony.org/brownbag). The link for the virtual meetings will be sent to you on Monday February 10. For more info, contact Marika Donders at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org).



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**



“Candlemass” is also a traditional name given to today’s feast because as early as the fifth century, the custom of celebrating this feast with lighted candles had developed. The lit candles symbolized Simeon’s prophecy that Jesus would be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.” Lastly, this Feast has been referred to as the “Feast of the Holy Encounter” because God, in the Person of Jesus, encountered Simeon and Anna in the Temple. The feast of “**The Presentation of the Lord**” is celebrated in our Church **forty days after Christmas**, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations. At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus’ divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As we celebrate Mary’s ritual purification and Jesus’ ritual redemption, we should see them as acts in which we are called to participate. First, each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven. Yet we are invited to enter that Temple in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. We must also see Saint Joseph redeeming us as he presented Jesus in the Temple. In offering Christ Jesus to the priest to offer Him to the Father, Saint Joseph also presents all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us.

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

**NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK**  
**Celebrate A Lasting Love**

The observances of **National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 9)** are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme is "Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Pursue a Lasting Love!"



**THREE TOOLS WE CARRY AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE**  
**By Becky Eldredge (Jubilee Year of Hope)**

“Who will be *my* life raft?” These words came from a dear friend, spiritual director, and ministry colleague, who authentically lives her call to discipleship. Her words poured out of her lips as she generously held space for so many who were struggling to hold onto hope in hard times. Through her listening ear, her encouraging words of faith, and her prayers for others, she was offering a life raft of hope to those suffering. Her pilgrim journey of being a voice of hope had led her to a moment of wondering if there was someone who could offer her the life raft of hope she was offering others. I ponder my friend’s words almost daily. Her words resonate with me as a pilgrim of hope and as one who listens to many other **pilgrims of hope**. Her words echo one of our deepest Christian longings: to know we have a life raft of hope on the pilgrimage of life. As on any pilgrimage, we carry tools with us that buoy our belief in the life raft offered to us.

**Hearts of Christ**

St. Peter reminds us to be ready to give reasons for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). If someone asks me why I can hope today, my number one reason is I know I am not alone. I carry Christ in my heart. Christ resides in me within my **inner chapel**. This means that no matter what I endure or go through, I do not face it alone. The life raft we long for on the pilgrimage of life lives within us. Christ is our companion who is never apart from us. He is our source of hope. We carry Christ, hope himself, within our hearts.

**Eyes of Compassion**

As St. Teresa of Avila reminds us, ours “are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.” Compassion is the pilgrim of hope’s way of seeing the world. In his book, putting on the Heart of Christ, Gerald Fagin, SJ writes that there are three movements of compassion. First, we see the suffering of others. Second, we allow what we see to move to our hearts so that we feel the suffering of our brothers and sisters. Third, we allow ourselves to draw near to one another to help alleviate the suffering we see. Seeing with eyes of compassion is a sign of hope in the world. When we look at the world with eyes of compassion, we put our hearts of Christ into action. Jesus, who lives in us, sees everything that we see. Christ, who dwells within us, feels everything we feel. He, too, is moved to action, not only to help us in our suffering but also to help us draw near to another’s suffering.

**Hands of Hope**

Our hands are Christ’s hands. My friend understood that part of living her hope in this world was to use her hands boldly to be a tangible sign of hope to others. In doing so, Jesus reminded her that he had her in his hands and held those with whom she was walking. Christ empowered her to cry out to him and reach out for him. Jesus met her in her cries and helped her cling to him. In turn, she was able to toss the life raft of Christ to others again and again. Christ was in her, and she was in Christ. Who will be our life raft on this pilgrimage of life? The answer is simple: **CHRIST.**



**FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME  
February 9, 2025**

**Monday, February 10**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Tuesday, February 11**

11:00am (SE) - Hour of Adoration  
12:00pm (SE) - Communion Service

**Wednesday, February 12**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Thursday, February 13**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Friday, February 14**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Saturday, February 15**

