

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT****FEBRUARY 26, 2023****INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK****SUNDAY, February 26, 2023**

- 9:00 am** Susanna Corcoran (d)  
**11:00 am** Delores Himsel (d)  
**7:00 pm** Deceased of Hahn Family

**MONDAY, February 27, 2023***St. Gregory of Narek, Abbott, Doctor of the Church*

- 12:00 pm** Rick Kessler (d)

**TUESDAY, February 28, 2023**

- 12:00 pm** David Pickerel (l)

**WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2023**

- 12:00 pm** Maria Machado (d)

**THURSDAY, March 2, 2023**

- 12:00 pm** Vera Rizzo (d)

**3:00 pm-5:00 pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION****FRIDAY, March 3, 2023***St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin*

- 12:00 pm** Gail Sweeney (d)

- 5:00 pm** Stations of the Cross/Holy Mass –  
John and Lucille Watkins (d)

**SATURDAY, March 4, 2023***St. Casimir*

- 4:30 pm** Mary Little/Barbara Leising (d)

**SUNDAY, March 5, 2023**

- 9:00 am** Thomas Martino (d)

- 11:00 am** Max and Angela Hofmeyer (d)

- 7:00 pm** Living and Deceased of St. Lawrence,  
St. Teresa, St. Williams and  
Resurrection Church

**SERVERS****March 4/5**

To Be Determined

**LECTORS****March 4/5**

To Be Determined

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS****March 4/5**

To Be Determined

February 19, 2023

\$6,803.02

*Thank You for your Generosity!*

**Vocation View:** Through the obedience of Christ comes acquittal from sin. Through our obedience to Christ, we can be a conduit of Grace to this world. (Romans 5:17-19)

**Thought for the Day:** “I know well that the greater and more beautiful the work is, the more terrible will be the storms that rage against it.”

*By St. Faustina***Elder High School Centennial Mass****Thursday, March 2, 2023****7:00 PM****St. Lawrence Church****Celebrant: Rev. Jim Meade, Elder Class of 1966**

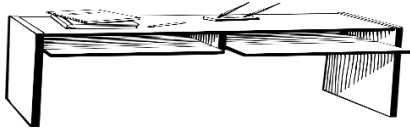
Immediately following the Mass, a reception will be held at Elder in the Schaeper Center. Please RSVP to Amy Iori at (513) 921-3422 or [ioriat@elderhs.net](mailto:ioriat@elderhs.net) if planning to attend the reception.

**Stephen G. Schott, CPA**  
**Payroll, Income Tax, Accounting**  
**417 Anderson Ferry Road**  
**Suite 4**  
**513-922-4888**

**PLEASE NOTIFY US AT THE RECTORY** when a family member is hospitalized or homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion and/or the Sacrament of Penance.



## The Laurentian



### Fr. Watkins' Desk

*The St. Michael Hymnal Plates* have been placed in the hardbound hymnals in the pews. The middle sections of the nave pews have the hymnals with the plates. The Memorial Plates are still available should you be interested. Information and order forms are found in the middle of the bulletin racks. Fill out a form and place it in the offertory basket with your gift.

*Mass and Way of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions:* On Friday afternoons of Lent, we will have the Way of the Cross beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed immediately by Holy Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration is every Thursday afternoon from 3 – 5 p.m. Holy Mass, the Way of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, fasting, abstinence & almsgiving are excellent ways to deepen our love for the Lord and celebrate His resurrection.

*PTO Fish Fry:* Our PTO Fish Fry is held every Friday of Lent (except Good Friday). We are in search of a few volunteers to help on Fridays. Any help is appreciated. If interested, please contact Jen Huiet 513-571-1996.



*LENTEN REGULATIONS* Ash Wednesday (February 22) and Good Friday (April 7) are days of fast and abstinence. Abstinence means no eating of meat (beast or fowl) and is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength. However, two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal. Eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

*The Cincinnati Metropolitan Orchestra,* conducted by Dave Allen, is presenting an all-Gershwin concert to celebrate the American composer who wrote some of the most recognized music of all time. The CMO, along with the Metropolitan Singers, will perform excerpts from *Porgy and Bess*, *I got Rhythm*, *An American in Paris* and the Latin inspired *Cuban Overture*. And of course, there couldn't be a Gershwin concert without his most famous composition, *Rhapsody in Blue*, played by pianist Alex Carroll. This free concert will be on March 5th at 3:00 pm in the Seton Performance Hall at 3901 Glenway Ave. For further information visit [www.CMO.org](http://www.CMO.org). Donations are accepted.



### MARCH 17-18

#### **Women's Retreat – The Identity of the Catholic Woman**

Knowing and understanding our dignity as beloved daughters of the Father, fashioned for spiritual and physical receptivity and modeling the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may be the most important step in knowing and receiving God's love and healing in our lives. This is for women of all ages. (Based on the teachings

of St. Pope John Paul II) Mass, adoration, confession, meals and guest rooms available - **all for a donation**. The retreat will be held at Presentation Ministries' Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center, 5701 Lawshe Rd. Peebles, Ohio 45660. For more information or to register, go to our website, [www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com) or call 513 373 2397.

