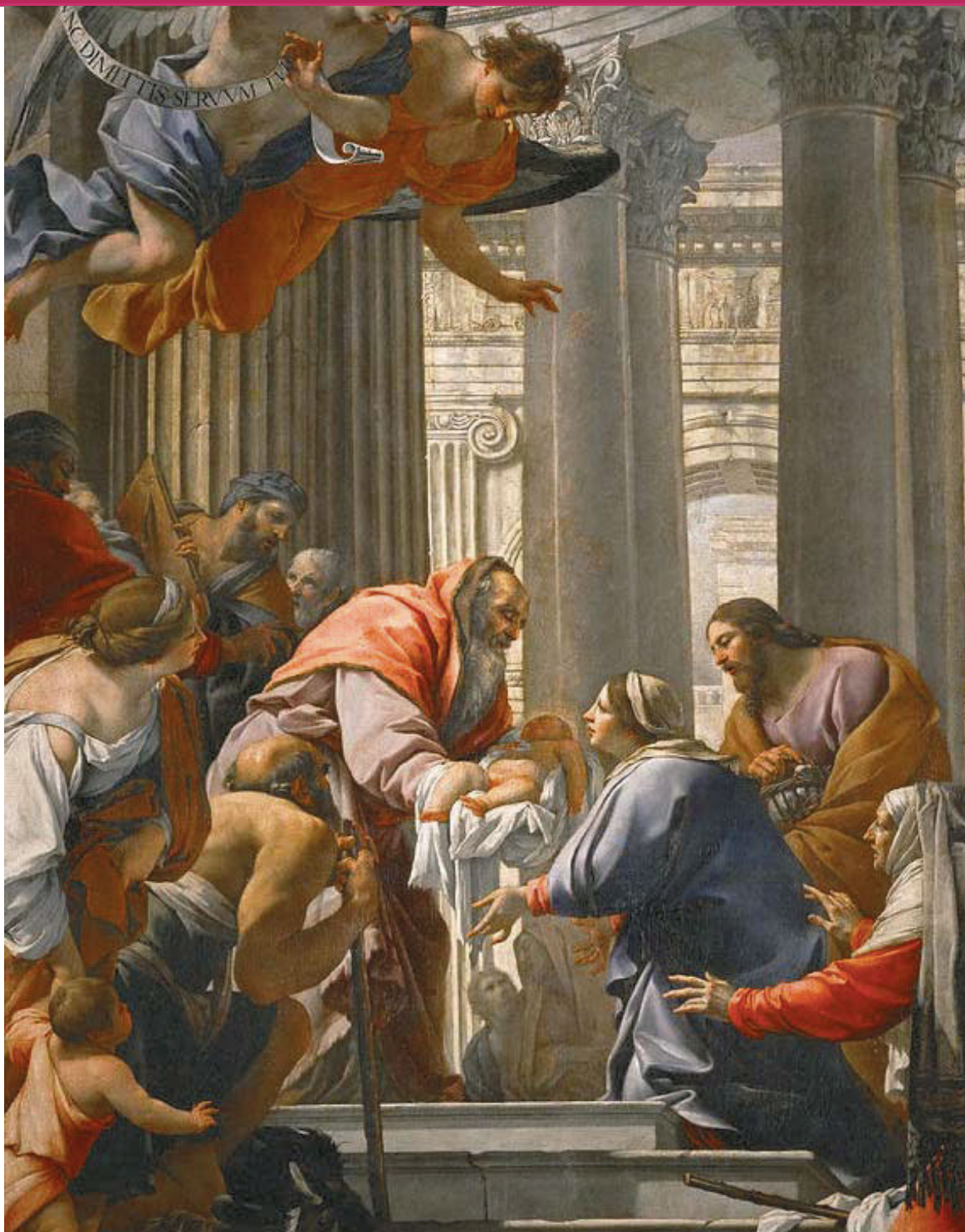




# ST. CATHARINE'S PARISH

*523 Western Highway  
Blauvelt, New York 10913*

*Rev. Msgr. Francis J. McAree, S.T.D.  
Pastor*



**St. Catharine's Church**  
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<http://www.saintcatharines.org>  
**Rev. Msgr. Francis J. McAree, S.T.D., Pastor**  
**Rev. Abraham Vallayil, C.M.I., Associate Pastor**  
**Rev. Mr. John Jurasek, Deacon**

