

## WELCOME TO THE SHRINE of OUR LADY

We welcome all our Parishioners and esteemed Guests as you come to experience the beauty of the Ancient Liturgy and Devotions here at this special Parish and also Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima. We hope you will become a regular member of our Catholic Parish where, always, Tradition is in season!  
God bless you!



C ANNO SANCTI STEPHANI

*Almighty ever-living God, mercifully pour out Thy Spirit upon us, so that our hearts may possess the strong love by which the Martyr Saint Vincent of Zaragoza triumphed over all bodily torments. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY \*\*\* JANUARY 23, 2022 \*\*\* THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

**COLLECTION** - Those who care to continue to help us in our mission, please send your donations by mail or use online giving on our website ([latinmasspensacola.com](http://latinmasspensacola.com)) by making a withdrawal using your credit card (which the Parish will incur about a 4% charge) or directly from your bank (fee free). THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

**CSA** - Last year was the best ever in our donations to the Catholic Sharing Appeal. As a result, we were able to receive back about \$35,000. Which went to our Savings. Soon we will start another yearly Campaign. Please be as generous as you can be. We will keep you posted. We do remind everyone that donating to the CSA is required of all Registered and practicing Parishioners. Thank you very much!

**HOLY NAME SOCIETY** - The Saint Stephen Holy Name Society will have its meeting on NEXT Sunday, January 30th, at 9:00 AM in the Canon Pérez Hall.

**SIGN-UP** - There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church for people to bring food for the Candlemas Celebration on February 2nd; also for help to carefully put away all the Christmas decorations for next year. Please sign up!

**LECTORS** - Once AGAIN, we are in need of Lectors to read, especially at the 4:00 PM and 7:30 AM Masses on Saturday and Sunday.

**THE GREATEST GIFT** - Once again Canon has many openings for celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for your intentions. Please see him. Try to keep it to three intentions at a time.

**HOLY NAME SOCIETY RAFFLE** - The Annual Holy Name Society Raffle will take place on Candlemas Day at night after Mass and during a reception afterwards. ALL Parishioners are asked to participate in buying and selling as many tickets as possible. All the proceeds go to the Holy Name for the Building Funds. As in years past, anyone who buys or sells 200 or more tickets receives a free paver to be placed in the outside Shrine of Saint Stephen in the front of the church.

**ACOLYTE PRACTICE** - Saturday, January 29th, there will be Acolyte training for Candlemas. ALL are required to be here for training and Candlemas.

**THEOLOGY CLASS** - Theology Class will meet on this Wednesday, January 26th in the Parish Hall after Mass at approximately 7:00 PM.

## MASS INTENTIONS, SAINTS and ASSIGNMENTS

Sat. 01 - 22 (P)	4:00 PM	Emory Anthony Castro	St. Vincent of Zaragoza, D & M	
Sun. 01 - 23 (P)	7:30 AM	John & Julia Hawson	St. Anastasius, B & M	<b>Lectors</b>
(G)	10:30 AM	Pro Populo	St. Emerentiana, V & M	
Mon. 01 - 24 (G)	8:00 AM	Int. John & Mari Gasparino Family	St. Francis De Sales, B & D	4:00 PM Rose Castro
Tues. 01 - 25 (G)	6:00 PM	Int. Adornetto Fam.	St. Zamas of Bologna, B	7:30 AM Tyler Miller
Wed. 01 - 26 (G)	6:00 PM	Int. Timothy Molony Fam.	Conversion of St. Paul	
Thurs. 01 - 27 (G)	6:00 PM	Dr. Patrick Hyland	St. Timothy	10:30 AM Zachary Mora
Fri. 01 - 28 (G)	8:00 AM	Int. Robert Foushée	St. Angela Merici, V & F	<b>Altar Duty</b>
Sat. 01 - 29 (G)	8:00 AM	Int. Elijah Blue Moon	St. Thomas Aquinas, D	
	4:00 PM	Int. Dr. Ruben Timmons	St. Peter Nolasco, P & F	Diane Bridges
Sun. 01 - 30 (P)	7:30 AM	Angelique N. Sordillo	St. Valerius of Treves, B	<b>Lawn Maintenance</b>
(G)	10:30 AM	Pro Populo	St. Martina, V & M	
			St. Barsimaeus, B	Professionals

## Candlemas: The Presentation of the Lord and The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In many cultures, including in some Latin countries today, Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season. It is celebrated on February 2nd, the 40th day after Christmas, and is technically known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B., wrote in 1871 that "We apply the name of Christmas to the forty days which begin with the Nativity of our Lord, December 25, and end with the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, February 2. It is a period which forms a distinct portion of the Liturgical Year..."

The basis of the Feast of the Purification was the Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child and were not permitted to enter the Temple to worship. This was 40 days after the birth of a son and 60 days after the birth of a daughter. At the end of the 40 or 60 days, the mother was brought to the Temple or synagogue and ritually purified. Now she can go to religious services again, and generally go out in public. (See Leviticus 12:2-8).

This feast is also celebrated as the Presentation of the Lord, when the infant Jesus was taken to the Temple by His parents according to Jewish custom. (See Luke 2: 22-39).

In many ways, Candlemas can be thought of as a pivotal feast. It is forty days since Christmas and Lent is coming soon. Likewise, the words of Simeon the Just at the Presentation reinforce the pivotal nature of this date. The section on Candlemas at Oremus notes:

*... the prophetic words of Simeon, which speak of the falling and rising of many and the sword that will pierce, lead on to the Passion and to Easter. The scriptures and the liturgy of the Christmas season have several pointers to the suffering of the Lord, but none more potent than the words of Simeon.*

At Candlemas, there is also the traditional observance of blessing beeswax candles and distributing the candles to clergy and the laity. The candles recall the lights of Christmas, and also symbolize Simeon's words to Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."