



MASSES FOR THE WEEK  
February 7—February 13  
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR  
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE  
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

- 4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Marie Amy; cammarata-Guzzardi Family; Thelma De Jean; Elizabeth Eberle; Marlene Morris; Barbara Rush; Josephine Siciliano; Marian Wallis
- 5:30 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand Dale; Katherine Eagan; Jennifer Johnsrud; Dorothy Keeney; Bob Keyes; Leona O'Dwyer

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
- 9:30 a.m. Kerry Barrios; Bertha Bernard; Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; Jayne Hennessey; Capt. Peter F. Johnson; Bob Keyes; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Kinler; Norma McClellan; Edward F. O'Keefe; Dr. Alfred Ramirez, Jr.; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Jerome J. Triche, Sr.
- 11:00 a.m. Cynthia Hemelt; Beverly Orillion; Damian Peters; Sara Clesi Romano; Barbara Rush; Gladys Schultz; Elzey J. St. Pierre
- 5:30 p.m. Archie Casbarian; Katherine Eagan; Leona O'Dwyer

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Katherine Eagan; Ann Kern; Bob Keyes; Leona O'Dwyer; Mr. & Mrs. Ben Sylvestri

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

- 11:30 a.m. Katherine Eagan; Bob Keyes; George Markey; Barbara Rush
- 12:00 p.m. Carlo Giacona; Ann Kern; Albert William Lucich & Family; Leona O'Dwyer; Elisabeth Robert

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Mary G. Cammarata; Loretta Doussan; Katherine Eagan; Ann Kern; Bob Keyes; Peter W. Loetzerich; Stephen Losee; Virginia Julia Lucich

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

- 11:30 a.m. Katherine Eagan; Bob Keyes; Barbara Rush
- 12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Ann Kern; Joseph Maselli III; Oliver Pivert, Sr.; Elisabeth Robert

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Katherine Eagan; Ann Kern; Bob Keyes; Stephen Losee; Mae Pivert

**GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.**

*Septuagesima*

**Solemn High Mass**—First Sunday of the month.

**Benediction**—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION**—Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm

**SPECIAL COLLECTION—FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2009**

Archdiocesan Catholic Charities

**SUNDAY OFFERING**—February 1, 2009

First Collection \$ 7,880

Second Collection\* \$ 2,033

\* Restoration and Maintenance

***WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME THIS SUNDAY...***

To **Father Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R.** who will preach at the 9:30 a.m. Mass and **Father Stanley Deptula** who will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Father Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., is a member of the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and is the Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Ordained a priest by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1967, Father Apostoli has been active in teaching, preaching retreats and parish missions, and in giving spiritual direction. He is also an adjunct faculty member of Saint Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, Yonkers, New York. In his community, he has served as Community Servant and Novice Director, and was instrumental in 1988 in helping to found the Community of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal.

Father Andrew has been active over the years producing different TV series for EWTN. He has also been giving talks on various spiritual topics, many of which are available as videos, DVD's, CD's, and tapes. He has written 7 books and 3 pamphlets

Father Stanley Deptula was ordained a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria on May 25, 1996. After serving in parishes throughout Illinois and as the assistant director of the Newman Foundation of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Father Deptula was instrumental in the founding of the Newman Foundation at Eureka College where he currently serves as pastor. He was recently appointed Executive Director for the Archbishop Sheen Foundation and was privileged to be present when the final documents were turned over to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. In addition to fostering a deeper devotion to Archbishop Sheen, Father Deptula will be heading up the various fundraising projects of the Sheen Foundation, ensuring that all expenses relating to the cause and the various operations of the Foundation's offices are met.



The altar flowers for this weekend have been donated in memory of Lloyd C. Melancon.

**BLESSED CANDLES**—are available, in front of the Blessed Mother's statue; suggested donation \$5.00 per box; limit one box per family.

**THE PARKING FEE AT THE PREMIUM PARKING LOT, NEAR ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, HAS BEEN INCREASED TO \$2.00. THIS COURTESY FEE APPLIES ONLY TO THE SUNDAY MASSES.**

***PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL***

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; The Alpaugh Family; Del Barry; Patricia Berrigan; Brett Bradley; Father Joseph Cazenavette; Jack & Paula Coughlin; Rene Crane; Carol Daigle; Tom Darcy; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Elizabeth DeBuys; Al Duroncellet; Katherine Eagan; Mimi Finley; James A. Fitzmorris; John Fulcher; Bob Keyes; Joan Kimball; Joseph; Stephen Losee; Michael McCarthy; Buddy McInnis; Sally Ann Main; Mary O'Brien; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Karen Paprocki; Sister Camille Perezzi; J. Van Provosty; Hugh Ramsey; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; Adele Silva; Mary Silva; Joseph M. Sonne; Stephanie Summers; Charles and Patricia Taggart; Salvador Trentacoste; Turkington Family; Alyssa Vingan

**SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL EVENING SERVICES**

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### THE ELUSIVE ST. VALENTINE