*The link for St. Catharine's Live-Stream  
 Weekday and Weekend Masses is on our website,  
[www.saintcatharines.org](http://www.saintcatharines.org). Please find the link at  
 the very top of the Home Page.*

**Sunday** 5:00 PM Saturday evening Vigil  
 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM,  
 and 4:30 PM  
**Weekday** 6:45 AM and 8:30 AM  
**Saturday** 8:30 AM  
**First Fridays** 6:45 AM and 8:30 AM

**Baptism**  
 First and third Sundays of the month at 2:00 PM.  
 Parents should call Deacon John Jurasek at (845)  
 365-3618 for an appointment and Baptismal preparation.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
 Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM, and by appointment.

**Marriage**  
 Couples should call the Rectory a minimum of six months  
 prior to their marriage date to receive necessary  
 information and preparation.

**Anointing of the Sick**  
 Call the Rectory anytime for this request.

**Parish Registration**  
 Every family living in our Parish is kindly requested to  
 register at the Rectory.

**Parish Devotions**  
**Miraculous Medal** held after the 8:30 AM Mass  
 on Mondays.  
**Rosary** following 8:30 AM Mass (Mon.-Fri.); Sundays,  
 12:00 PM in the Grotto or School Library depending on  
 the weather.  
**Scriptural Rosary** following 8:30 AM Mass on  
 Saturdays.  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
 Every Friday from 9-10 AM. Every First Friday following  
 the 8:30 AM Mass until 7:00 PM.

**Parish Religious Education Program – PREP**  
**Mrs. Bernadette Kowalchuk**  
**(845) 359-4014**

**St. Catharine's Early Childhood Center**  
**Mrs. Lorraine Hubert**  
**(845) 359-4330**

### PARISH MINISTRY & SERVICE CONTACTS

**Adult Religious Education:** Deacon John Jurasek,  
 (845) 365-3618  
**Altar Servers:** Deacon John Jurasek, (845) 365-3618 or  
 Mary Anne Pagnani, (845) 358-0739  
**Altar Society:** Anna Stellwag, (845) 359-0769  
**Baptisms:** Deacon John Jurasek, (845) 365-3618  
**Bible Study:** Bernadette Kowalchuk, (914) 230-0765  
**Birthright of Rockland:** Call (845) 623-9098  
**Bulletin:** Patricia McKenna, (845) 359-0542  
**Choirs:** Dr. Rene Dalandan, (917) 770-2468  
**CYO Basketball:** Mary Anne Pagnani, (845) 358-0739  
**CYO Basketball Website:** [www.ourcyo.org](http://www.ourcyo.org)  
**Early Childhood Center:** Lorraine Hubert,  
 (845) 359-4330  
**Eucharistic Ministry at Mass:** Kerry Beckmann,  
 (845) 359-3986  
**Eucharistic Ministry, Home:** Eileen McCaffrey,  
 (845) 359-9315  
**Homebound Ministry:** Ken Lee, (201) 297-7016  
**Knights of Columbus:** Grand Knight Bob Vyskocil,  
 Email to [grandknight@stdominic5343.com](mailto:grandknight@stdominic5343.com)  
**Lectors:** Veronica Rogers, (845) 624-1427  
**Parish Council:** Kerry Beckmann, (845) 359-3986  
**Parish Nurse Program:** Maureen Fallon, (845) 398-3806  
**Parish Office:** Patricia McKenna, M-F, 9-5 PM,  
 (845) 359-0542; Judith Scandiffio, Sat. 9-3 PM  
**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Louise Langan, (845) 359-5648  
**PREP, Religious Education:** Bernadette Kowalchuk,  
 (845) 359-4014  
**St. Ambrose Society:** Parish Office, (845) 359-0542  
**Social Activities:** Joseph Onativia, (845) 365-1151  
**TASC, Teen Association:** Richard & Rita Sarubbi,  
 (845) 641-3172  
**Ushers:** Ken Lee, (201) 297-7016  
**Website:** Patricia McKenna, (845) 359-0542

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## JESUS SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY

In today's Gospel, we learn that the people who were in the synagogue with Jesus noticed something different about Him. He spoke with *authority*.

That word contains the word *author*. When Jesus spoke, He spoke as the *author* of the Words, the *author* of the Truth, and people sensed that.

He didn't just *interpret* Scripture or tell nice stories, no, He spoke straight to the hearts of people as if He *understood* each and every one of them.