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

**Sunday, February 16**

8:30am (SPN) - The Trainor / Farragher Family  
by Maggie Trainor  
10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Relatives of Carolyn,  
Jane & Nick

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

(CVSC) = Champlain Valley Senior Community, Willsboro

**Readings for the Week of February 10**

Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35/Mk 6:53-56  
Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-9/Mk 7:1-13  
Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2, 27-30/Mk 7:14-23  
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/Mk 7:24-30  
Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 7:31-37  
Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10  
Next Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20  
Lk 6:17, 20-26

**THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION**

**Readings: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11**  
All our readings today speak of unworthy disciples and apostles who despite their unworthiness are still called by God. God shows himself to them so that they may be sent to hand on what they have received. We are the recipients of their word. Through their actions, writings and witness, we, too, can come to know Jesus, unworthy though we are. How do we share that which we have received? How do we pass on the faith to our children, our friends and neighbors? We, too, are called to the mission of evangelization, to share our story and what God has done for us. Do not be afraid to go out into the deep.

**CATHOLICS A'GATHERIN**

**Coffee hour gathering next Sunday, February 16th.** We are trying to run this program with no cost to the parish. Any way you can help would be graciously accepted: help hosting (you will not be left on your own, it is a team effort), a dish to share or a monetary donation.

**Contact Desiree or Bill 518-335-2106 to offer your help!**

**Last Weekend's Collection**

**Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 27**  
Envelopes: \$444.25; Plate: \$24.00  
Fuel: \$40.00  
Total: \$508.25

**Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 28**  
Envelopes: \$590.00; Plate: \$94.00  
Fuel: \$55.00  
Total: \$739.00

**St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 43**  
Envelopes: \$525.00; Plate: \$242.00  
Total: \$767.00

**READING THE ENCYCLICAL ON CHRISTIAN HOPE  
An online brownbag discussion**

Join us for a lunchtime discussion of the encyclical letter by Pope Benedict XVI "**Spe Salvi: On Christian Hope.**" **We will meet on Wednesdays, February 12, 19 and 26 from noon until 1 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS.** The document is relatively short (about 30 pages) and can be downloaded [HERE](#). Please join us for this wonderful opportunity learn about Christian Hope and so enter more deeply into this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope. If you would like to participate, please register at [rcdony.org/brownbag](http://rcdony.org/brownbag). The link for the virtual meetings will be sent to you on Monday February 10. For more info, contact Marika Donders at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org).



**NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK  
Celebrate A Lasting Love**

The observances of **National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 9)** are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme is "Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Pursue a Lasting Love!"

**PLANNED GIVING**

**How to Transfer a Gift of Stock**

Gifts of stock can be given to benefit our parish, the Capital Campaign, your favorite Catholic School, programs, ministries, Missionary Projects and the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The proceeds can be restricted according to your wishes, or directed to an endowment fund held in the Foundation of the RC Diocese of Ogdensburg. For more information, contact the Diocese at 315-393-2920 or Email [slalone@rcdony.org](mailto:slalone@rcdony.org).

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**



Little is known about the life of **Saint Scholastica (Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>)**, yet her influence upon the Church is undeniable. She was born into a wealthy family around the year 480 AD, in the town of Nursia, central Italy, shortly after the fall of the Western Roman emperor. She had one brother, most likely a twin, by the name of Benedict. As a child, Scholastica dedicated herself to the service of God, taking no interest in the things of this world. She lived modestly, despite being raised in a wealthy home. When Benedict left home to become a hermit and eventually found a monastery with a new monastic rule, she marveled at his hidden life of prayer and work. His vocation called out to her, and she received permission from the local bishop to enter a home of virgins who chose to adopt Benedict's new monastic rule. Benedict assisted them and made Scholastica the abbess of the home. When these twins were around the age of sixty-three, they met for what would be their final conversation on earth. They spent the day praising God and engaged in spiritual talk. After a light dinner, Benedict announced that he and his companions needed to leave and return to the monastery. Scholastica begged him to stay so that they could continue conversing about God throughout the night. Benedict responded to her, "Sister, what are you saying? I simply cannot stay outside my cell." Scholastica knew, however, that their holy conversation needed to continue, so she bowed her head in prayer, and God sent forth a lightning storm so powerful that Benedict and his brothers could not leave. Scholastica's love for Benedict and her desire to continue with the praises of God throughout the night met with God's approval and God provided the way. They parted the next day, and three days later, Benedict had a vision of his sister's soul being taken to Heaven in the form of a dove. He had his brothers bring her body to the monastery, and Scholastica was buried in the grave intended for Benedict. Four years later, Benedict died and was buried in the same grave with his sister. The two were united by grace and a shared mission in this life, and they would forever share a grave from which they will rise together on the last day.

