

January 26, 2025
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Luke 4:18a

TIME

The holidays are well behind us; the year stretches out ahead. And what sort of year will it be? To judge by the words of Jesus in today's Gospel, it will be "a year acceptable to the Lord." And Jesus surely didn't mean only the next three hundred sixty-five days facing his listeners at that time.

When Jesus announced the "arrival" of God's favor, it was a message for all time, for every year. Similarly, we read today in Nehemiah how the people gathered with solemnity to hear God's word as though for the first time. They listened, and then fell to the ground and wept. But the prophet said, "Today is holy . . . do not be sad, and do not weep."

The "year acceptable to the Lord" is this year. The day that is "holy" is this day. The time to listen is now. What sort of year will you have? What sort of day? God's help is always here. What you do with each day can be holy and acceptable to the Lord if you but listen to and act on God's word.

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REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

The book of Isaiah has been called the fifth Gospel, so often do the Gospel writers use it for proclaiming Jesus as Christ, the long-awaited Messiah and Son of God. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus begins to move through his home territory of Galilee "in the power of the Spirit" (Luke 4:14), the same Spirit that descended on him after his baptism. He then goes to his hometown of Nazareth and to the synagogue on the Sabbath.

A hush must have filled the room as he walked to the place of reading and searched the scroll to find this passage. They had been hearing about his time in Galilee and how all had praised his teaching. What would he say to them? He chose Isaiah's words (61:1-2a) about one anointed by the Spirit who would preach good news to the poor, bring liberty to captives, and, at the heart of these lines, exercise a ministry of compassion, a reference to another citation from Isaiah (see 42:6b).

This three-part mission continues to be the work of the Church: preaching the Gospel, working for social justice,

and reaching out to all peoples in compassion. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus announced that this work was being fulfilled in the hearing of his listeners by what he was doing. The Spirit works to do the same today through us.

—James A. Wallace, C.S.S.R.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The feast of the Presentation is a day for the blessing of candles. Why does liturgy require candles? In the first years of the church, worship was often at night, and candles and torches were carried from place to place within the worship space as needed. Candles were also a mark of festivity and hospitality when people gathered for prayer in homes, and later on in large buildings with thick walls and dark corners. But even after gaslight and electricity, candles were kept.

Part of the reason has to do with the warm, clean light of a candle's flame. Candles are a good sign of the partnership of God and creation: wax made by bees, gathered and fashioned by human hands into something beautiful and useful. In order for the light to shine, the candle surrenders itself, almost as if it is pouring itself out so that the light can flood into the world. The candle of baptism, placed into our hands, and carried again and again, speaks silently of that same wisdom. If you would save your life, you must lose it. You must pour your life out like Christ so that you may be filled with the light of his love.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Celebrate the Baby by Helping Babies!

The parish will be collecting baby items during the month of January to donate to the Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center.

► BABY DONATIONS to include:

- Diapers – Sizes 4-6, Wipes,
- New or gently used Baby Clothes, preferably 12 months and up,
- Baby Lotions, and Baby Shampoo.

You can bring your donations to any of the Masses.

¡Celebra al Bebé ayudando a los bebés!

La parroquia estará recolectando artículos para bebés durante el mes de enero para donarlos al Centro de Crisis de Embarazo de Mujeres.

► DONACIONES PARA BEBÉS para incluir:

- Pañales - Tallas 4-6, Toallitas húmedas,
- Ropa de bebé nueva o poco usada,
- preferiblemente de 12 meses en adelante,
- Lociones para bebés y Champú para bebés.

Puedes llevar tus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas.

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

Feb. 1 – Guadalupanas Feb. 8 – Jamaica Committee

ULTREYA – will meet on Monday, January 27th, 7:00pm, at Immaculate Heart Hall.