It touched them, it moved them, it transformed them.

That is what true authority is, it transforms.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading**

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you" (Deuteronomy 18:15-20).

**Psalm**

If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

**Second Reading**

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).

**Gospel**

The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching (Mark 1:21-28).



**THE 2024 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL  
STEWARDSHIP APPEAL  
BEGINS THIS WEEKEND**

Sacrifice is not a word that many people like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want.

However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy." From the words "sacer" = "sacred" and "facere" = "to make".

In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

*The 2024 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal* begins this weekend at St. Catharine's. We are asking every family to participate and make a *sacrificial* pledge to *The Appeal*.

The success – helping those less fortunate, spiritually nurturing our youth, caring for our retired priests and religious, growing the many ministry programs that serve our communities – depends on us.

Our goal this year, set by the Archdiocese, is \$153,600. St. Catharine's has a long history of going above and beyond our goal, and we thank you for your past generosity.

Please join your fellow parishioners, prayerfully consider your contribution, and make your *sacrificial* gift to the *Cardinal's Appeal* today. Envelopes may be found on the Ushers tables in the lobby of the Church.

Remember, you can pledge your gift now, and make payments in the coming months. You may also choose to make your donation online at [www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org).





**COVER ARTWORK**  
**THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS**  
**IN THE TEMPLE**

*SIMON VOUET, 1590-1649*

Friday, February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day.

Simon Vouet was a French painter who today is best remembered for helping to introduce the Italian Baroque style of painting to France. He studied and rose to prominence in Italy, learning from Caravaggio, Veronese, and others. Returning to Paris, he and his studio of artists created religious and mythological paintings, portraits, and tapestries for King Louis XIII, and for wealthy patrons, including Cardinal Richelieu. He was considered the leading artist of his day in Paris, and it is said *"in his time, the art of painting began to be practiced in a nobler and more beautiful way than ever before."*

*"The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple,"* shows the episode from Christ's childhood as related in St. Luke's Gospel for Friday, February 2, Luke 2:22-32.

As was customary, Joseph and Mary would have taken their first newborn male child on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of His birth to the Temple to present Him to the Lord and make the ritual sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons—thus the *"presentation."* You can see Joseph holding a basket with the birds ready to hand them over to the Priest.

God did not require of the Hebrews that they sacrifice their first-born children, *"They shall be yours."* But, the first-born was, by the standards of the times, God's. This is a wonderful way for us to appreciate how wise God is – to have a ritual for helping all parents understand that all human life is a gift from God.

Now Simeon and Anna arrive on the scene. They must have been two older people who loved God very much, who prayed very much, and who yearned for the Messiah. At their ages, they wouldn't be around thirty years later when Jesus began His public ministry. So, God gives them a special gift.

Luke describes Simeon as having been told he would not taste death until he had seen the Messiah. Simeon and Anna see Jesus and recognize Him. Their joy is exuberant. Simeon asks Joseph and Mary if he may hold Jesus. They smile a "yes," and Mary hands Him over.

*(please, continue...)*

Simeon had waited a long time, but his patience was rewarded. Imagine the joy he must have felt when he finally held Jesus in his arms! As Simeon's arms cradle Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives him such beautiful words, *"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."*

But then the Spirit gives Simeon an additional prophecy of what being The One to bring God's Salvation will mean for Jesus and His parents. Looking at Mary he said *"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted – and you yourself a sword will pierce – so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Our Artist opts for a pyramidal arrangement set against a colonnade suggesting the architecture of the Temple. The warmth of his palette glows in a golden light that emphasizes the lyrical harmony of the poses and the diagonal lines that dominate the composition.

The colors are all very vivid, but if you look carefully, in the lower third of the painting, barely visible in the center, in gray, you will see a sorrowful Mary.

**CANDLEMAS**

St. Simeon declared that Jesus would be a *"light,"* and this constitutes the basis for why the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also called *Candlemas*.

Though not widely celebrated, Candlemas preserves a rich tradition for the Church. Historically, the Priest would bless all the candles used during Mass for the entire year. Many Catholics would bring candles to be blessed and to honor Christ as the *"Light of the World."*

Candles remind us that Christ is our light in the midst of darkness. When times are troubling, His presence shines the brightest.

Though not a holy day of obligation, it is a beautiful day in the Church's calendar, one that marks the official end of the Christmas season and looks forward to the light that will shatter all darkness at the Easter Vigil when another candlelight service is performed in recognition that, *"the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light"* (Matthew 4:16).

