

THE RECTOR'S REFLECTION

On Monday, February 2, we in Georgetown joined the Church throughout the world in the celebration of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Presentation of Our Lord. It commemorates forty days after Christmas and is also known as Candlemas since the Mass can be preceded by a blessing of the candles and procession with the newly blessed candles. The prominence of candles in the annual liturgy naturally leads to a contemplation of the candle.

We are aware especially in the winter of darkness and the cold. When dusk begins to arrive at 4 o'clock or we arise at a normal waking time and night is still around us, we turn on the light switch. When the temperature drops to below freezing and remains there for weeks, we regularly check the thermostat and make sure that the heat is operating. In neither case do we typically light a candle, although some of us may have a fire in the fireplace. And yet, even though we do not need candles for heat and light, we still use them in the liturgy or on the dining room table for dinner or during the summer we make a bonfire and linger around it for hours. Candles and flames remain in our lives.

There is something peaceful about a group encircling a fire on a summer evening to chat or have a drink or have a cigar. Candles on the table may encourage a relaxed dining experience, once that dismisses a utilitarian approach to food as potential energy for the body and facilitate dining with fellowship and conversation with the food as something secondary. Yes, candles have benefits and purposes that go beyond merely providing heat and light.

Pope Leo XIV issued a statement in anticipation of World Communications Day. He begins with a reflection on the face and voice of each person, something unique, something that sets one apart, as seen in the etymology of the words "face" and "person". Technology is threatening to mimic and replace these elements that distinguish an individual, which leads to enormous harm. "By simulating human voices and faces, wisdom and knowledge, consciousness and responsibility, empathy and friendship, the systems known as artificial intelligence not only interfere with information ecosystems, but also encroach upon the deepest level of communication, that of human relationships."

Human beings cannot be recognized as means for each of us to arrive at an end nor is an individual simply an image to

our eyes or sound to our ears. There is a being of immeasurable value and worth under it all. Even if technology can duplicate these things through the medium of a speaker and screen, a human person is much more than technology never can attain or provide. Man is one who God wanted "to be his interlocutors, and, as Saint Gregory of Nyssa explained, he imprinted on our faces a reflection of divine love, so that we may fully live our humanity through love."

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, February 11

7:30 PM – Liturgy Committee Meeting in Conference Room
(Open to anyone; see Flocknote or Oratory News for more info)

Thursday, February 12

7:00 PM – Dante Reading Group – Purgatory Canto 5

Saturday, February 14

Preamble to Lent: Spiritual Conference in Preparation for Lent following the 8:30AM Mass

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM – Holy Mass
6:00 PM – Holy Mass (1962)
(Ashes will only be distributed at the Masses and not at other times during the day nor "on demand")

Saturday, February 21

9:15 AM – Meeting of Fellowship Committee in Conference Room

OFFERTORY

• January 31 & February 1

○ Offertory	\$2,686.00
○ Online Giving	\$162.06
○ Second Collection	<u>\$1,177.00</u>
○ Total	\$4,025.06

MASS INTENTIONS

February 7 – February 15

Saturday, February 7

8:30 AM – Joanna Czaderna +
4:00 PM – Int. of Cillian Ackerlund

Sunday, February 8

9:00 AM – Int. of Maryann Rossi
10:30 AM – John Gleason +
12:00 PM – Int. of David and Maureen Gilday

Tuesday, February 10

8:30 AM – Int. of Peter Novajosky

Wednesday, February 11

6:00 PM – Int. of Leon Grimm

Thursday, February 12

8:30 AM – Monsignor Joseph W. Pekar +

Friday, February 13

8:30 AM – Int. of Teresa Maria Tremaria

Saturday, February 14

8:30 AM – Vinny Callanan +

4:00 PM – Zita Aruliah +

Sunday, February 15

9:00 AM – Int. of Virginia Silva

10:30 AM – Int. of Victory Pioli

12:00 PM – Marianna & Kazimierz Karwoski +

PRAYER INTENTIONS - Each week in the Oratory Bulletin we include the names of those who need our particular prayers. Please contact the office if you would like to add someone to our prayer list.

Kathy Romano, Joe and Lucille Faugno, Anna DeLuca, Susan Brown, Timothy Burns, Emily Dexter, Jorge Chiavirria, Gerald Owczarczak, Matthew Krakowiak, Michael Majoris, Dianne Brown, David Knapp, Brian O'Donnell, Ralph Nilson, Michael Jansen, Andrew B. Slagle, Jim Jogodinski

Repose of the souls of Nancy Define, Michael Peloso, Ryan Yannalfo, Lucy Procaccini, Gabriella Patterson, Michelle Leigh Gray, Edith Wald, Michael Rossi, Michael Tejada, Madeline Hanusovsky, Nikolaos Soukeras, James Crawford Grace, Michael Marushak, James Lomuscio, Monsignor Joseph W. Pekar

ORATORY NEWS

COMMITTEES

- Fellowship – The next meeting will be on Saturday, February 21 at 9:15 AM to continue planning for the St. Patrick Day Party on March 15. The committee will continue to discuss future events, such as a summer cookout, Ferragosto and outdoor movie nights. Open to all.
- Liturgy – The first meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11 at 7:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to assist Fr. Novajosky with ideas, planning and the carrying out of the various liturgies and devotions of the community.

PURGATORY IN FEBRUARY

The Dante Reading Group will meet in February on Thursday, February 12 and 19 at 7 PM.

PREAMBLE TO LENT SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE

Immediately following the 8:30AM Mass on Saturday, February 14. Breakfast followed by spiritual reflection and devotion. RSVP by February 8th in the Parish Office, call 203-544-8245 or email mrowe@gtoratory.org
Suggested donation \$25.

PROCESSIONAL

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Tune: Hyfrydol

Mass Readings:

Glory & Praise #865
RCDM pg. 269



GEORGETOWN ORATORY
30 Church Street, Redding, CT 06896
(203) 544 - 8245

**Sexagesima /
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2026**

Rev. Michael P. Novajosky, Rector
frnovajosky@diobpt.org
(203) 493-1829 (call or text)

MASS SCHEDULE Sunday

4 PM (Saturday Vigil) 9 AM 10:30 AM 12 Noon (1962)

Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 AM

Wednesday
6 PM (1962)

Friday & Saturday
8:30 AM (1962)

ADORATION
First Friday 9 AM – 8 PM

CONFESIONS (in the oratory)
Wednesday 5:15 – 5:45 PM
Saturday 7:00 – 8:15 AM
By request at any convenient time

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday – Friday 9 AM – 1 PM

WEBSITE
georgetown-oratory.org

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