THE LANTERIAN

SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
STAFFED BY
THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE
FEBRUARY 2, 2020
The Pope’s Prayer Intention for February:
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Schedule
Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM en español
Sun. 8 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 1:15 PM en español, 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM
Weekday Masses:
Mon.—Fri. 8:00 AM, 12:05 PM, 4:45 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM, 12 PM
Confessions:
Mon.—Fri. 11:15 - 11:50 AM, 12:45 - 1:15 PM
Saturday 9:45 - 11:45 AM, 12:45 - 3:30 PM
Devotions:
Tuesday after Mass: Memorare, 5:30 PM Vespers;
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude;
Mon.—Fri. after 4:45 PM Mass: Rosary
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Mon.—Fri. 8:30 - 11:45 AM, 1:00 - 4:30 PM;
Sat. 9:30 - 11:30 AM, 12:30 - 3:30 PM;
Sunday 2:30 - 3:30 PM
Gift Shop Hours:
Monday—Friday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM;
Saturday 9:30 AM - 6:45 PM*;
Sunday 8:45 AM - 5:30 PM*
(*Closed during Sun. and Sat. Vigil Masses)

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Reflection for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
By Fr. James Doran, OMV

Why did St. Joseph and Holy Mary take the Baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem? Because every first born male, whether a boy or an animal was considered as belonging in a special way to God. You find it in the book of Exodus of the Old Testament, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord”. If it was an animal, it was sacrificed. If it was a baby boy, an animal was offered up as a substitute.

Additionally, in the Book of Leviticus it reads that after a woman gave birth, she was not to come to the Temple for 40 days. Then there would be a purification service and sacrifice offered so she could participate in the Temple again. Our Lady does not need purification from the birth of Jesus. He is the one who will purify the whole world, but our Lady obeys the law, and participates in the fulfillment of the promises.

Our first reading needs a little explaining. Malachi was speaking to the Jews who had come back after the exile. They had rebuilt a modest Temple to replace the glorious Temple the Babylonians had destroyed. The people, since they had been away from their home land, were not as fervent as before. That happens to Catholics too when we get away from home; whether we immigrate to another country or just go away to college. The Israelites were not as faithful to their religious obligations. Their attitude about worship and God’s law became lax. For example, they offered lame and blind animals in sacrifice instead of healthy ones. How often we offer God what is left over. Or we pray or go to Mass if we have time. They needed someone to bring them back to a true love of God, obedience and true worship. The people needed to be cleansed, purified. Malachi says, “Who will endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? He is like the refiners fire…” That is intended to be frightening. He will purify, refining the people so they offer due sacrifice to the Lord. Then they will offer sacrifice that will please the Lord as in the days of old, as in years gone by. Who can endure? Who can stand when He comes into the Temple? But then how does He come? As a Baby in His Mother’s arms! How ironic. Mary, who is “full of Grace” comes to be purified. Joseph will offer turtledoves for sacrifice, but Jesus would eliminate the need for future animal sacrifices since He would be the Victim, the true Lamb of God.

Eastern Christians call this feast “The Encounter.” Simeon and Anna encounter the Temple’s Lord in a fragile baby of poor parents. Almighty God encounters His people in a gracious, gentle, non-threatening way. Simeon is righteous, devout, and looking for the consolation of Israel. His whole life is orientated toward God, he gives God the best of himself, not leftovers. He awaits the consoling God. Simeon is a man of hope and expectation. The Holy Spirit has promised him that he will see the Christ before he dies. Our Lady lets him hold her Baby for a moment, and he praises God.

Simeon calls Jesus Light for the Gentiles, (non-Jews), and Glory of the Jewish people. He illumines our minds and lights up our way in the world unto eternal life. Then Simeon has some sad news. He addresses the young Mother. “Behold this Child is destined for the rise and fall of many, a sign of contradiction…Your own soul, a sword shall pierce as the thoughts of many hearts are revealed.” When Mary would learn what men thought of her child, it would wound her heart. It started with Herod and then all those people who would reject Him till they crucified Him. Pope John Paul called this a second Annunciation. St. Gabriel’s annunciation was about the Incarnation. Simeon’s annunciation has to do with Redemption. The Mother of Christ shares in His suffering. We are called to imitate Anna who worshiped day and night and spoke of the Child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Israel.
Oh Mary, my dearest Mother, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility, that I may receive Jesus as you did — and go in haste to give Him to others. Amen.

Visit stfrancischapel.org for more.

**NEWS**

**Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement:**
*The Power and Spiritual Wisdom of Venerable Bruno Lanteri*
*A Seminar by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV*

February 8 - 9, 2020
at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, 1105 Boylston St.

