

JANUARY 29 2023, 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH, 1728 Saint Joseph Street, Trenton MO 64683
 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC MISSION, 606 Broadway Street, Princeton, MO 64673
 BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH, 1208 S 25th Street, Bethany, MO 64424



Administrator: Fr. Bill Fox
 Church phone number: (660) 359-2841
 Church email address: stjosephrenton@gmail.com
 Church website: www.stjoseph-trenton.org
 Secretary: Peggy Bradley



THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS SCHEDULE

**St. Joseph, Trenton: 8:30 am Sunday
 6:30 pm Tuesday
 9:00 am Wednesday through Saturday**

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Princeton: 10:30 am Sunday

Blessed Sacrament, Bethany: 5:00 pm Saturday

Sat	Jan 28	5:00 pm	BS	† Richard McGuire
Sun	Jan 29	8:30 am	SJ	† Brad Schwenneker
Sun	Jan 29	10:30 am	SJ	The People of St. Joseph's & IHM & BSP
Tue	Jan 31	6:30 pm	SJ	The Little Family
Wed	Feb 1	9:00 am	SJ	
Thurs	Feb 2	9:00 am	SJ	Special Intention

Fri	Feb 3	9:00 am	SJ	Prayers for Souls
Sat	Feb 4	9:00 am	SJ	
Sat	Feb 4	5:00 pm	BSP	† Joe Easton
Sun	Feb 5	8:30 am	SJ	Rebecca Urich
Sun	Feb 5	10:30 am	IHM	The People of St. Joseph's & IHM & BSP

JANUARY 22	OFFERING
St. Joseph's	\$872.15
IHM	\$457.00
Blessed Sacrament	\$403.15

ROSARY
 8:00 am **SUNDAYS AT**
ST. JOSEPH

PRAYER REQUESTS
 Gerry Ann Wagner, Richard Eastin,
 Denise Babinski, Will Zang

ADORATION at 6:00 pm,
Followed by Mass
at 6:30 pm
Tuesday's at St. Joseph's

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Joseph, Trenton: 8:00 am Sunday
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Princeton: 10:15 am Sunday
Blessed Sacrament, Bethany: 4:30 pm Saturday
 or by appointment

Contribution Statements

If you need a statement of your 2022 contributions to the church for Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Joseph's, please contact Peggy.
 If you need one for Blessed Sacrament, please check with Gerry Ann.

The Ladies Group at Blessed Sacrament

Food pantry suggested items for January and February are:
 January: breakfast items (coffee, tea, cereal)
 February: canned fruits and vegetables

February 2: Presentation of the Lord—Feast

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. ~Luke 2:22-24

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses. Jewish Law prescribed that two ritual acts needed to take place for a firstborn son. First, the mother of a newborn son was ritually unclean for seven days, and then she was to "spend thirty-three more days in a state of blood purity" (Leviticus 12). During these forty days she was not to "touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled." For this reason, today's feast has at times been called the "Purification of Mary." Second, the father of the firstborn son was to "redeem" the child by making an offering to the priest of five shekels so that the priest would then present the child to the Lord (see Numbers 18:16). Recall that the firstborn male of all the Egyptians, animals and children, were killed during the tenth plague, but the firstborn males of the

Israelites were spared. Thus, this offering made for the firstborn son in the Temple was a way of ritually redeeming him in commemoration of that plague. Since Jesus was presented in the Temple for this redemption, today's feast is now referred to as the "Presentation in the Temple."

"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 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.

Today's feast 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. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" ([Luke 2:38](#)). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

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. It was her consent to the will of God that opened the door of God's grace to us all, enabling us to spiritually become Jesus' "mother" by allowing Him to be born in our hearts by grace. With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

We must also see Saint Joseph redeeming us as he presented Jesus in the Temple because 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.



Ponder, today, your soul being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter into the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you.

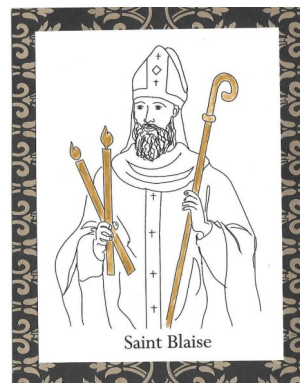
My saving Lord, Your loving parents offered You to Your Father in the Temple in accordance with the Law You revealed to Moses. In that offering, our souls are purified and we are offered to Your Father with You. I thank You for the gift of salvation and pray that my soul will always radiate Your light as You dwell within me. Jesus, I trust in You. (Taken from My Catholic Life)

Saint Blaise

This Friday, February 3, is the Optional Memorial of Saint Blaise, Bishop & Martyr. "We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary *Acts of St. Blaise* were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears. The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone."* This miracle prompts Saint Blaise Day as a day for Blessing of the Throats, especially here in the United States. After the 9:00 am Mass on Friday, February 3, Fr. Bill will offer Blessing of the Throats.

Do you have a throat ailment, want to get you throat blessed, but cannot make it to Mass? Call Fr. Bill at the St. Joseph Rectory (660) 359-2841 or email him at fr.bill.fox@gmail.com.

* Taken from Saint of the Day website, courtesy of Franciscan Media.



The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, Whitney True-Francis at 816.392.0011 or true-francis@diocesekcsj.org for more information.