

Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish

Reverend Father Aron M. Maghsoudi – Pastor

Rectory Office

738 Sunshine Avenue
Central City, PA 15926
814-754-5224
Mon • Wed • Fri (9-12 • 1-6)

February 2, 2020

Presentation of the Lord

Worship Sites

Church (Sacred Heart)
738 Sunshine Avenue
Chapel (St. John)
162 Wheeler Street

Holy Masses:

Daily

Chapel (St. John) See Below

Saturday Vigil

Church (Sacred Heart) 4:00PM

Sunday Morning

Church (Sacred Heart) 8:00 AM

Chapel (St. John) 10:30 AM

Confessions

Church (Sacred Heart)
Saturday 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM
Chapel (St. John)

Anytime upon Request

Mass Intentions

February 3 (Mon)	St. Blaise NO MASS
February 4 (Tue)	Weekday in Ordinary Time NO MASS
February 5 (Wed) 8:00 AM	St. Agatha Kusha Haggerty (Req. Jeanine & Maxwell Lawn) - Chapel
February 6 (Thu)	St. Paul Miki & Companions NO MASS
February 7 (Fri) 8:00 AM	Weekday in Ordinary Time Ann, Robert & Elizabeth Mulcahy (Req. Bobbi Long) – Chapel
February 8 (Sat) 4:00 PM	<i>Vigil - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Ray & Tillie Pasierb (Req. Pysnik Family) - Church
February 9 (Sun) 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> For the Parish (Missa Pro Populo) - Church Thomas Delasko (Req. wife Julie Delasko) -Chapel

WEEKLY OFFERING January 25th & 26th - Loose - \$152.50; Adult Envelopes - \$2,949.35; Initial Payments - \$21; Fuel - \$71; Solemnity of Mary - \$10; Student Offering - \$36.25; Student - Initial Offering - \$5; Student - Solemnity of Mary - \$4; Candles - \$21.25; DVD - \$10; Sportsman Raffle - \$425; Kolbasi - \$419.50; Night at the Races - \$565; Pierogi - \$16; Flowers - \$30; Hall Rental - \$175. Total - \$4,910.85 - Thank You!

ALTAR FLOWER INTENTIONS - The flowers at the St. John site are donated for the intentions of the Schola.

SERVER SCHEDULE

February 8 - 4:00 PM - M. Mabon
February 9 - 8:00 AM - L., L., & L. Mincek
February 9 - 10:30 AM - C. & L. Galish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2 - CCD Class
February 5 - St. Vincent DePaul Meeting - 7 PM - Activities Center
February 8 - Night at the Races - Activities Center
February 9 - Holy Name Corporate Communion - 8 AM - Sacred Heart; Meeting to follow - Activities Center
February 10 - Society of Angels Meeting - 6:00 PM - St. John
February 24 - Knights of Columbus Meeting - 7:00 PM - St. John

PRAYER LIST - Please call the rectory with any changes or additions. Kay Hintosh, Michelle Moore, Dale Berkey Jr., Allen S. Berkey, David Stockdill, Tina Udet, Rick Flickner, Patty Foltz, Connie Gruca, Judy Kostick, Lisa Schrift, Amy Thomas Georg, , Cayleigh Wilson, Betsy Paolucci, Areile Adomnik, Charles Field, Todd Diorio, Jerry Otto, Denne Osman, Addison Zearfaus, Pam Kacmarski, Tom Schall, Howard Rose, Karen Hickey, David P. Bonus, Henry Sprock, Connie Criscoulo, Hunter Slater, Nancy Deneen, Stephen A. Haydu; Andrea Sesack; David Stockdill; Tina Udet; Jerry Otto; Lyle Spearo.

CANCELED - NIGHT AT THE RACES - Unfortunately there was not quite enough interest in our Night at the Races event. Please contact the rectory regarding any refunds for tickets.

NO SOUP & STUDY- This coming Monday there will be no short lesson and no NOON Mass.

CCD NEWS:

- **BE MY VALENTINE RAFFLE TICKET!!** The CCD parents are selling a Valentine Raffle ticket to benefit the student's CCD Retreat this February. Tickets are \$10 each for a chance at the \$500 cash prize. The winner will be determined by the 7 PM PA Pick 3 Drawing on February 17, 2020.
- **CCD CLASS** - February 2nd
- **SNOW TUBING** - CANCELLED
- **CCD CLASS** - February 9
- **CCD RETREAT** - February 15-17 - No Class

CAN YOU SPARE A HALF- HOUR TO SPEND WITH THE LORD? – First Friday devotions will be held on Friday, February 7th from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the St. John site. The devotions include various prayers as well as significant periods of silence and will conclude closing devotions at 7:00 PM. All are invited to come and spend a half-hour of prayer and rest before the Eucharistic Christ. Please sign up in the back of the church. Thank you!

