

# Presentation of the Lord

# February 2, 2020

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

**8:30 am - St. John** – safety & spiritual welfare of our children by M/M Scott Schoppe  
9-9:30 am *Confessions at St. John*  
3:00 pm *Confessions at St. John*  
3:30 pm *Confessions at St. Elizabeth*  
**4:00 pm - St. John** – Reggie Bessette  
**4:30 pm - St. Elizabeth** – John Wall, Jr.

by M/M Ed Zucarro  
by his estate

### Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

7:30 am - *Confessions at St. John*  
8:00 am - *Confessions at Queen of Peace*  
**8:00 am - St. John** – Special Intention  
**8:30 am - Queen of Peace** – Mass for the People  
**10:30 am - St. Elizabeth** – Intentions of Joan Hahr  
**11:00am - St. John** – Roland & Mary Letourneau

by her children  
by the family

### Monday - February 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Blaise

**8:30am - St. Elizabeth** – Mass for all Souls  
**2:15pm - The Pines and Rehab Masses**  
**5:15pm - St. John** – Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus & the Immaculate Heart of Mary

### Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

**8:30am - St. John** – Mass for all Souls  
**5:15pm - St. John** – No Mass

### Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

**8:30am - St. John** – Antoine & Guillaume Schwarz by Christopher Casagrande  
**5:15pm - St. John** – Deceased members of St. J. K. of C.

### Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Miki

**8:30am - St John** – Beth Degreena by Good Shephard Catholic School  
**5:15 pm - St John** – Mass for all Souls

### Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

**8:30am - St Elizabeth** – Deceased members of the Fisher/Schoppe Families by M/M Scott Schoppe  
4:30 pm - *Confessions at St. John's*  
**5:15 pm - St. John** – Mass for all Souls

### Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> St Jerome

**8:30 am - St. John** – Priest's intention  
9-9:30 am *Confessions at St. John*  
3:00 pm *Confessions at St. John*  
3:30 pm *Confessions at St. Elizabeth*  
**4:00 pm - St. John** – Wendy Reis  
**4:30 pm - St. Elizabeth** – Pete Williamson (3<sup>rd</sup> anni)

by Susan Dugan  
by Judy Hughes

### Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am - *Confessions at St. John*  
8:00 am - *Confessions at Queen of Peace*  
**8:00 am - St. John** – For the recovery of Kerry Oates  
**8:30 am - Queen of Peace** – Mass for the people  
**10:30 am - St. Elizabeth** – Jerry & Mildred Roy  
**11:00am - St. John** – Mass for all Souls  
**5:00 pm - St. John** – Mass for the Youth

Please keep our parishioners who are ill & in need of your prayers, especially: Connie, Lapage, Randy Mackay, Martin Fortin, George Thurston, Charlie Weis, Randy Thomas, Jerry Prevost & Camilla Dente

**WEEKLY ROSARY AT ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH  
AFTER THE 4:30PM MASS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>.**

## PARISH EVENTS

<b>Sun.</b>	Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am St.E. Rel. Ed. 9:15am St. J. Rel Ed. 9:30am QP Rel Ed. 6:00pm NO Confirmation
<b>Mon.</b>	Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30pm Parish Council
<b>Tues.</b>	Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	St. V. de Paul Meeting/St. J
<b>Wed.</b>	Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm St. J. K. of C.
<b>Thur.</b>	Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm St. John's Choir Practice/Church
<b>Sat.</b>	Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm K of C. Bingo
<b>Sun.</b>	Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am St.E. Rel. Ed. 9:15am St. J. Rel Ed. 9:30am QP Rel Ed. 6:00pm Confirmation following Mass

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly offertory donations. Visit our website at: [nekatholic.com](http://nekatholic.com) and click "Give Online" to sign up! Leave your checkbook at home, and save the parish the expense of envelopes!