**With Love and Prayers....**  **Fr. J.T.**

**REMINDER:**

There will be no weekday Masses this week in our parishes as I will be away. There will be a Communion Service on Tuesday at Noon preceded by an hour of Adoration.

**Things to Ponder.....**

It is not only what we give...  
...but how we give it that counts!



**OF DONUTS AND EULOGIES -PEGGY WEBER**

I went with my granddaughter, Cordelia, to the library and thought about my eulogy. The morning hadn't begun that way. I was there for story time with my grandchildren, not a reflection on my mortality and legacy. However, God has a sense of humor and a way of sending gentle reminders. This day, my reminder was my then five-year-old granddaughter. She came running to me smiling and saying, "Grandma, I found something in a book that you will like!"

With the unbridled excitement she always possesses, she shouted at her discovery to everyone in the children's room of the local library. As she held the book behind her back, a few onlookers and I wondered what it would show. I thought that maybe it would be poetry or something inspiring or religious. I was proud that my granddaughter would associate me with reading. A moment later I was humbled. She pulled out an alphabet book. She turned to the letter D and announced, "Look, Grandma, donuts!"

Everyone in the room laughed, including me. Well, I thought, if I've got to be known for something, then there are a lot worse things than donuts. One woman said she liked donuts too and pretended to take a chocolate donut from the picture book. In all seriousness, Cordelia said, "No, not that one. My grandma always gets the chocolate one." I realized that I am known not just for donuts but for always getting the chocolate one. This story makes me laugh as I think back to that day. But being known for liking donuts was more than a funny story, it was an epiphany. It got me thinking about how people see me and how I see myself. The experience made me ask myself what I want to be known. I wondered what would be said at my funeral—which, by the way, I hope is not soon. But I was serious. I kept thinking, "What would my eulogy include?" Well, my granddaughter was right about the food connection! I am sure that someone in my family would mention my love of chocolate and baking. And there also might be some praise for my meatballs and Irish bread. However, I think my family also should be honest and note that I never truly learned to parallel park and have been known to speak before thinking. It also might be said that I hope heaven looks like Fenway Park in Boston—but with lots of books and coffee. Mostly, though, I want to be remembered as someone who loved her family totally, and sometimes that meant buying them donuts—even as I seemed to claim the chocolate ones. Stop for a few minutes to think about your eulogy. It might not be the most cheerful topic, but it just might help you appreciate yourself a bit more or work on changing a few things. Ask:

- How do people see me?
- How do I really think I am?
- Is there a difference?
- Why is there a disconnect?
- How can I be more genuine?
- How can I be less afraid to be my true self?
- How can I feel enough?
- What can I do to sort out all of this?

