

Holy Cross Catholic Church

PHOTO CREDIT: BECCA FOLI

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS! EYES ON THE LIGHT.

Many during the month of February look to the groundhog to see if he will see his shadow or not, but we in Northern Michigan know that, regardless of what happens with the groundhog, winter will last at least another six weeks, most likely twelve. So I guess we make the most of it. Happy February! The month of not just the groundhog, but also of the Feast of the Presentation and of course Valentines Day.

Let's talk about the Presentation. This celebration is one that goes back quite a ways. February 2nd has been a day for centuries where many Christians celebrate the day that Mary and Joseph bring the child Jesus to the Temple forty days after his birth. This is a Jewish custom that came from the Law of Moses, where after forty days, a woman would come to the temple to offer sacrifices for her purification. The book of Leviticus describes the ritual in the following way; "and when the days of her purification are completed, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the door of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtle dove for a sin offering, and he shall offer it before the Lord, and make atonement for her"(Lev. 12:6-7a). The celebration of this day began in the Eastern Church and was called "The Meeting" because of the encounter between Mary and Joseph and the man named Simeon. In the Western Church by the sixth century the focus was on the purification of

Mary. The celebration was accompanied by a solemn blessing and procession with candles. Popularly many Christians referred to the celebration as "Candlemas." This is because when Mary and Joseph came into the Temple, Simeon met them and prophesied saying that the Child would be a "light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32). The encounter in the temple is one that is joyful, yet mysterious. Luke's Gospel tells us that this man Simeon had received a promise from God that he would not see death until he had laid his eyes upon the Messiah. In his joy upon seeing Christ he proclaims "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). **This is a significant moment for understanding who this Jesus was going to be. He is a light for revelation.**

So again, while we do not really need to see what the groundhog will reveal, at least here on Beaver Island, what we do have on this February 2nd is an opportunity to look at the light that Christ brings. If the groundhog paid attention to the light, and the beauty of what the light revealed to him, maybe he would not look back to see his shadow. And even if he did catch a glimpse of his shadow, it shouldn't scare him away from the all the rest of what the light reveals. The same is true with the light of Christ. This light in its purity, goodness and love reveals to us the fullness of God's amazing plan for humanity. It helps us to see our salvation, our source of life and joy. **It reveals to us the reality that we are God's children and the he wants to give us a share in his own divine life, love and light.** Yes, in this world this light also reveals to us our shadow. Before the love, goodness and light of God, looking around a little, we will definitely catch a glimpse of our shadow, the things that are not of God. The problem is we get so caught up in our shadow sometimes and run and hide away from the light because maybe we are frightened by what we see in the shadow. We could keep ourselves buried in our deep dark hole so we do not have to deal with our shadow, but eventually we will all come before the light of God. The shadow is not who you are! The nature of a shadow or darkness is not a thing in itself, but rather an absence of something, in this case the absence of light. Jesus shines, not primarily to reveal our shadow, but rather so we can see Him. He wants us to see who he is and what he came to do, our shadow only shows us our need for more of the light. So instead of focusing on the shadow we should look to the light of the world, Jesus. Keeping our eyes on Him, and walking toward Him will allow us to be more and more filled with the light. Eventually, in heaven, when all His promises are fulfilled, we will be so fully enveloped by the light that our shadows will be no more. **So keep your eyes on the light!**

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Mass: Sunday - 12:15 am

Weekly Rosary: Tuesday -
10:00 am

Weekday mass times vary
depending on priest
availability - See our
facebook page for the most
up to date information
[@HolyCrossBeaverIsland](#)

SUNDAY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

February 6th: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intention: Lawrence Pease Sr. by Leona Pease

1st Reading: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm: Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:1-11
Gospel: Lk 5:1-11

February 13th: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intention: Gloria Dugan by Loretta Slater

1st Reading: Jer 17:5-8
Psalm: Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20
Gospel: Lk 6:17, 20-26

February 20th: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intention: Morris Boyle by Beverly Cantwell

1st Reading: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Psalm: Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:45-49
Gospel: Lk 6:27-38

February 27th: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intention: Larry Miller by Penny and Ivan Young

1st Reading: Sir 27:4-7
Psalm: Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:54-58
Gospel: Lk 6:39-45

STEWARDSHIP

January 1-23, 2021

General Offering: \$4,462.00

Mass Stipend: \$20.00

CSA GOAL \$14,216.00

Total Pledged: \$8,995 - 63%

Total Received: \$8,765 - 62%

IN NEED OF PRAYER

This prayer list will be updated monthly. If you wish for a name to remain on this list, please call the parish office before the 25th of each month.

Kevin Allen
Christine Barton
Vince Beilman
Arlene Blissett
Mike Dunn
LeaAnn Dunn

Crew Feltner
(McElwain)
Susan Heller
Kelton Hunter
Lester Jeske
Erna Kriigel
Vince Left

Kathy Maudrie
Owen McDonough
Carole Pease
Laney Perdue
William Reed
Ron and Joyce
VanderHolder

PARISH LUNCHEON

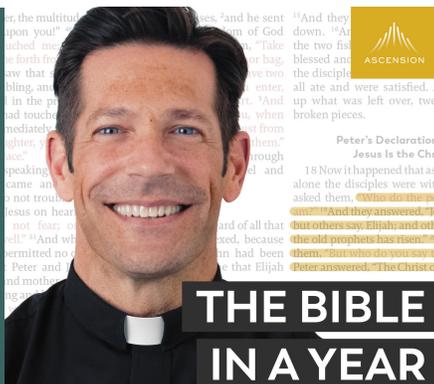
Join us for a parish luncheon on February 27th, after Mass at the Convent!

The Catholic Faith. On demand.

FORMED

Interested in learning about and growing your Catholic faith from home? Check out FORMED, a great resource to help us grow in our Catholic faith. It's great for all ages! **Signing up is easy and FREE!**

Simply go to www.formed.org/signup. Click on "sign up" then "sign up as a parishioner". That will take you to "Create a New Account". Do a search for "St Mary! Charlevoix" or type in 49720 and the name will pop up. Then just enter your name and email and YOUR IN!



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