GROUNDHOG DAY HAS A CATHOLIC CONNECTION (AS DOES JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING) – As we know, there are twelve days of Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany. The celebration of Christmas is legitimately prolonged until the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as the Feast of the Purification or Candlemas—and, for those of us weather-obsessed and winter-weary in the Northern Hemisphere, Groundhog Day. At the time of Jesus’ birth, the custom was for the mother of a male child to present him at the temple forty days after his birth, along with a lamb and a pigeon as a sacrifice. Luke’s Gospel tells us that Mary and Joseph were poor and could not afford a lamb, so Jesus was presented in the temple with two turtledoves for sacrifice. (Remember those two turtledoves?) It was at his presentation that the prophet Simeon held the infant Jesus in his arms. On this last of the holy days that celebrate the arrival of the Light of the World, we celebrate Candlemas, the day when the candles for the coming year are blessed - in the blessing of the candles on Candlemas, we emphasize once more Jesus as the Light of the World. The candles used in church must be at least 51 percent beeswax. This is not just an aesthetic directive—though anyone who has had a chance to work with beeswax candles knows their exquisite tactile nature, their beautiful fragrance, and all around superior performance. The wax from bees is very symbolic, but practicality allows us to use candles that are a minimum of 51 percent beeswax. The pure wax extracted by bees from flowers symbolizes the pure flesh of Christ received from his Virgin Mother; the wick signifies the soul of Christ; and the flame represents His divinity. Everything involved with our sacred liturgy has a meaning, and all these things point to Christ. Many cultures have also had weather lore that sprang up in relation to Candlemas. There is an old English rhyme: If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, Winter won’t come again. There is a German equivalent: “But if he sees the sun shining, he draws back into his hole.” Naturally, one name comes to mind when we hear rhymes such as this: Punxsutawney Phil. The American development of the old custom, brought to Pennsylvania by German immigrants, lives on to this day, and the media of the United States still descend upon a town in Jefferson County to see if the groundhog sees his shadow.

KOBE BRYANT'S CATHOLIC FAITH - Basketball superstar Kobe Bryant died last Sunday in a helicopter crash in Southern California, along with his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna. Beyond basketball, Bryant was a husband and a father who in 2015 credited his Catholic faith with helping him move past a challenging period in his own life and the life of his family. Bryant was raised in a Catholic family, and spent much of his childhood living in Italy. He married in 2001 in a Southern California parish. In 2003, Bryant was arrested after he was accused of raping a woman in a Colorado hotel room. Bryant admitted a sexual encounter with the woman, but denied that he had committed sexual assault. When the allegation became public, Bryant lost sponsors and faced criminal charges, which were eventually dropped. Bryant issued an apology to his accuser, with whom he also reached a settlement in a civil lawsuit. "Although I truly believe this encounter between us was consensual, I recognize now that she did not and does not view this incident the same way I did. After months of reviewing discovery, listening to her attorney, and even her testimony in person, I now understand how she feels that she did not consent to this encounter," Bryant said in his 2004 apology. Bryant said it was a priest who helped him to make some important personal realizations during the ordeal. Describing his fear of being sent to prison for a crime he believed he had not committed, Bryant told GQ that "The one thing that really helped me during that process—I'm Catholic, I grew up Catholic, my kids are Catholic—was talking to a priest." A 2004 decision to place deeper trust in God did not mean the basketball star's life was thereafter without difficulties, or defined by virtue. In 2011, Vanessa Bryant filed for divorce from Kobe, citing irreconcilable differences. But Bryant said he decided not to give up on his marriage, and two years later, his wife withdrew her divorce petition. "I'm not going to say our marriage is perfect, by any stretch of the imagination," Bryant told GQ in 2015. "We still fight, just like every married couple. But you know, my reputation as an athlete is that I'm extremely determined. How could I do that in my professional life if I wasn't like that in my personal life, when it affects my kids? It wouldn't make any sense." Bryant and his wife have been reported to be regular parishioners at an Orange County, California parish, and after his death, some on social media said that he had been seen at Mass before the helicopter ride that ended his life. Some also reported seeing him at weekday Mass in California. Bryant also had connected his Catholic faith to a family commitment to help the poor, through the Kobe & Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation. The foundation helped fund youth homeless shelters and other projects aimed at serving the poor. In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Bryant spoke about homelessness saying it "kind of gets pushed on the back burner because it's easy to point the blame at those who are homeless and say, 'Well, you made that bad decision. This is where you are. It's your fault.'" "In life, we all make mistakes and to stand back and allow someone to live that way and kind of wash your hands of it ... that's not right," he said. - May he and all those killed last Sunday rest in peace!