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**Fiscal Year:** 7/1/19-6/30/20 Budget: \$282,000 (\$6,000 needed per week)  
**Reg. Collection Year-to-date:** \$141,863.38 **On-Line: YTD:** \$29,896.00  
**Collections and Receipts: January 5, 2020**  
Regular Offertory: \$4193.00

The **FORMED** program is available to everyone in our parish. To start enjoying this free gift, please visit the FORMED website:

1. Go to: [nekatholic.formed.org](http://nekatholic.formed.org)
2. Click on REGISTER to create a personal account

## Bulletin Sponsors

Each week we want to highlight a business that supports our bulletin.  
Thank you to: **Barrett Insurance, Inc**  
*Please support those who support us!*

## Second Collection This Week: Stewardship

**Mass Schedule:** The 2020 Mass Book has many openings for people to set up Masses for their deceased loved ones. Please call the Rectory or drop a request in the basket and Sue will contact you.

## ANNUAL FATHER/DAUGHTER VALENTINE DANCE

Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 7 - 10 p.m.  
at Good Shepherd Catholic School  
121 Maple Street, St. Johnsbury

Tickets \$10 each available at:  
Good Shepherd School and Boxcar & Caboose  
in Lyndonville @ A Daisy Daze and Shear Sensations  
in Littleton @ The Little Red Wagon

**DIAPER DRIVE:** In celebration of Catholic Schools' Week, Good Shepherd Catholic School will be hosting a diaper drive to help our local families. We are accepting diapers of any size (including adult sizes) in new or already opened packages. Diapers may be dropped off at the school or at any of the Masses this weekend (2/1 & 2/2). Thank you for your help!

## Bible Study - Acts of the Apostles

Deacon Pete will offer 2 sessions of this bible study on Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. and again from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. The same material will be covered in both sessions. Sessions will run for 7 weeks on Feb. 13, 20, and 27, plus Mar. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Please direct questions to Deacon Pete.

## **WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE - FEBRUARY 2**

World day for Consecrated Life is attached to the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in consecrated life. Please pray especially for Sarah Hinkley who is discerning the vocation to Consecrated Religious Life. Sarah lives in Lyndonville and attends Mass at St. Elizabeth Church. She is hoping to visit some orders this summer. May families support and encourage young people to hear with open hearts the vocation God is calling them to.

The Vocation Ministry for this parish continues to pray a rosary for vocations to the Priesthood, Consecrated Religious Life, Diaconate and Marriage on Wednesday mornings at 9:00a.m. We also pray for young people discerning their vocation. Please join us.

Congratulations to Fr. Joseph Lively who celebrates 63 years of ordination to the sacred Priesthood on February 2, 2020!

### **K. of C. Winter Social at the Danville Inn**

*Saturday, February 8, 2020*

*Following the 4:00pm Mass at St. John's*

*\$26 pp RSVP to Jim Lanctot; 690 Hill St.; Lyndonville, VT 05851*

### **CANDLEMAS BELLS**

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*), are also called "Candlemas Bells" because, usually being the earliest blooming flower of all, they often bloom before Candlemas (some varieties bloom all winter long in some places). Legend says that they sprang up by the hand of an angel, who then pointed them out as a sign of hope to Eve, who was weeping in repentance and in despair over the cold and death that entered into the world after she and her husband sinned. Because our Hope is Christ, the Light of the World as Simeon says in his canticle today, it is providential that the Snowdrop should bloom by this Feast! If possible, gather some Candlemas Bells to bring inside (folk belief is that bringing them indoors before this date is bad luck, and bringing them indoors today "purifies" one's house.) These flowers, along with carnations, are also the "birth flower" for those born in January.

The eve of this Feast is the absolutely last (and best) day for taking down the Christmas tree, putting away the creche, etc. In some Latin countries, the creche isn't just put away, but is replaced with a figure of the Child Jesus sitting on a chair, acting as a sign that it is time for the devotion to the Divine Childhood to give way to a focus on the grown-up Savior and the public ministry, forty days of fasting, and Passion to come. In any case, when Candlemas is finished, all feelings of Christmas give way to the penitential feelings of Septuagesima and then Lent.

