



First Sunday

February, 2009
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Morning & Evening Prayer at Magdalene Chapel

9:00 AM and 9:00 PM
Saturdays and Sundays

Liturgy Schedule

10:00 Sunday
Crosswood Centre
Chapel of Mary Magdalene
5535 Co. Rd. 35
Auburn, IN 46706-9717

10:00 AM Sunday
Redwood Chapel
2425 Redwood Avenue
Fort Wayne, IN 46803
(Thanks to Rose & Stan)

9:00 AM Sunday
Angola Crosswood
3472 North Wayne St.
Angola, IN 46703

Editor Correction and Meanderings

This is really more like "First Tuesday" since I'm a couple of days behind on getting this edition out. I was gone toward the end of last week, not feeling well the week before that and now am off to another journey. Nevertheless, here is our short bulletin for the month. I know there may be more news out there that is fit to print but I'm feeling a bit out of the loop since we've been snow bound and ice bound for a while. I can imagine that is how some of you are feeling also. In any case, welcome to February. In the old pagan calendar (Don't get too upset now about talking about "pagans" in a Sunday Bulletin. Don't forget the pagans were just those folks who lived in the country and didn't have all the conveniences of the city folks), this is Imbolc (somewhere between the 2nd and 7th of February. It's one of those cross-quarter feasts (about half-way between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox if you're wondering). Christians celebrate the feasts of the great St. Brigid of Ireland on February 1st, probably a carryover to attract the pagans to town for a holiday, as well as Candelmas Day (Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, see Luke 2: 22-40) on February 2nd, when the priest would bless all the candles to be used for the year and many were given to people to use in their homes (another good way to draw a crowd to church).

Then, of course, we have February 3, the feast of St. Blase, upon which day the priest would use the newly blessed candles from Candlemas Day to bless the throats of all those who came to church. Blase was a bishop in Capadocia (Armenia) in the 4th century. Here's a blurb from the internet about him: We know that Bishop Blase was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blase were written 400 years later. According to them Blase was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blase was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blase's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.

As the hunters hauled Blase off to prison, the legend has it, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blase's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blase to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blase refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. (English wool combs, who used similar iron combs, took Blase as their patron. They could easily appreciate the

Remember in your prayers

Those among us who are sick and in need of prayer. Remember also those who are unemployed or underemployed and those who are alone and lonely.

We ask your prayers especially for Isabelle, Ramona, Fr. Jim and Emma Spink, Vicki Groves, +Skip, the father of Dean Kelly, who passed over this Christmas season, Don Cramer, and all those who are ill or in need of prayer.

Pray especially for our country at this time of transition and difficulty. Give us the courage to make the changes we need to make to bring our country to peace and prosperity once more.

Community of the Cross Leadership Committee Contact Info

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Team members also include:

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agony the saint underwent.) Finally he was beheaded.

I guess I'm just meandering through the month here but you can see how these Cross-Quarter feasts got baptized and became a focal point for Christian worship during this bleak period of mid-winter. Actually, Imbolc is the informal beginning of spring and you will soon see little plants growing again - as soon as we get rid of this ice and snow. But as Julian of Norwich says, "All will be well."

Have a great February - and remember to get your King Cake for Mardi Gras for the 24th of February because the 25th is Ash Wednesday and Great Lent begins. More about that in my ramblings next month.

Fr. John Newbauer

P. S.,
Fresh Markets in Fort Wayne has some great King Cakes!!!



Leadership Team Meeting January, 10, 2009

This meeting was cancelled due to several reasons including really horrible weather!

Next meeting: 2nd Saturday, February 14, 2009

We will begin with the Panikhida at 12:00 followed by the meeting. Please join us if you can. If you are not able to join us at the Chapel, say some prayers at home for those who have gone before us. Remember especially those who died in this month of February. Shalom!

Monday and Wednesday School is Still on Hold!

Contrary to my too eager announcement last month that we would begin Monday and Wednesday School again, we are still on hold for these two wonderful classes. Fr. Skip is at this point very busy taking care of his health and actually following his doctor's orders (well, as far as he is able, you understand!). At last I saw him, he looked well and is making progress; however, he has a few more consultation appointments to meet this month and so we wait in patience.

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

4th Sunday of Epiphany February 1, 2009	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	I Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
5th Sunday of Epiphany February 8, 2009	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	I Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
6th Sunday of Epiphany February 15, 2009	II Kings 5:1-14	Psalm 30	I Corinthians 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45
Transfiguration Sunday February 22, 2009	II Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	II Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Ash Wednesday February 25, 2009	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 51:1-17	II Cor. 5:20b-6:10	Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
1st Sunday of Lent March 1	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15

Clergy Schedule

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR KIND RESPONSE

Last month I told you that we were in dire need of money. Thanks to all of you who sent in donations. We were able to pay the bills that needed to be paid. Your kind generosity is the angel of the Lord watching over us. Blessed be God!

February					
DATE	Ordo	Angola	Auburn	Redwood	Open Door
1	4th Epiphany	Bob	Skip	Cliff Josh	Maria
8	5th Epiphany	Joan	Skip	Cliff	Maria Josh
15	6th Epiphany	Bob	Skip	Cliff	Maria
22	Transfiguration Sunday	Joan	Skip	Cliff	Maria Cliff
25	Ash Wednesday	Joan	Skip		
February					
1	1st Lent	John	Skip	Bob	Maria

Ever have one of those days ...?

"Where is my Sunday paper?" the irate customer calling the newspaper office loudly demanded, wanting to know where her Sunday edition was.

"Ma'am," said the newspaper employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on Sunday."

There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition... as she was heard to mutter. "Well crap! So that's why no one was at church today."

Sometimes

"Sometimes, meditation is nothing but an unsuccessful struggle to turn ourselves to God, to seek His Face by faith. Any number of things beyond our control may make it morally impossible for one to meditate effectively. In that case, faith and good will are sufficient. If one has made a really sincere and honest effort to turn himself to God and cannot seem to get his wits together at all, then the attempt will have to count as a meditation. This means that God, in His mercy, accepts our unsuccessful efforts in the place of a real meditation. Sometimes it happens that this interior helplessness is a sign of real progress in the interior life - for it makes us depend more completely and peacefully on the mercy of God."

--Thomas Merton, *Thoughts In Solitude*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York. 1956. Pg. 50.