



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel
A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
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February 2025 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org or www.peterandpaulchapel.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

National Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

National Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/eccusa2001>

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Worship Services Are Held at 2:00 PM Every Sunday, Unless Otherwise Noted

February 2, 2025: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
***Blessing of Throats at this Mass**

February 9, 2025: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2025: Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025: Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Diocesan Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., 314.650.1487, BishopCarl@protonmail.com

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact +Fr. Bob.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

Sunday Scripture Reflections

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

February 2, 2025 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord: The prophet Malachi proclaims that God will send his messenger to the Temple to refine and purify his servants. Jesus' first appearance in the Temple, however, is far from powerful. Like us in every way, Jesus manifests himself as an ordinary infant from a poor family. Lord, help us to see you in the ordinary people around me! (Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40)

February 9, 2025 – 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time: Vocation is a common thread running through all three of today's readings. After Isaiah has been purified, he exclaims: "Here I am; send me." Peter is painfully aware of his inadequacy, yet Jesus wants him to become a fisher of men. Paul toils harder than all the others in the Lord's service. Jesus, I believe I know my calling in life, but help me to live it well, day by day. (Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11)

February 16, 2025 – 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time: The responsorial refrain ties today's three readings together: "Blessed are they who hope in the Lord." Do we place our hope and trust in God – or in human beings, the present life, fortune and fame? Lord, please help us to keep our priorities straight! (Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26)

February 23, 2025 – 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time: In today's Gospel, Jesus urges: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" – which is what David does in the first reading. If we can succeed in this, we will indeed *bear the image of the man from heaven* (Jesus), as promised by St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians. (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38)

Presentation of the Lord

THE PRESENTATION of the Lord pulls many favorite mementos from the Catholic cupboard: candles, blessings, Christmas, and church. The Mass of February 2 begins with a blessing of lighted candles held by the faithful, who glow with the memory of the birth of Jesus.

The origins of the feast lie in ancient Jewish custom. On the fortieth day after childbirth, parents brought the infant to the Temple to present him/her to the Lord and to purify the mother. St. Luke tells us that Joseph and Mary sacrificed two birds for the occasion after the birth of Jesus. Count up forty days after Christmas, and you'll come to February 2. Until the 1960s, we used to call this day "The Purification of Mary." The title changed for several reasons. We no longer believe that women who give birth need purification, and the true significance of the feast concerns Jesus coming to the Temple. He is the Promised One, whose light will shine, beaming rays of hope to the entire world. Also on the old calendar, this feast closed the Christmas season. Now we end

the Christmas season with the Baptism of the Lord. So, even though the date for the Presentation still depends on Christmas, it has become a feast of Ordinary Time. Since it is a feast of the Lord, it takes precedence even when it falls on Sunday.

The candles you hold for the blessing may come from your parish, or you may bring your own from home. If you like to use blessed candles for household prayer throughout the year, here is your chance to get them. On the day following this feast, our calendar permits the option of commemorating St. Blase, a bishop and martyr of the early Church. Legend has it that he once freed a child from choking, and while imprisoned under persecution he received light from friends who visited his cell with candles. Our Church still uses candles from the Presentation of the Lord in the blessing of the faithful's throats on St. Blase's Day. Blessed candles in our churches and homes signify the living presence of Christ in our community. With Christ as our light we warm a lost and wintry world.

From the Pastor's Desk
+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

Parishioner Birthdays: None this month!

Parishioner Anniversaries: None this month!

Blessing of Throats: Our Annual St. Blaise Blessing of Throats will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Everyone is welcome to receive this blessing. *"Saint Blaise was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts, he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century, he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat." (From The Book of Blessings.)*

Masses on Facebook Live! Just a reminder...we are now able to livestream our Sunday masses on our Chapel Facebook page. If you are unable to attend in person, join us virtually...we would love to "see" you! You do **not** have to have a Facebook account to join us. Just go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): We continue "getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues" with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the "what, how, and why" of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of Sant'Anselmo in Rome. ***This month, we learn about the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Sunday, February 2, 2025!***