### **February 5<sup>th</sup>: Feast of Saint Agatha**

**S**aint Agatha is patroness of rape and torture victims, nurses and breast cancer sufferers. She is mentioned in the Roman Canon.

**O** glorious St Agatha, who remained faithful to Our Lord even unto death, intercede for me as thou dost rejoice in the reward of thy virtues. Cast a glance of pity on (me /mention the person afflicted with cancer or other serious breast ailment) and grant my petition, if such be the will of God. Make my/her troubles into thine own. Plead for the grace yearned for ardently, and for a blessing that may strengthen me/her during life, so to assist me/her to lead a faithful life, so that, one day, I/she may join you in eternity to behold the Source of Eternal Joy. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be)

### **February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Today is a day of purification, renewal, and hope. On this day, exactly 40 days after Christmas, we commemorate Mary's obedience to the Mosaic Law by submitting herself to the Temple for the ritual purification, as commanded in Leviticus. She didn't *need* this purification ... but submitted out of obedience to the Law. Also, Our Lady and St. Joseph presented Jesus to the Temple for His "redemption," also per the Law. This "redeeming of the firstborn," known as *pidyon ha-ben* in Hebrew, is why this day is also known as "Feast of the Presentation."

Also commemorated on this "Feast of Light" or "Feast of the Candles" is the prophecy of Holy Simeon -- the "just and devout" man of Jerusalem who was inspired by the Holy Ghost to know that he would live to see the "consolation of Jerusalem" -- and the encounter with the aged widow, Anna the Prophetess, who lived in the Temple and confessed Christ upon meeting Him. It was Simeon to whom Mary presented Jesus, and in his prophecy to her, he told Mary her heart would be pierced with a sword.

This prophecy and the sorrows that befell the Virgin during her time on earth are why depictions of the Immaculate Heart show her or her heart itself being pierced by a sword. Depictions of Our Queen as the Mother of Sorrows (*Mater Dolorosa*) often show her being pierced by seven swords, one for each of her Seven Sorrows. Now, before Simeon gave this prophecy to Our Lady, he referred to her Infant Son as the Light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and because of this, light and candles play an important role before and during the Mass, hence the most common name for this Feast -- "Candlemas."

On this day, there is a Blessing of the Candles. The symbolism of the candles is described by Dom Prosper Guéranger, OSB, in his "Liturgical Year": "*The mystery of today's ceremony has frequently been explained by liturgists, dating from the 7th century. According to Ivo of Chartres, the wax, which is formed from the juice of flowers by the bee, always considered as the emblem of virginity, signifies the virginal flesh of the Divine Infant, who diminished not, either by His conception or His birth, the spotless purity of His Blessed Mother. The same holy bishop would have us see, in the flame of our Candle, a symbol of Jesus who came to enlighten our darkness. St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking on the same mystery, bids us consider three things in the blessed Candle: the wax, the wick, and the flame. The wax, he says, which is the production of the virginal bee, is the Flesh of our Lord; the wick, which is within, is His Soul; the flame, which burns on top, is His divinity.*"

The Golden Legend (A.D. 1275) gives us another level of symbolism -- one that illustrates the error of Protestantism's idea of "sola fide," or that we are saved by "faith alone": "...if we will appear in this feast before the face of God, pure and clean and acceptable, we ought to have in us three things which be signified by the candle burning: that is good deeds, true faith, with good works. And like as the candle without burning is dead, right so faith is dead without works as Saint James saith, for to believe in God without obeying his commandments profiteth nothing. And therefore saith Saint Gregory: The good work ought to show outwardly that thy intention abide good in the heart, without seeking within any vain glory to be allowed and praised. And by the fire is understood charity, of which God saith: 'I AM COME TO PUT FIRE IN THE EARTH, AND WHOM I WILL, I WILL BURN.'"