*From Trustful Surrender to Divine Providence, by Fr. Jean Baptiste, Saint-Jure, S.J. and St. Claude de la Colombiere, S.J.*

Our sanctification is God's aim in all His dealings with us. What would He not do for His own honor and our good if we would only let Him! The heavens make no resistance to the spirits that guide them and their motion is magnificent, orderly and useful; they declare aloud the glory of God and preserve order in the universe by their influence and the invariable succession of day and night. If they resisted this guidance and instead of following the motion set for them they followed a different one, they would soon fall into the utmost confusion and destroy the world. It is the same when the will of man lets itself be guided by God's will. Then all that is in this microcosm, this "little world," all the faculties of the soul and members of the body are in the most perfect harmony and regular motion. But man quickly loses all these advantages and falls into the utmost confusion once he opposes his will to God's and turns aside from it.

### **Man Sanctifies Himself by This Conformity.**

In what does the sanctification of man and his perfection consist? "Some," says St. Francis de Sales, "place it in austerity, others in giving to charity, others in frequenting the Sacraments, others in prayer. But for my part I know no other perfection than loving God with all one's heart. Without this love all the virtues are only a heap of stones." The truth of this cannot be doubted. The Scriptures are full of it. *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, thy whole soul and thy whole mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment*, Our Lord tells us. And St. Paul: *Above all these things have charity, which is the bond of perfection.*

In the same way that virtue is ennobled and perfected by the love of God, "so likewise," says Rodriguez following St. Chrysostom, "the highest, purist and most excellent part of this love is absolute conformity to the Divine Will and having in all things no other will but God's." For, as theologians teach with Pseudo-Dionysius and St. Jerome, "the chief

effect of love is to unite the hearts of those who love each other so that they have the same will." Hence the more we submit to God's designs for us, the more we advance towards perfection. When we resist we go backwards.

"Whoever makes a habit of prayer," says the great St. Teresa of Avila, "should think only of doing everything to conform his will to God's. Be assured that in this conformity consists the highest perfection we can attain, and those who practice it with the greatest care will be favored by God's greatest gift and will make the quickest progress in the interior life. Do not imagine there are other secrets. All our good consists of this."



## The Laurentian

*From the Tractates on the first letter of John  
by St. Augustine, bishop*

We have been promised that *we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is*. By these words, the tongue has done its best; now we must apply the meditation of the heart. Although they are the words of St. John, what are they in comparison with the divine reality? And how can we, so greatly inferior to John in merit, add anything of our own? Yet we have received, as John has told us, an anointing by the Holy One which teaches us inwardly more than our tongue can speak. Let us turn to this source of knowledge, and because at present you cannot see, make it your business to desire the divine vision.

The entire life of a good Christian is in fact an exercise of holy desire. You do not yet see what you long for, but the very act of desiring prepares you, so that when he comes you may see and be utterly satisfied.

Suppose you are going to fill some holder or container, and you know you will be given a large amount. Then you set about stretching your sack or wineskin or whatever it is. Why? Because you know the quantity you will have to put in it and your eyes tell you there is not enough room. By stretching it, therefore, you increase the capacity of the sack, and this is how God deals with us. Simply by making us wait He increases our desire, which in turn enlarges the capacity of our soul, making it able to receive what is to be given to us.

So, my brethren, let us continue to desire, for we shall be filled. Take note of St. Paul stretching as it were his ability to receive what is to come: *Not that I have already obtained this*, he said, *or am I made perfect. Brethren, I do not consider that I have already obtained it*. We might ask him, "If you have not yet obtained it, what are you doing in this life?" *This one thing I do*, answers Paul, *forgetting what lies behind, and stretching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the prize to which I am called in the life above*.

Not only did Paul say he stretched forward, but he also declared that he pressed on toward a chosen goal. He realized in fact that he was still short of receiving *what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived*.

Such is our Christian life. By desiring heaven, we exercise the powers of our soul. Now this exercise will be effective only to the extent that we free ourselves from desires leading to infatuation with this world. Let me return to the example I have already used, of filling an empty container. God means to fill each of you with what is good; so cast out what is bad! If he wishes to fill you with honey and you are full of sour wine, where is the honey to go? The vessel must be emptied of its contents and then be cleansed. Yes, it must be cleansed even if you have to work hard and scour it. It must be made fit for the new thing, whatever it may be.

We may go on speaking figuratively of honey, gold or wine-but whatever we say, we cannot express the reality we are to receive. The name of that reality is God. But who will claim that in that one syllable we utter the full expanse of our heart's desire? Therefore, whatever we say is necessarily less than the full truth. We must extend ourselves toward the measure of Christ so that when he comes he may fill us with his presence. *Then we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is*.