Saturday, January 25th
5:00PM-IHM – +Belinda Gomez,
 Tomas & Guadalupe Morales;
 +Daniel Grimaldo; +Enrique Guerra

Sunday, January 26th –
8:30AM– +Martina Herrera;
 +Rodrigo DeLoera;
 Por el bien estar de Isidro Loya

11:00AM- For the People

Tuesday, January 28th 9:00AM – HF
 For the well-being of Tanis Moreno’s family

Wednesday, January 29th 6:00PM–IHM
 +Beatrice L. Mendez

Thursday, January 30th 9:00AM-HF
 In thanksgiving for Deacon Bill Butler’s birthday

Friday, January 31st 9:00AM-HF
 In thanksgiving for the birthdays of JTE Wilson, Ylario,
 Antonio & Pablo Gonzales
 +Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa Gonzalez;
 Rafael y Concha Acevedo

Saturday, February 1st
5:00PM-IHM – For the Guadalupanas vivas y difunta;
 +Gloria Castro, Delia Sparkman, Rudy Torres, Nellie,
 Dolores, Francisco, Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana,
 Tony y Patricia Gomez
7:00PM Roscoe – Por el Pueblo

Sunday, February 2nd –
8:30AM– +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira;
 +Antero Rostro; +Benjamin Uribe, Trinidad Abalos y
 Angela Aguilar
11:00AM- +Jaime Montecalvo; In thanksgiving for
 Jennifer Garza’s birthday

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6;
Mk 3:22-30
- Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk
3:31-35
- Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20
- Thursday: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25
- Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk
4:26-34
- Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Ps Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-
75; Mk 4:35-41
- Sunday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;
Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

LOS ANGELES WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF

Wildfires are currently ravaging Los Angeles and other areas of California. Your contributions can help families recover after the fires pass.

Make an emergency donation to Catholic Charities USA today to help provide lifesaving resources. 100% of your gift will be sent where it's needed most. You can donate through Catholic Charities USA:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

PLEASE NOTE: Next Sunday, February 2nd, is “The Feast of The Presentation of the Lord”. All weekend Masses will begin with a procession and blessing of candles. You may bring your own candle if you wish or candles may be purchased from the office during the week for \$3.00.

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE - In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. <https://www.usccb.org/>

YOUTH 2000 RETREAT – Please pray for our youth, their leader, and all who will be on retreat in Midland beginning Friday, January 24th - 26th.

YOUTH PARISH SHIRT FUNDRAISER – Deadline to turn in your Holy Spirit T-shirt order is this weekend after any of the Masses. Support our youth!

CCD - Classes Sunday, 9:30-10:40am.

Wednesday Classes - 7:00-8:30pm

OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) - Classes are held on Thursdays, at 6:00pm at Holy Family Hall, 507 Crane Street.

WEDNESDAY - Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass @6:00pm, & Adoration until 8:30pm @IHM.

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets at Holy Family Hall, this Sunday, January 26th, from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2025–You can get your boxed envelopes from the parish office.

Living God’s Word- When Ezra read from the book of the law of God, explaining it so the people could understand, they wept, but he said to them: “Today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!” (Nehemiah 8:10). Ask God to let the divine word bring joy to your heart.

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January 18/19, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$4305.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1172.00
BUILDING FUND.....	<u>1166.01</u>
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$6643.01

Thank you for your generosity!

#13 - Offertory

The Mass is a sacrifice, and every sacrifice begins with bringing an offering forward. We begin this time of the offertory by bringing our gifts to the altar. When the ushers take up the collection, this is not a practical thing which we do in order to pay the electric bill. This is a spiritual thing we do. God knows what we need. He doesn't need our money. He knows that we need to separate ourselves from what we are attached to so we can be attached to Him. The money that we give God is not a favor that we are doing for him or for the Church. It is a gift that God is giving to us. Whatever amount of money that I place in the basket, it is welcomed by God as long as it comes from the heart. Is our offering a sacrifice?

There is a story in the Gospel where Jesus noticed rich people putting large amounts of money into the collection basket, and a poor woman putting 2 small coins in. And he reminds us, she gave more because she gave everything she had, rather than just giving something from the surplus. Do we give God an honest offering of ourselves, or just what we think is good enough?

The bread and wine that are brought forward with the collection basket represent all of creation. We give back to God what he has given to us to take care of. And included in this offering, we must include our own sacrifice. What are we offering God in this Mass? God is not looking to make a trade with us. He wants our hearts. And he gives himself to us as a gift. This is an act of love, just like in marriage where the husband and wife give themselves to each other in a million ways throughout the day without looking to be repaid. This week, I gave myself to God by: offering up a difficult day at work to the Lord, spending extra time with someone who needed it, calling someone who I knew was suffering from loneliness, being patient with my spouse or children, helping a complete stranger, and more.