ON ST. BLAISE – This weekend many Catholics will participate in the annual blessing of throats in honor of the Feast of St. Blaise (the feast itself is February 3rd). While many are familiar with the custom, its history is little known. When St. Blaise was arrested and being led to prison he met a woman who, rushing up to him, pleaded with him to save her only son who was choking to death on a fishbone. Bishop Blaise interceded with his prayers and the boy was miraculously healed. That miraculous intercession led to the blessing of throats for his intercession for health which carries on today. He's patron of illnesses of the throat. Even in his life Blaise was known for healing humans. People from all around sought him out for healing their bodily ills and their spiritual ills. In addition to healing humans he was also known for healing and helping animals. It is said when the early Church was under persecution Blaise often withdraw to a cave in the woods. Since he was a physician before he became a bishop, Blaise soon became the friend of wild animals that were ill or wounded. One day the governor's hunters searching for animals to bring to the city's amphitheater were shocked when they happened upon Blaise. There he was, kneeling and praying – surrounded by totally docile wolves, lions and bears, tame in his presence. When they took him prisoner, on the way to the jail he got more chances to perform miracles besides healing the boy with the fishbone. He met a poor woman in great distress because a wolf had snatched her small, young pig. She asked his help. Blaise commanded the wolf to return the pig. Right away, the wolf heard and brought back the pig which was not harmed. St. Blaise is patron of animals, veterinarians, wool combers, and against attacks of wild animals. So why the two candles? Because the poor widow who got her pig back brought Blaise food and two candles while he was imprisoned and being tortured. In the year 971, just over 650 years after St. Blaise was martyred in 316 in Sebastea, Armenia, he made an appearance which still is celebrated big time every year since 972. The place: Dubrovnik, Croatia. It was Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, the Purification, and Candlemas. All was normally quiet. The only difference was that a fleet of Venetian ships were in the harbor. They had assured Dubrovnik that they were only present to load up more supplies before sailing on. That evening, the night before next day's feast of St. Blaise, Father Stojko, the pastor of what is today's Dubrovnik Old Town, was taking a walk when he spotted that the doors of St. Stephen's Church were left open. Entering the church to check the inside, he spotted an elderly man with gray hair. The man introduced himself to the pastor as Saint Blaise, the 4th-century bishop and martyr of Sebaste. "I come to warn you of great danger for the city," he explained. The Venetians were fooling. They really intended to invade and take over the city because it was beginning to boom and develop into a threat to Venice's commercial power. He was to tell the city council. The pastor rushed with St. Blaise's

message to warn the council. At once the city's gates were protected and the heavy city walls manned for action. Seeing what was happening, the Venetians changed their minds, dropped their plans, and sailed on. St. Blaise's feast arrived hours later with the peace of Dubrovnik as safe and secure as ever. Naturally, the citizens credited St. Blaise for saving them and immediately named him Dubrovnik's patron. They called him by his Latin name, St. Blasius. Every year they remember him with a great festival on his feast. This super-big Festival of St. Blasius been going on for over 1,045 years. Dubrovnik citizens erected a church in his honor – the Church of St. Blasius, or Church of St. Blaise. Damaged in the great earthquake in 1667 and destroyed in a 1706 fire, the present Church of St. Blaise was built in 1715. And to show bygones were bygones and all was healed, this church was designed by Marino Gropellia, a Venetian architect. He designed it after St. Mauritius Church in Venice. A focal point of the church which was spectacularly restored and completed in 2016 is the main altar with its gothic statue of St. Blaise from the 15th century. The saint holds a model of the City of Dubrovnik as it looked before the massive earthquake. The statue and some other items were undamaged in that quake and in the fire that followed years later. People interpret it as a miracle. There are several major relics of this popular saint in the city, especially just a few blocks from the Church of St. Blaise in the Treasury of the Dubrovnik Cathedral. Among its other relics, there is the head, arm and leg of St. Blaise. They're encased in stunningly elaborate silver and gold reliquaries, shaped quite differently than what we normally expect to see. The head is within a Byzantine imperial crown. The hand within a golden hand shaped like a hand. Beginning in the 11th and 12th centuries, Dubrovnik's superior goldsmiths formed them of the precious metals, etched them in high ornamental detail, and added many exquisite stones and jewels. Priests process with them on the annual Festival day so that the faithful honoring their city's patron saint can venerate them and touch them. Residents and visitors to Dubrovnik are constantly coming upon St. Blaise outside of the Cathedral Treasury and the Church of St. Blaise. Around the Old City statues of him number in the hundreds. They appear on every corner of the city's walls. He's ever present, alert, and on the watch as he as in that year of 971. St. Blaise listens, too, as people over the centuries have asked and prayed for his intercession. In the Middle Ages he gained widespread popularity as one of the Fourteen Holy Martyrs. Never did Agricolaus, Roman governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia who carried out the persecution of Christians that Emperor Licinius ordered, dream that Blaise would blaze to such heights. They figured torturing Blaise in various ways with whips, raking with iron combs, then finally beheading him, would put an end to this popular bishop. But God something else in mind.