**Then rejoice in being alive.  
And maybe have a donut to celebrate.**





**SIXTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME  
February 16, 2025**

**Monday, February 17**

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver  
Family by John & Sue Carver

**Tuesday, February 18**

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour  
12:00pm (SE) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski  
by the Estate

**Wednesday, February 19**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Thursday, February 20**

11:00am (CVSC) - Mary Callahan  
by Bonnie & Steve Callahan

**Friday, February 21**

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour  
12:00pm (SPN) - Kirk Van Dorn  
by Robert & Carol Corbo

**Saturday, February 22**

4:30pm (SE) - Jo Ann Pecor by Margaret & Les McCoy

**Sunday, February 23**

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo  
10:30am (SPJ) - Larry Blanchard by Jane Gay

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown  
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro  
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

(CVSC) = Champlain Valley Senior Community, Willsboro

**Readings for the Week of February 17**

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1,8, 16-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13  
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1-4, 9-10/Mk 8:14-21  
Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26  
Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-23, 29/Mk 8:27-33  
Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-15/Mk 8:34—9:1  
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19  
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23  
Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

**THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION**

**Readings: Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26**

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord. None of us desire to be poor, go hungry, be sad and weeping or hated. Most of us would prefer to be rich, filled with good food, laugh and be well-thought of. But whether we are rich or poor, hungry or well fed, in mourning or celebrating life, hated by others or loved, we can be blessed. We are children of a loving God who provides for us. There is a difference between temporary pleasure that the world can offer us and the true lasting joy and blessedness that comes from living in communion with God. We will not find true and lasting joy in more possessions, esteem and power. Our faith and trust are in God. We must always remain on guard against the temptations of the world that we are not tempted to make created things into idols. We have one Lord, Jesus Christ, who loves us and who will walk with us no matter what our life's situation may be. Rooted in Christ, we will be like that tree planted near running water, whose leaves never fade and that yields good fruit in due season.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 28  
Envelopes: \$289.25; Plate: \$13.00  
Fuel: \$135.00  
Total: \$437.25

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 11  
Envelopes: \$310.00; Plate: \$30.00  
Fuel: \$80.00  
Total: \$420.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 24  
Envelopes: \$1,535.00; Plate: \$250.00  
Fuel: \$415.00  
Total: \$2,200.00

**IMPORTANT TPMS UPDATE:  
Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States**



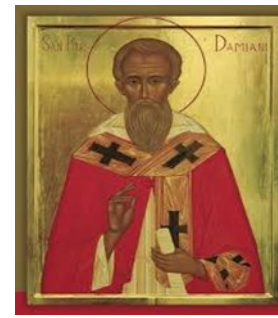
Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States (TPMS USA), the global network supporting Pope Francis' missionary efforts through prayer and charity, has unveiled a new visual identity. This milestone marks a renewed commitment to unifying the four Pontifical Mission Societies under a shared purpose: bringing the Gospel to the world. The new circular logo emphasizes unity: unity with Christ on the Cross and in the Eucharist, unity within the universal Church and her missionary efforts, unity with the Holy Father, and unity across the four societies comprising TPMS: the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, and the Pontifical Missionary Union. The red stars represent the United States' connection to the global mission and honor the sacrifices of martyrs, many of whom were missionaries who made the ultimate sacrifice as they were spreading the joy of the Gospel. We are excited to share them with you and hope that you will continue to support The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, INC. in the coming years.

**Contact for More Information:** [amichael@rcdony.org](mailto:amichael@rcdony.org)

**PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH FATHER AMYOT  
Celebrate the Jubilee Year - the Year of Faith**

Visiting: Venice • Florence • Assisi • Rome  
Only \$4599 from Montreal 11 Days-November 5-15, 2025  
(Air/land price is \$3949 plus \$650 government taxes/airline surcharges) The Opportunity to pass through the Holy Doors of the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City & the other 3 Major Basilicas. Space is limited!  
For a brochure and more information contact:  
Father Andrew Amyot at (315) 384-6028  
**mail:** P.O. Box 637 Norfolk, NY 13667,  
**e-mail:** [fraamyot2@gmail.com](mailto:fraamyot2@gmail.com) Call today!

