

**JANUARY 27, 2019**  
**3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR:**  
**MOST EXCELLENT THEOPHILUS**

Today, we begin the series of readings from the Gospel of Luke, which we will follow throughout Ordinary Time over the coming year. We begin with the first verses of that book in which Saint Luke tells us that he had studied what others had written, but also had done his own research, and had decided to write his own account of the life and teachings of Jesus. Luke was not an Apostle. He never knew Jesus. He was a Gentile convert to Christianity.

Luke addresses his Gospel and his other biblical book, the Acts of the Apostles, to a mysterious character named Theophilus. We are given no information as to who Theophilus is. Whoever he was as an historical person, his name is very interesting. Theo is the Greek word for God, and philia is the Greek word for love. The name Theophilus, then, can be translated as "Beloved of God" or "Lover of God." Theophilus is you and me, who are the Beloved of God, and the Lovers of God. This Gospel is addressed to you and me.

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

This Saturday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which is also known as Candlemas Day, or Little Christmas. Even though the Christmas season has officially ended, it makes a brief reprise on that day. That is why we have kept the Christmas decorations up for a couple of extra weeks. They will come down after next weekend.

Some time after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to the temple to present him to God and for Mary to complete her purification after Jesus' birth. The final plague, which was sent to afflict the Egyptians, was the death of the firstborn. The Hebrew children were protected by the blood of the lamb over the doors of the Hebrew homes. Because God had spared their first-born children, they were instructed that they were to present the first born males to God and then to buy them back ("redeem them") by paying a fee to the temple. For a poor family, like the Holy Family, the redemption fee was two pigeons or turtledoves.

When they arrived at the temple, they encountered an old man, Simeon, who had been promised by God that he would not die before seeing the promised and long-awaited Messiah. On this day, the Holy Spirit had moved him to go to the temple precinct, and there he saw the Holy Family and knew that this was the One Israel had been waiting for.

Simeon takes the child into his arms and proclaims that he will be a "light to the nations." It is from this statement that the tradition of blessing candles on this feast began. Candles in church are symbols of Christ, who is the Light of the World. When someone is

baptized, a candle is given to that person with the words, "You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as a child of the light." Hence, this feast is known as Candlemas, or Candle Mass. As it is also the last scene we have in the Scripture of the Infancy Narratives, it is known as Little Christmas.

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

This Thursday, January 31, we will begin the next series in our Bible study. Our focus will be on the Acts of the Apostles. The second half of the Gospel of Saint Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, tells the story of the early Church as it finds its way in the world without Jesus present to guide them. They are reliant upon the Holy Spirit, which they received on Pentecost Sunday, to give them the wisdom and understanding and courage and faith which they would need.

From the beginning, the Church faces opposition and persecution. We see the Apostles, especially Saint Peter and Saint Paul, as they preach the Gospel to the Jews and to the Gentiles. The struggles of the early Church were not just from persecution from outside, but from conflicts from within between the Jewish Christian and the Gentile Christian communities.

The Acts of the Apostles is one of the most interesting of all the books in the Bible to study. As we look at the emergence of the Church in its infancy, we come to better understand the Church as it is today.

Join us at 11 am or at 6:30 pm on Thursdays in church.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

The coming week is Catholic Schools Week throughout the dioceses of the United States. It is a chance to celebrate the great blessings that Catholic schools have been, and continue to be, in this country. Many of you attended Catholic schools yourselves, and many of you have children or grandchildren who attend Catholic schools now. You know very well what a blessing they are.

One thing that I am very proud of is that the Diocese of Covington has the highest percentage of its Catholic children attending Catholic schools of any diocese in the United States. That is a remarkable reality.

