

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 2

4:30pm Frank Signorelli

Requested by Ida Signorelli

Sunday, February 3

8:00am Nicholas Duckworth

Requested by McConnell Family

10:00am Fern Ottomano

Requested by Jim & Susan Meehan

12:00nn Paul Winter

Requested by Family

Monday, February 4

7:00am Charles & Mary Cummings

Requested by Champion family

Tuesday, February 5

7:00am Mass for the People

Wednesday, February 6

7:00am Robert F. Cooney, M.D.

Requested by John & Joan Botelho

Thursday, February 7

7:00am Robert F. Cooney, M.D.

Req. by Social Outreach Committee

Friday, February 8

7:00am Matilda Coppolino

Requested by family

Saturday, February 9

4:30pm Rev. Francis Tuite

2nd Pastor of St. Francis ~ 97th Anniv.

Sunday, February 10

8:00am Brenda (Tefft) Langlais

Requested by family

10:00am Dr. & Mrs. Orlando Iacono &
Mr. & Mrs. Jack O. Burns

12NN Mark Potter & Corinne Bertrand

Requested by Barbara Potter



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 3

10:00am Rita & John Kerwick

Requested by Children

Sunday, February 10

10:00am Henry & Alice Denny

Requested by their children



For Your Information

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Brenda (Tefft) Langlais.

BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY

Congratulations to the proud parents and godparents of Elliott John DeSantis and Matthew Martin Leonard who were baptized into God's family in January, and congratulations, too, to the parents and godparents of Haley Anne Oakley who will be baptized this Sunday afternoon in St. Francis Church by Monsignor Paul Theroux. Your parish family rejoices with you.

MOUNT 2000 RETREATANTS

We will be leaving from the church parking lot sharply at 8am on Friday, February 8th.

CONFIRMATION II CANDIDATES & PARENTS

On Monday, February 4th, parents are invited to attend with your teen a special presentation by Dr. Sheila Carey-Kuzmic on respecting life from conception to natural death. The evening will begin promptly at 7pm in the lower level of Fr. Greenan Parish Center.

FOOD & COMMODITY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

Macaroni & cheese and laundry detergent. Your donations may be placed in one of the baskets in the vestibule of the church or at the chapel. Thank you in advance for your remembering those in need.

BIBLE STUDY

The Parish Bible Study on St. Paul's *Letter to the Hebrews* will continue Tuesday evening, February 5th in Father Greenan Center from 7-8:30PM. All are most welcome to attend.

PARISH SUPPORT— January 27

Weekly Support

Budget envelopes (356 used)	-	\$7,314.00
Loose Donations	-	\$1,578.00
Online Giving (24 donors)	-	\$ 490.00
Total Budget	-	\$9,382.00

Latin America Offering

Envelopes used (191)	-	\$ 1,566.00
Other donations	-	\$ 498.50
Total Offering	-	\$2,064.50

This weekend's second offering is the Monthly Offering. As always, thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

FEBRUARY 3, 2013

From the Pastor...

Happily, in spite of the cold weather we have had recently, January has raced by! For someone like me who does not like winter, these months cannot race by fast enough. But at least the days are getting noticeably longer and February will begin to bring signs of spring as we soon begin the season of Lent and also launch into the annual diocesan Catholic Charity Appeal.

Before we begin the penitential time of Lent, we do have one great parish event coming up – our annual **Parish Appreciation Dinner**. It will take place on Saturday evening, February 9 and will again feature a **Mardi Gras** theme. This event is our opportunity to thank the many men and women of our parish who actively volunteer and participate in the various ministries of our parish. All of our volunteers should have received a letter of invitation, however there are so many that it is easy to miss someone. So, if you personally give of your time to assist in some parish activity, please call the rectory and let us know if you wish to attend the dinner. We look forward to the opportunity to thank you for your service.

While we have a beautiful parish property, unfortunately our parking area is limited. In order to make the most of the space, for the more highly attended Masses on Sunday, some cars do get blocked in during Mass. For example, in the area near the dumpster, there are several “double depth” spaces that should be used. These spaces will be blocked by other cars and, admittedly, if you park there you may have to wait a few minutes for other people to return to their cars. However, it is important that we use these spaces so that as many people as possible can park near the church. I appreciate your patience, especially when the parking lot is further limited by snow. Thanks for your cooperation on this.

Msgr. Theroux



Good news! You didn't miss the special presentation on St. Thomas Aquinas. It was postponed due to weather. So mark your calendars and plan on joining us on Monday, February 11th at 6:30PM in Helen Bouchard Hall.

During this Year of Faith, please take advantage of an opportunity to deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith.

“The Worship of God, Our Sanctification”

*Theology of the Sacraments
according to St. Thomas Aquinas*

Presenter: Fr. Upton

Refreshments will be served ~ Please call the rectory (783-4411) to register.