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**



**St. Peter Damian (21<sup>st</sup>)** was the youngest child born into a poor but noble family in Ravenna, Italy. His parents died when he was young, so he went to live with one of his older brothers who mistreated him and forced him to labor as a swineherd. Eventually, another brother, a priest from Ravenna named Father Damian, took him in and provided him with an excellent education in which he greatly excelled. Peter was so grateful to his priest brother that he added his brother's name to his own, making him Peter Damian. Upon the completion of his education, Peter Damian began to teach with much success. However, he soon found that the university setting was not for him, so he withdrew to a monastery in Fonte-Avellana for a forty-day retreat. Upon completing his retreat, he discerned a call to monastic life and received the habit. In 1057, Brother Damian was made the Cardinal-Bishop of Ostia by the pope, despite his attempts to turn down the position. As a new cardinal, he quickly challenged his brother's cardinals and tried to weed out corruption. He would eventually return to his hermitage and resume his life of prayer, but his fervor in fighting against the evils of the time continued. Pope after Pope called on him for help, even while other Church leaders opposed him. Every age of the Church has different needs. In the eleventh century, the Church needed an unwavering and courageous voice for reform. Saint Peter Damian was that voice. Though his heart was mostly at home in his monastery doing penance and chanting the psalms, his body was actively eradicating the mold that had covered the Church. Through his valiant efforts, many parts of the Church began to radiate as the Bride of Christ once again. Each of us is called to be a reformer in one way or another. First, we must seek to reform our souls by eliminating sin through prayer, penance, and fidelity to God's Law. From there, God will use us to extend His reform to others. Ponder any ways that you need to reform your own life and then offer yourself to God's service so that He can use you to weed out the evils you encounter in your daily life.

**With Love and Prayers.... Fr. J.T.**

**CATHOLICS A'GATHERIN**



**Coffee hour TODAY, February 16th**, after the 10:30 am Mass at St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro. Looking forward to another gathering to strengthen our parish family. ALL ARE WELCOME

**Things to Ponder....**

**Each day holds possibilities...  
...for great discoveries & hidden joys!**

**EACH OF US HAS A STORY**

**By JOE PAPROCKI**

In fact, we all have many stories! We just need to recognize them and learn how to share them with others. Telling our story of faith is an important part of evangelization and is part of what we call the *kerygma*—the core message of the Good News. But how do we come to recognize our own stories? Let's look at some simple strategies drawn from my book, *A Church on the Move: 52 Ways to Get Mission and Mercy in Motion*. Identify:

- ◆ **Significant People.** Just as God spoke to his people through Moses and the prophets, God typically speaks to us through other people. Ask: *Who are the significant people in my life who have shaped and influenced me and to whom I owe much?* No doubt once we think of these significant people, we will recall stories related to their impact on our lives.
- ◆ **Big or Small Moments of Joy.** Throughout Scripture, people who recognize that they have had an encounter with God express that encounter in terms of great joy. By reversing that process, we can come to recognize encounters with God. In other words, by reflecting on moments of joy, whether big or small, we can recognize and tell stories about God's movement in our lives.
- ◆ **Peak Moments of Grace.** In addition to the everyday small ways that God has manifested his presence to us, each of us can think of a handful of extraordinary moments when we felt we had come face-to-face with the infinite and when God's presence was almost palpable. Perhaps it was a brush with death, a moment of incredible luck or fortune, a dramatic recovery from an unfortunate situation, or an extraordinary experience of beauty. Moments like these make us aware of a power greater than our own and make for inspiring stories.
- ◆ **Life's Milestones.** Each of us can identify significant moments when we reach a milestone: a graduation, a new job, a promotion, a birthday or anniversary, or a wedding day, for instance. These events cause us to pause and express gratitude, and when we express gratitude, we find ourselves contemplating the Giver of all good gifts. A story about a milestone in our life becomes a story of faith when we acknowledge God's grace present within the story.

Storytelling creates an emotional connection that cannot be achieved through debate. If we are to truly, effectively, and *kerygmatically evangelize*, we need to touch not only people's minds but also their hearts. And the best way we can do that is by sharing our stories!