To register, email OMVUSA@gmail.com or call (617) 982-7264

**The Friends of God: St. Philip of Jesus**

*Feast Day: February 5*  
*Patron of: Mexico City*

Born in Mexico City in 1572, Philip tended to live a care-free life as a child. Later, he became more devout and entered the Franciscan Order in Mexico. It wasn’t long into religious life that Philip became bored and decided to leave the Franciscans and seek wealth and pleasure as a merchant. His business took him to the Philippines where he did live a life of pleasure. Only one year into that life Philip regretted his decision and repented. He sought re-entry into the Franciscans who graciously re-admitted him. He was being sent from the Philippines back to Mexico to be ordained for the priesthood but a storm blew his ship onto the shores of Japan. He and his companions were suspected of being invaders and were condemned by the emperor. Philip was martyred with 25 others, including St. Paul Miki.

**Prayer Before Mass**

by Ven. Bruno Lanteri
*Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary*

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to recognize, honor and glorify your infinite greatness and the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance, I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with so many praises, with so many wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

**Marian Title of the Month: Our Lady, Beautiful Star**

Oh Mary, my dearest Mother,
give me your heart so beautiful,
so pure, so immaculate,
so full of love and humility,
that I may receive Jesus
as you did — and go in haste
to give Him to others. Amen.

**Mass Intentions This Week**

**Sunday, February 2**
- Presentation of the Lord
8:00 AM + Fr. Dan Hearty
9:15 AM + Fr. Timothy Murphy
10:30 AM + Fr. Gerald Hickey
11:45 AM Fr. James Hawker — Ordination anniversary
1:15 PM (esp.) + Jose Crespo Villa
4:00 PM Sister Confida
5:30 PM Fr. Thomas Oates — Ordination anniv.

**Monday, February 3**
- St. Blaise
8:00 AM Fr. Dan Mahoney — Ordination anniv.
12:05 PM + Dennis Kilday
4:45 PM + Cunniffe Family

**Tuesday, February 4**
8:00 AM + Anton Frederick Kloc
12:05 PM + Kristen Kalish & Son
4:45 PM + Francie Cunniffe — good health

**Wednesday, February 5**
- St. Agatha
8:00 AM + Roger Matthew Smith
12:05 PM Jack Cunniffe — good health
4:45 PM Mary Lee & Family — good health

**Thursday, February 6**
- St. Paul Miki & Companions
8:00 AM Rosanne Cunniffe
12:05 PM + Sheila Dunne Feitelberg — 4th anniversary
4:45 PM + Delia Connaughton

**Friday, February 7**
8:00 AM + Jean Larkin — birthday
12:05 PM + Grace Newman
4:45 PM + Fanny Raigosa

**Saturday, February 8**
- St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita
9:00 AM +Maureen Hunter
12:00 PM + Joana de Baena
4:00 PM + John Hall
5:30 PM Richard Anthony & Walter Michael Horsley
7:00 PM (esp.) + Virginia de Munar
Candlemas

I am created by God for this end alone, that I might praise him and serve him and consequently be saved. And not only that I should praise him and serve him in any state of life, but in that state which he desires and has destined for me. Like a candle I must long to burn and be consumed by God, but where he wishes and how he wants.

My heart must belong totally to God and to my spouse, [if married], not only through natural inclination, but also as a result of my covenant with God himself.

Visit brunolanteri.org. to learn more about the life and writings of Venerable Bruno Lanteri.

The Chapel Today: The Evil of Human Trafficking

By Isabelle Maria, CKA®—Pastoral Associate

The Pope’s prayer intention for the month of February focuses on victims of criminal human trafficking. It is often thought that trafficking of human beings for others’ pleasure is something that happens in exotic foreign lands. The truth is that the majority of human trafficking happens in the United States. Being alert to this crisis and educated about it is important for all of us as we seek justice for the oppressed.

Human trafficking is the coercion of human beings for the purpose of involuntary labor, sexual exploitation, or both. Another area of terrible concern is the organ harvesting from human persons. The CIA estimates that approximately 17,500 persons are brought into the United States each year in some form of slavery. Of the cases of trafficking in the US 41% involve an American citizen as the victim. This could be happening in your neighborhood. This past September, 2019, nine men were indicted for allegedly running a trafficking ring in Boston. This crime is very close by. As the light of the world it is imperative that we learn more and be ready to recognize signs of possible trafficking. In coming weeks there will be more news and speakers on this topic.

Lectio Divina

“Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.” — Hebrews 2

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to receive the word of God with reverence and joy.

Notice the thoughts and emotions within you. As you prayerfully consider this passage, are you able to identify what thoughts and feelings are generated?

This is the word of God. Take time to consider it carefully. Clear from your mind all distractions. Does it bring you hope or frustration? Have you experienced the help of Jesus in your own times of testing? How was the Lord tested? Have you suffered for righteousness? Do you experience the Lord in his humanity? Take time right now to let these words touch your heart. Might you ask Mary to help you listen with confidence to the Lord?

Ask the Holy Spirit, in your heart, to help you to apply this to your life.