*Christ, Be Our Light*

Bernadette Farrell

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness.*

*Longing for truth, we turn to you.*

*Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in Your Church gathered today.*



**LIGHTING A CANDLE**

The act of lighting a candle when offering a special prayer has long been a cherished tradition.

When you light a candle for another person or for your own personal intention, always remember that the candle prolongs your prayer. As long as the candle is burning, your prayer is rising Heavenward to God. The candle is spreading light and warmth, so you can imagine that, your prayer, your love, and the love of God is flowing towards the person for whom you pray. Your prayer makes the life of the person brighter and warmer.

When you pray for a personal intention, light will enter the darkness; hope fills you. You may trust that God Himself looks upon you with His merciful love.

A candle radiates a gentle light. And, in the dim light of a candle you will look upon people and on your own life with gentleness.



The Altar Flowers were donated  
In Loving Memory of  
Chris and Dottie Staker

From  
Jane

The Tabernacle Candle will burn before the  
Blessed Sacrament the week of January 28

In Loving Memory of  
Moss, Sean and Brendan Moriarty

From  
The Moriarty Family



**FEAST OF ST. BLAISE  
BLESSING OF THROATS**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30 AM**

We will have the traditional Blessing of Throats on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at our 8:30 AM Mass.

St. Blaise's protection of those with throat troubles comes from a legend that a boy was brought to him who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blaise saved the boy's life by saying a prayer and blessing him with candles crossed at his throat.

*"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

*"For everything there is a season  
and a time for every purpose under Heaven."*

*"A time to heal"*

We pray for God's tender mercy and loving kindness upon all of our loved ones who have experienced health issues.

- Walter Cahill, Helen O'Brien, Matthew Mencher,  
Lucy Decilla, Rory Tinston, Gary Baisley, Geraldine Moloney,  
Jim Grimm, Brandon Hernandez,  
Billy Keenan, Diana Colon, Colleen Kusy, Amanda Lynch,  
Brian Domitrovits, II, Christian Perez,  
Nicholas Guiliano, Matilda Quinn, Nicholas Corbi,  
Liam Frawley, Noreen Larsen, Molly McGovern,  
Danny Newkirk, Cali Jhené Pritchard,  
Emmet Horvath, Darianna DeLise, David O'Hanlon,  
James Cunningham, Liam McLaughlin, Tom Collins,  
Rob Incognoli, Rose Cahill, Teresita Dural,  
Keira Cunningham, Gary Haley, Heather Mekkinosson,  
Jude DePalma, Gerald Spagnolo, Gabriella Larsen,  
Anne Marie Herman, Patricia Duffy, Justin Duffy,  
Fiona Moran, Carol Crane, Carol McGrath,  
Lisa Morehead, Vincent Fyfe, June Hudson, Colton Martin,  
Ed Walsh, Jacqueline Tracey, Christopher O'Brien,  
Andrew Padilla, Paulette Maurice, Jack Bermingham,  
Margaret Brosnan, Jim Deremeik, Sr. Maureen Bradshaw,  
Peggy Finn, Ann Donohue, Heather Hovorka Plunkett,  
Edward Fitzpatrick, James Racca, Dr. Jose and Celia Botet,  
Mary Jane Knapp, Corona Balin, Judy Donohue, Frank Parisi,  
Colleen Scarry, Marion O'Leary, Judith Ferrara,  
Patrick Armstrong, Patty Neier, Anna Stellweg, Janet Kopac,  
Marjorie Tobin, Michael McManamon, Neil McDermott,  
Kevin Kearney

*"A time to mourn"*

*Well done, good and faithful servant.*

*Come and share your Master's joy.*

- Mary Maher, Eileen Hurley, Jane Doyle Ench,  
Anne Gilroy, Mark Lynch, Jeanette Bonardi, Jim McLaughlin,  
Jean Arcieri, John D'Andrea, Bob Minichiello, Lorraine Cooper,  
Joseph Spiotta, Mary Maguire, Nora Hartney,  
Irene Callaghan

*"A time for war and a time for peace"*

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need, and bring them home safely. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. *Amen.*



**ST. CATHARINE'S EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER  
REGISTRATION**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>, 4-7 PM**

Registration for September 2024 will be **Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-7:00 PM** for anyone new to our Program. (Snow date would be Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4-7:00 PM.) Children must be 3 or 4 by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the incoming school year. Please email us at [stcatharinesprek@gmail.com](mailto:stcatharinesprek@gmail.com) if you would like more information about the Registration process. Thank you!