**PLANNED GIVING**

**Honoring Loved Ones Through Endowment Gifts**

Establishing an endowment in the Foundation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is a wonderful way to provide a lasting and meaningful gift in remembrance of a special person and at the same time support a purpose which that special person held dear. For more info, contact the Diocese at 315-393-2920 or Email [slalone@rcdony.org](mailto:slalone@rcdony.org)



**SEVENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME  
February 23, 2025**

**Monday, February 24**

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver  
Family by John & Sue Carver

**Tuesday, February 25**

3:00pm (SE) - Holy Hour  
4:00pm (SE) - Jerry Geiling Sr. by A. Martin

**Wednesday, February 26**

8:30am (SPN) - Intention of the Celebrant  
9:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour

**Thursday, February 27**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Friday, February 28**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Saturday, March 1**

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

**Sunday, March 2**

8:30am (SPN) - Jessie Sayre by Chris & Mark Carpenter  
10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Relatives of Carolyn,  
Jane & Nick

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown  
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

(CVSC) = Champlain Valley Senior Community, Willsboro

**Readings for the Week of February 24**

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29  
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37  
Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171-172, 174-175  
Mk 9:38-40  
Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mk 9:41-50  
Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/Mk 10:1-12  
Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/Mk 10:13-16  
Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-16/1 Cor 15:54-58  
Lk 6:39-45

**THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION**

**Readings: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23  
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38**

Are we as generous to others as Christ is to us? Underservedly merciful? Lending without expecting repayment? Not judging others? Probably not. But this is what Christ asks of his disciples, and us, in today's Gospel. We will not be judged by our theological knowledge, or our religiosity but rather by how well we loved others in imitation of Christ. The "Lord is kind and merciful" we sing in the responsorial psalm. He has loved us, forgiven us, given his all for us on the cross. We are called to do likewise. We are to love one another as he has loved us, so that others may come to encounter him through our love.

*Things to Ponder.....*

**It takes years to build trust,  
but only seconds to destroy it!**

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 27  
Envelopes: \$384.25; Plate: \$50.00  
Fuel: \$200.00  
Total: \$634.25

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: Mass Cancelled /Weather  
Envelopes: \$1,413.00; Plate: 0  
Total: \$1,413.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 20  
Envelopes: \$320.00; Plate: \$40.00  
Fuel: \$55.00  
Total: \$415.00

**SECOND COLLECTION**

**Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025**

**THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE**  
Decades ago, the bishops of the United States established a program and annual collection to aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and help it rebuild after decades of communist oppression. From the beginning of the February 2022 Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, the Catholic Church, led the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, has vigorously responded by offering shelter, food, medicine, necessities, spiritual support and comfort to the victims of war. On Ash Wednesday, March 3, 2025, please prayerfully consider joining with the U.S. bishops and supporting the people of Central and Eastern Europe's spiritual and material needs. More information is available at [www.usccb.org/ceec](http://www.usccb.org/ceec).

**PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH FATHER AMYOT  
Celebrate the Jubilee Year - the Year of Faith**

Visiting: Venice • Florence • Assisi • Rome  
Only \$4599 from Montreal 11 Days-November 5-15, 2025  
(Air/land price is \$3949 plus \$650 government taxes/airline surcharges) The Opportunity to pass through the Holy Doors of the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City & the other 3 Major Basilicas. Space is limited!  
For a brochure and more information contact:  
Father Andrew Amyot at (315) 384-6028  
mail: P.O. Box 637 Norfolk, NY 13667,  
e-mail: [fraamyot2@gmail.com](mailto:fraamyot2@gmail.com) Call today!