Religious Ed. Notes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday, February 3rd

8:50-9:50am GRADES 1 & 2 (FGC)
GRADE 7 (FGC)

CANCELLED - GRADE K
10:50-11:50am GRADES 3-6 (FGC)
GRADE 8 (HBH)

***Please note Grade 6 will meet in
Father Greenan Center this week.**

Monday, February 4th

7-8:30PM Confirmation II (FGC)

Wednesday, February 6th

4-5pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15 CLASSES GRADES 7 & 8 (FGC)



This Week

Sunday, February 3

(See Religious Ed. Class schedule above)

10:00am Deacon John Dowd preaches his
First Mass followed by a
reception in Helen Bouchard Hall

12:00NN Mass of Petition followed by
Reception in HBH

1:00am Baptisms by Monsignor Theroux

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, February 4

8am-3pm Prout Juniors' Retreat (FGC)

7:00pm Confirmation II Class (FGC)

Tuesday, February 5

8am-3pm Prout Juniors' Retreat (FGC)

6:30pm RCIA (HBH)

7:00pm Bible Study (FGC)

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, February 6

8am-3pm Prout Juniors' Retreat (FGC)

4-5pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm CLASSES GRADES 7 & 8

Thursday, February 7

8am-3pm Prout Juniors' Retreat (FGC)

7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Mtg.

Friday, February 8

7:00pm Parent Mtg.:

The Media as Rivals—Chapter 7

6:30-10pm Marriage Prep. Class (FGC)

Saturday, February 9

8:00am-3:00pm Marriage Prep. Class
(FGC & HBH)

5:30pm Appreciation Night Dinner (FGC)

ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER

The annual volunteer appreciation dinner is NEXT Saturday, February 9th at 5:30PM in Father Greenan Center.

Hopefully, by now, you've received your personal invitation to the dinner in the mail.

The Appreciation Dinner is always an enjoyable evening for our parish family, a moment to thank those who do so much—often unseen and unheard—and to celebrate what makes our parish so vibrant and strong.

If you're a volunteer, we hope to see you there! Please call Kelli or Caroline in the main office to let us know you're coming (783-4411). Thank you.

TIDYING UP THE PEWS

Help us keep our church clean and ready for the next Mass by neatly placing the missalettes and pew cards back in the racks. Your assistance will give us less work to do between Masses and the missalettes and pew cards will certainly last longer. Thank you.



Please join our youth group as we explore new opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship next Sunday night, February 10th, from 7-9pm in the Upper Room of Father Greenan Parish Center.

For more information on the Youth Group, please call Jacqui Bertrand at 789-2473.

Eye on the Saints

February 8th—Saint Josephine Bakhita

She was born about in 1869 in the western Sudanese region of Darfur; was kidnapped between the ages of 7-9 and was forced to walk 600 mi to El Obeid on her bare feet, sold and bought twice before she arrived there. Over the course of twelve years (1877–1889) she was resold again three more times and then given away. It is said that the trauma of her abduction caused her to forget her own name; she took one given to her by the slavers, *bakhita*, Arabic for *lucky*. Bakhita was anything but 'lucky'.



While in captivity, she was severely beaten, tortured and purposely scarred with a razor and salt – leaving 114 intricate patterns on her body. Eventually, Bakhita was sold to an Italian Vice Consul Callisto Legnani who treated her with great kindness. For the first time since her captivity she could enjoy some peace and tranquility. When Legnani later returned to Italy, Bakhita begged to go with him. Legnani gave Bakhita as a present to Signora Maria Michieli where she became the nanny to Michieli's daughter Alice, known as Mimmina.

In the process of selling her property so she could move to Sudan permanently with her family, Bakhita and Signora Michieli's daughter were left in the care of the Canossian Sisters of Venice. When Signora Michieli returned to the convent to take Bakhita and her daughter back to their home, Bakhita refused to leave. For a full three days Mrs. Michieli tried to force the issue, but the superior of the institute complained to the authorities on Bakhita's behalf. On 29 November 1889 an Italian court ruled that, because Sudan had outlawed slavery before Bakhita's birth and because in any case Italian law did not recognize slavery, Bakhita had never legally been a slave. Bakhita had now reached the age of maturity; for the first time in her life she found herself in control of her own destiny. And she chose to remain with the Canossians.

Her last years were marked by pain and sickness. She used a wheelchair, but she retained her cheerfulness, and if asked how she was, she would always smile and answer "as the Master desires". Bakhita died at 8:10 PM on 8 February 1947. For three days her body lay on display while thousands of people arrived to pay their respects.

Petitions for her canonization began immediately, and the process officially commenced in 1959, only twelve years after her death. On 1 December 1978, Pope John Paul II declared Josephine *Venerable*, the first step toward canonization. On 17 May 1992, she was declared *Blessed* and given February 8 as her feast day. On 1 October 2000, she was canonized and became *Saint Josephine Bakhita*. She is venerated as a modern African saint, and as a statement against the brutal history of slavery. She has been adopted as the only patron saint of Sudan.

Bakhita's legacy is that transformation is possible through suffering. Her story of deliverance from physical slavery also symbolizes all those who find meaning and inspiration in her life for their own deliverance from spiritual slavery. On a larger scale, however, Bakhita's story of a slave who was forced to convert to Islam and later chose Christianity represents a conflict between Christianity and Islam. In May 1992 news of her beatification was banned by Khartoum which Pope John Paul II then personally visited only nine months later. On 10 February 1993, facing all risks, surrounded by an immense crowd in the huge Green Square of the capital of Sudan, he solemnly honoured Bakhita on her own soil. *Rejoice, all of Africa!* Bakhita has come back to you. The daughter of Sudan sold into slavery as a living piece of merchandise and yet still free. Free with the freedom of the saints."

Pope Benedict XVI, on 30 November 2007, in the beginning of his second encyclical letter *Spe Salvi* (In Hope We Were Saved), *relates her entire life story* as an outstanding example of the Christian hope. Sadly, the suffering of her people in Sudan continues.