In the early martyrologies, three different St. Valentines are mentioned, all sharing Feb. 14 for a feast day. Unfortunately, the historical record is sparse. The first St. Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome. He along with St. Marius and his family comforted the martyrs during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II, the Goth. Eventually, St. Valentine was also arrested, condemned to death for his faith, beaten with clubs, and finally beheaded on February 14, AD 270. He was buried on the Flaminian Way. Later, Pope Julius I (333-356) built a basilica at the site which preserved St. Valentine's tomb. Archeological digs in the 1500s and 1800s have found evidence of the tomb of St. Valentine. However, in the 13th century, his relics were transferred to the Church of Saint Praxedes near the Basilica of St. Mary Major, where they remain today. Also, a small church was built near the Flaminian Gate of Rome which is now known as the Porta del Popolo but was called in the 12th century "the Gate of St. Valentine," as noted by the early British historian William Somerset (also known as William of Malmesbury, d. 1143), who ranks after St. Bede as an authority of the early English Church.

The second St. Valentine was the Bishop of Interamna (now Terni, located about 60 miles from Rome). Under the orders of Prefect Placidus, he too was arrested, scourged, and decapitated, again suffering persecution during the time of Emperor Claudius II.

The third St. Valentine suffered martyrdom in Africa with several companions. However, nothing further is known about this saint. In all, these men, each named St. Valentine, showed heroic love for the Lord and His Church.

The popular customs of showing love and affection on St. Valentine's Day is almost a coincidence with the feast day of the saint: During the Middle Ages, a common belief in England and France was that birds began to pair on February 14, "half-way through the second month of the year." Chaucer wrote in his *Parliament of Fowles* (in Old English): "For this was on Seynt Valentyne's day, When every foul cometh ther to choose his mate." For this reason, the day was dedicated to "lovers" and prompted the sending of letters, gifts, or other signs of affection.

While it seems that the exchange of valentines is more the result of secular custom rather than the memory of St. Valentine, and that the celebration has been further paganized with cupids and the like, there is a Christian message that should be remembered. The love of our Lord, depicted beautifully in the image of His most Sacred Heart, is a sacrificial, self-less, and unconditional love. Such is the love that each Christian is called to express in his own life, for God and neighbor. Clearly, St. Valentine — no matter which one — showed such a love, bearing witness to the faith in his dedication as a priest and in the offering of his own life in martyrdom. On this Valentine's day, looking to the example of this great saint, each person should offer again his love to the Lord, for only by doing so can he properly love those who are entrusted to his care and any other neighbor. Each person should again pledge his love to those loved ones, praying for their intentions, promising fidelity to them, and thanking them for their love in return. Never forget Jesus said, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:12-13). St. Valentine fulfilled this command, and may we do the same.

*Father William P. Saunders*

### DOING THE LORD'S WORK

People sometimes say we're living at a "post-Christian" moment. That's supposed to describe the fact that Western nations have abandoned or greatly downplayed their Christian heritage in recent decades. But our "post-Christian" moment actually looks a lot like the pre-Christian moment. The signs of our times in the developed world—morally, intellectually, spiritually and even demographically—are very similar to the world at the time of the Incarnation.

The truth is, the challenges we face as Catholics today are very much like those facing the first Christians. And it might help to have a little perspective on how they went about evangelizing their culture. They did such a good job that within 400 years Christianity was the world's dominant religion and the foundation of Western civilization.

Rodney Stark, the Baylor University social scientist, is an agnostic. He's not a Christian believer. But he became intrigued by a couple of key questions. How did Christianity succeed? How was it able to accomplish so much so fast? In his book, "The Rise of Christianity," he focuses only on the facts he can verify. And he concludes that Christian success flowed from two things: first, Christian doctrine, and second, people being faithful to that doctrine. Stark writes that: "An essential factor in the (Christian) religion's success was what Christians believed. ... And it was the way those doctrines took on actual flesh, the way they directed organizational actions and individual behavior, that led to the rise of Christianity."

Or we can put it another way: the Church, through the Apostles and their successors, preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. People believed in that Gospel. But the early Christians didn't just agree to a set of ideas. Believing in the Gospel meant changing their whole way of thinking and living. It was a radical transformation—so radical they couldn't go on living like the people around them anymore.

The early Christians understood that they were members of a new worldwide family of God more important than any language or national borders. They saw the culture around them, despite all of its greatness and power, as a culture of despair, a society that was slowly killing itself. In fact, when we read early Christian literature, things like adultery and abortion are often described as "the way of death" or the "way of the (devil)."

Here's the point: if the world of pagan Rome and its Caesars could be won for Jesus Christ, we can do the same in our own day. But what it takes is the zeal and courage to live what we claim to believe.

God created each of us. Each of us matters. Each of us has the vocation to be a missionary of Jesus Christ where we live and work and vote. Each of us is called to bring Christian truth to the public debate, to be vigorous and unembarrassed about our Catholic presence in society, and to be a leaven in our nation's public life. That work needs to begin today, right now, among the people Jesus called to be his disciples and friends—in other words, you and me; everyday Catholic men and women, the people of God. All of us already have the ability to make a difference in the world by virtue of our baptism. Now we need to act on it. Now we need to live it. So let's pray for each other, and encourage each other, and get down to the Lord's work.

*Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Archbishop of Denver*