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**



**Have you ever thought about the Marks of the Church?**  
We do recite those marks in the Nicene Creed every weekend. The Nicene Creed was written centuries ago to help Christians remember the important beliefs

of the faith. In the Nicene Creed, we identify the four marks of the Church. The four marks of the Church are not characteristics that the Church creates, develops, or learns. They are qualities that Jesus Christ shares with his Church through the Holy Spirit. The four marks of the Church are that it is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. **The Church Is One** Just as God is one in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, so also is the Church one. The founder of the Church is Jesus Christ, who brought us back to God and made us into the family of God. The Church is one in the Holy Spirit, who dwells in those who believe. **The Church Is Holy.** The Church is holy because the Church lives in union with Jesus Christ, the source of holiness. Through the Holy Spirit, the Church leads others to holiness. The holiness of the Church is seen in the love that the members of the Church have toward one another and the many sacrifices they make for the sake of the world. **The Church Is Catholic.** Catholic means "universal." The Church is universal in two ways. First, the Church is catholic because all baptized people are part of the Church, and the Church possesses the means of salvation. Second, the mission of the Church is universal because the Church has been sent to proclaim Christ to the entire human race. **The Church Is Apostolic.** The Church traces its tradition directly to the apostles; therefore, the Church is considered apostolic. With the Holy Spirit, the Church preserves and continues the teaching of the apostles. The pope and bishops are the successors of the apostles. May we keep the Church and her leaders always in our prayers.

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

**CATHOLICS A'GATHERIN**



**Coffee hour TODAY, February 23th,** after the 10:30 am Mass at St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro. Looking forward to another gathering to strengthen our parish family. ALL ARE WELCOME

**ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP**

The monthly donation to St. Elizabeth's Church from the thrift shop has been received—\$2,342.69! These amounts continue to amaze! We are so appreciative!



**REMINDERS:**

...Please Note that there is a slight change in this Week's weekday Mass schedule. Thanks.  
...LENT is fast approaching. This year, we will have a Lenten Workshop on the book "I THIRST: 40 Days with Saint Mother Teresa." There will be a small introduction to the book after Holy Hour on **Ash Wednesday (March 5th) at 10 am in SE Parish Hall.** (From the Following Saturday onwards, **it will be at 2 pm.**) Those of you who are interested are welcome to join us to read the book with a prayerful reflection.

**THE SACRED TRADITION OF THE CHURCH  
by David Scott**

Following the example of the apostles, who convened at Jerusalem to decide critical questions related to gentile converts, in times of crisis the pope has always gathered the world's bishops in so-called ecumenical councils. In these councils, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the successors of the apostles have clarified essential beliefs that were under attack by heretics or widely misunderstood by the faithful. As the church grew, a living teaching office developed, a "magisterium," expressed in council decisions, creeds, circular letters, and other authoritative writings from popes and bishops. This body of teachings, along with the authoritative power of the church's magisterium, and the Scriptures, sacraments, institutions, and rituals handed down from the apostles, form what is known as the sacred tradition of the church. The church's magisterium is not a random accumulation of documents. Nor does it produce new truths or new revelations. God has spoken once and for all in Jesus. But Jesus knew that the church had to do more than repeat his words and tell stories about his deeds and the adventures of the early community. That is why he gave his apostles and their successors "the Spirit of truth" to guide them as they sought to make his saving truths known in every time and place. The successors of the apostles in every age teach with the Spirit's guidance and assistance. The church has always understood that the body of bishops cannot err when they teach on matters of belief and morality, so long as they agree among themselves and are unified with the pope. This divine gift of inerrancy extends in a special way to the pope. **(To be continued)**

**FROM SORROW TO HOPE  
A Special Lenten Podcast Series**

Join Father Chris Looby for a special Lenten podcast series titled From Sorrow to Hope. This five-part series will focus on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and reflect on how Christ's Passion leads us to the ultimate hope of the Resurrection. Each episode will include scripture, prayer, and powerful reflections to guide listeners in deepening their faith during this sacred season. The series will begin on March 10 and conclude on March 14. New episodes will be available daily on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music/Podcasts. Join Father Chris as we walk the Lenten journey together from the sorrow of the cross to the joy of new life in Christ. For more info visit <https://sites.google.com/view/from-sorrow-to-hope>.

**Contact for More Info:**  
Father Chris Looby **Email** [clooby@rcdony](mailto:clooby@rcdony)