**JANUARY BAPTISM**

*Claire Ann Ferrari*

*We ask that you please remember this precious little one, and her Parents, Godparents, and Families in your prayers. May God bless Claire Ann with joy, health, happiness, and a lifetime of love.*

**PETITION OF THE WEEK**

*Holy Father, may we always live with joy and happiness in the light of your love ... Lord, hear our prayer.*

**+FIRST FRIDAY MASS+**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 AM**

Please join us at our First Friday 8:30 AM Mass on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following Mass, everyone is invited for Breakfast in the Lower Parish House.



**+EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN CHAPEL+  
FIRST FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9-7 PM**

*"Could you not watch with me one hour?"*

Matthew 26:40

Eucharistic Adoration is a practice and devotion wherein a consecrated host – Jesus Himself, body, blood, soul and divinity – is brought out of the tabernacle and placed in a monstrance, exposed for the faithful to see, adore, and pray before.

This practice finds its beginnings in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked His apostles, *"Could you not watch with me one hour?"* This is the very invitation of Eucharistic Adoration – to keep watch with Jesus for one hour.

Members of the Parish are asked to sign up to spend a quiet, holy hour of prayer keeping watch with Jesus.

One of the "rules" of Eucharistic Adoration is that the exposed Blessed Sacrament must never be left alone.

The last few months, this has not been the case, and more often than not, the Chapel has been found empty.

Sadly, it may prove necessary to reduce the time of Adoration on First Fridays to 9-11 AM when members of the faithful are present following our First Friday Mass.

Spending time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration deepens our relationship with Him, while He bestows grace upon us. Grace will flow from Him to you, to your family, and to the Parish.

**ANNUAL BOOSTER CLUB KICK-OFF**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Tickets cost \$100 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. The Grand Prize is \$8,000. The Drawing will take place on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> following the 12:30 PM Mass.

To purchase tickets, you may contact our Booster Club Chairwoman, Judy Scandiffio at (845) 359-1023, or any one of our Captains – Kerry Beckmann, Bridie Bennett, Margaret Doolan, Lorraine Holmes, Sinead Noonan, Joe Onativia, Irene Schutz, Barbara Shaw, or Gary Sozzi.

We are always in need of new Captains. If you are interested, please contact Judy Scandiffio at (845) 359-1023. Thank you.



**SOUP-ER BOWL OF CARING**

**SOUP COLLECTION - MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

Our PREP students will be collecting cans of soup during the month of February. Soup will be donated to the Neighborhood Food Pantry here in South Orangetown to be distributed to those in need in our community. If your child/ren are in PREP, they may bring their cans of soup to class. Otherwise, please look for the bins in the lobby of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

**TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION**

**Today's** Second Collection will help offset our Archdiocesan assessment for the Catholic School System in New York. Thank you for your continued support of this monthly collection.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**

**5:00** Barbara Gallagher

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

**8:00** Richard McCloskey – 20 Year Anniversary

**9:30** Kay and Jerry Vyskocil

**11:00** Moss Moriarty

**12:30** Joseph Donzella – 20 Year Anniversary

**4:30** Jack Brennan

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29**

**6:45** Deceased Members of Harte and Smyth Families

**8:30** Mary Caruso and Kit Lamneck

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30**

**6:45** *The People of St. Catharine's Church*

**8:30** Victoria Cahill – 4 Year Anniversary

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31**

**6:45** Gloria Retusto

**8:30** Jack McElligott

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**6:45** Jack Arevalo – *Living*

**8:30** Denis and Teresa Davey

**FIRST FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

**6:45** Allen Green

**8:30** Madeline McAree

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

**8:30** Joseph Dennerlein

**5:00** Madeline McAree

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

**8:00** Anna Gavioli – 6 Year Anniversary

**9:30** Platner & Whittington Families

**11:00** Robert Reyes

**12:30** Daniel Dinan

**4:30** Dina O'Sullivan





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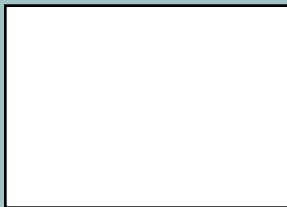
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