The big point of the Offertory is the question, "How can I get my whole self onto the altar to give to God?" The time while the collection is being taken up, while the gifts are coming forward to the altar, while the altar is being prepared by the priest and deacon. This is a sacred time of offering ourselves to God in preparation for the sacrifice.

During this time, the corporal is unfolded onto the altar. This is a white piece of linen which is folded into squares. Its purpose is to catch any piece of the Body of Christ or any drops of the Blood of Christ after the consecration. The chalices are placed on the altar, and the purificators are placed nearby. The purificators are rectangular linen cloths used to wipe the chalices. Finally, the Roman Missal is placed on the altar near the corporal so that the priest can follow the ritual of the Mass. The gifts are brought forward by a few members of the congregation, representing the whole community, and in doing so, they ask the presider to take these gifts and offer them to God in our name.

La misa es un sacrificio, y todo sacrificio comienza con la presentación de una ofrenda. Comenzamos este momento del ofertorio llevando nuestras ofrendas al altar. Cuando los acomodadores recogen la colecta, no se trata de algo práctico que hacemos para pagar la factura de la luz. Es algo espiritual lo que hacemos. Dios sabe lo que necesitamos. Él no necesita nuestro dinero. Él sabe que debemos separarnos de aquello a lo que estamos apegados para poder apegarnos a Él. El dinero que le damos a Dios no es un favor que le estamos haciendo a Él ni a la Iglesia, sino un regalo que Dios nos está dando. Cualquier cantidad de dinero que ponga en la canasta, Dios la acepta siempre que venga del corazón. ¿Es nuestra ofrenda un sacrificio?

Hay una historia en el Evangelio en la que Jesús observó que los ricos ponían grandes cantidades de dinero en la canasta de la colecta, y una mujer pobre puso dos monedas pequeñas. Y nos recuerda que ella dio más porque dio todo lo que tenía, en lugar de dar solo algo del sobrante. ¿Le damos a Dios una ofrenda honesta de nosotros mismos, o solo lo que creemos que es suficiente?

El pan y el vino que se llevan junto con la canasta de la colecta representan toda la creación. Le devolvemos a Dios lo que Él nos ha encomendado a cuidar. Y en esta ofrenda debemos incluir nuestro propio sacrificio. ¿Qué le estamos ofreciendo a Dios en esta Misa? Dios no busca hacer una transacción con nosotros. Quiere nuestros corazones. Y Él se nos entrega como un regalo. Este es un acto de amor, como en el matrimonio, donde el esposo y la esposa se entregan el uno al otro de un millón de maneras a lo largo del día sin esperar nada a cambio. Esta semana, me entregué a Dios: ofreciéndole al Señor un día difícil en el trabajo, pasando tiempo extra con alguien que lo necesitaba, llamando a alguien que sabía que sufría de soledad, siendo paciente con mi cónyuge o mis hijos, ayudando a un completo extraño, y más.

El punto principal del Ofertorio es la pregunta: "¿Cómo puedo poner todo mi ser en el altar para ofrecerlo a Dios?" El tiempo en que se hace la colecta, mientras se acercan las ofrendas al altar, mientras el sacerdote y el diácono preparan el altar. Este es un tiempo sagrado para ofrecernos a Dios en preparación para el sacrificio.

Durante este tiempo, se despliega sobre el altar el corporal, que es una pieza de lino blanca doblada en cuadrados. Su propósito es recoger cualquier trozo del Cuerpo de Cristo o cualquier gota de la Sangre de Cristo después de la consagración. Se colocan los cálices sobre el altar y cerca de ellos se colocan los purificadores. Los purificadores son paños de lino rectangulares que se usan para limpiar los cálices. Finalmente, se coloca el Misal Romano sobre el altar cerca del corporal para que el sacerdote pueda seguir el ritual de la Misa. Algunos miembros de la congregación traen las ofrendas, en representación de toda la comunidad, y al hacerlo, le piden al celebrante que tome estas ofrendas y las ofrezca a Dios en nuestro nombre.