Although I did not attend a Catholic grade school or high school, I have been involved with Catholic schools my entire priesthood. I have taught at Holy Cross High School, Bishop Brossart High School, Saint Henry High School, and Saint Patrick High School. I have served as chaplain for Newport Central Catholic, Saint Henry District, and Saint Patrick High Schools and am presently the pastor administrator of Newport Central Catholic. All of the parishes I have been assigned to as associate pastor or pastor, with the exception of Mother of God, have had their own Catholic grade school. Prince of Peace Montessori is the Catholic grade school

for our parish, along with Saint John, Saint Ann, and Saints Boniface and James Churches.

Various circumstances work together today to make keeping Catholic Schools open a great struggle. These schools need and deserve our support and our prayers.

### SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

On Monday, January 28, the Church honors one of the most important teachers of the Catholic faith that she has ever produced—Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Thomas was a brilliant philosopher and theologian. He was born in Italy and joined the Dominican Order against his family's wishes. They held him prisoner for over a year to keep him from doing so. A brilliant scholar from the beginning, he eventually would end up teaching at the University of Paris where he would remain for the rest of his life.

Saint Thomas was a prolific writer, but the work he is most famous for is known as the Summa Theologica (Summary of Theology), which is a work that encompasses virtually every aspect of Christian thought.

## PARISH NEWS

**THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** will be present at all the Masses next weekend seeking your assistance in their ministry. For the past 150 years, the sisters have been offering the needy elderly of the Tri-state a home where they are welcomed as Christ, cared for as a family, and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself. The sisters depend on our support to meet the needs of their poor elderly. Your generosity will be appreciated. For more information, visit their website at [www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org)

**HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS:** Family Promise of NKY Bourbon and Wine Tasting Event. Evening includes music, appetizers and live and silent auctions. Event is held at St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center, 3861 Olympic Blvd., Erlanger, KY on February 15, at 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$60. Get tickets at [www.eventbrite.com/e/home-is-where-the-heart-istickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-is-where-the-heart-istickets) *By investing in Family Promise of NKY, you are helping homeless families stay together.* For more information, contact Frank and Vicki David at 859-802-9816.

**“YOUNG ADULT EVENT (18-39):** When so many are leaving the Catholic Church for megachurches, why would a megachurch pastor convert to Catholicism? Hear nationally renowned Catholic speaker and author, Dr. Allen Hunt, share his story! *Tuesday Feb 5, 7 pm, Mother of God Church in Covington.*” See insert.

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA SALE:** You can purchase these items between Masses next Sunday.

**SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT:** The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery will offer a silent directed retreat on the weekend of **March 1-3**. Registrants will stay in the monastery guest house and join the community for Liturgy of the Hours and Sunday Eucharist. The retreat is open to both men and women. For more details and registration, contact **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** at [dorothysosb@gmail.com](mailto:dorothysosb@gmail.com).

*Congratulations to Sydney Hennessey on receiving a scholarship to St. Henry High School. Sydney is currently an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at St. Henry School. Sydney plans to study science, mathematics and Latin in high school. Way to go, Sydney!*

*We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Maja Heist who passed away recently. You are held in our prayers. May God grant you peace.*

**NO COLLECTION FIGURES AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.**

**NOTICE:** Hearing-impaired devices available. Please see an usher if you need one.

**HOMEBOUND?** Do you have someone who needs to see a priest or needs Communion brought to them at home or in a nursing home? If so, please call the office at 291-2288 so Father can arrange a visit to them.

**THE MESSENGER:** If you are a registered parishioner at Mother of God Church and are NOT receiving the free Catholic newspaper, *The Messenger*, please call the office at 859-291-2288.

**ARE YOU A PARISHIONER?** Interested in becoming a parishioner of Mother of God? We're interested in you! We will have registration available after all Masses in the back of church. Please stop by our table to fill out a registration form and get more information. We're glad you're here!

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** is available at Mother of God Church every Thursday after the 12:05 pm Mass and concludes at 5 pm. Would you be willing to spend time in prayer with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? Please call our parish office at 859-291-2288 if we can count on you for a regular time each Thursday afternoon. Or just come in to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**MOTHER OF GOD MEMORIAL TRUST FUND:** In your kindness, please consider making any bequests or financial donations to the Mother of God Memorial Trust Fund. These funds are used only for the preservation of the church.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

**CATHOLICS @ THE CAPITOL:** Bishop Foys invites all parishioners, priests and religious from across the Diocese of Covington to attend Catholics @ The Capitol, a regional meeting with our state representatives and senators on Saturday, February 9, from 9:30 am to noon at the Diocese of Covington Curia, Howard Hall, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011. The purpose of this meeting is to be a Catholic witness and voice in the lawmaking process by learning about upcoming issues that may be voted on in 2019. Continental breakfast available starting at 9 am. Program starts promptly at 9:30. To register, please visit [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org) or contact Vicky Bauerle, Catholic Charities at 859-581-8974, ext. 116 or [vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org](mailto:vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org) by February 5. The event is free.

**GREATER CINCINNATI CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE-2019:** Ladies, this is a great way to start Lent! The Fifth Greater Cincinnati Catholic Women's Conference, "Woman, why are crying? Who are you looking for?" will take place on Saturday, March 9, at the Sharonville Convention Center (11355 Chester Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45246). Tickets available at [www.CincinnatiCatholicWomensConference.org](http://www.CincinnatiCatholicWomensConference.org). Last year we sold out two weeks before the conference. We will have five speakers at the new, larger venue, confession, more vendors and ministries and the Vigil Mass with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. Take some time to kick-start a great Lent and enjoy a day of spiritual renewal. Bring a friend!

**OPEN HOUSE:** Covington Latin School invites all bright and motivated students in grades 5-7 to attend an Open House on February 10. Sessions will be held at 1 and 3 pm. To learn more about the unique educational opportunities at Covington Latin School and to register for our upcoming admission events, please visit [www.covingtonlatin.org](http://www.covingtonlatin.org).

### HYMNS FOR 9:30 AM MASS

396	Be Thou My Vision
Response	Your words, Lord, are spirit and life
462	I Heard the Voice of Jesus
693	Mary's Song
543	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, January 27

9:30 am Mass Ladies Altar Society  
Blood pressures taken after both Masses

### Tuesday, January 29

6:30 pm RCIA (SAC)

### Thursday, January 31

11 am Bible Study  
6:30 pm Bible Study  
12:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration

### Saturday, February 2 – Candlemas Day

Blessing of Candles at 12:05 Mass

### Sunday, February 3

Little Sisters of the Poor collection  
St. Blaise blessing of throats  
Fair Trade coffee sale in hall between Masses  
10:30-11:30 am

## MASS INTENTIONS

January 27	9:30 am	Carolyn Bessler
	11:30 am	Ed Hunkemoeller
January 28	12:05 pm	Robert David Byrnes
January 29	12:05 pm	Nicholas & Codi Horton
January 30	No Mass	
January 31	12:05 pm	Clarence & Margaret Wiehoff
February 1	12:05 pm	Cindy Kelly
February 2	12:05 pm	Jasmine Sanders
February 3	9:30 am	Tim Linneman
	11:30 am	Ruth Scharold

## SCRIPTURE FOR JANUARY 27, 2019:

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21.

## LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Dan Lewin
Ralph Kunkemoeller	Margie Huesman
Shirley Hensley	Tom Donoghue
Fr. Ray Hartman	Jill Felix
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Greg Scanlon
Kelly Bowman	Nancy Salzer
Robert Shircliff	Connie Gillum
Ed Salzer	Christy Egan
Rachel Hub	Jack Kearns
Pat Wiedemann	Richard Kearns
Marie Braun	Mary Lou Wilson
Al Haven	Jim White
Sheryl Hodge	William Fredie
Bill Rice	Special Intention
Joy Rolfsen	Zada Edmond
Trudy Koehling	Bessie Plymessenger
Joyce Mesler	Alice Heath
Carolyn James	Vicki Brunner
Paula Schwarte	Rose Manning
Paul Mospens	Baby Gunther
Rita and Ron Hopper	