

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Newsletter

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Parish Priest: Fr. Theodorus Beta Herdistyan, ofm



February 2024

Year 29 – No. 2

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES (For Sunday)

- 4:00 pm Polish: *Every 1st Saturday of the month*
- 4:00 pm Spanish: *Every 2nd Saturday of the month*
- 6:30 pm English (Children/Families)

May the Lord give you peace.

In our journey of faith, February invites us to contemplate the love that surrounds us, starting with the love of God that is ever-present in our lives. As we draw closer to Him, we are called to share this love with others, fostering a sense of unity and compassion within our parish community.

SUNDAY MASSES

- 8:00 am English
- 9:30 am Greek
- 10:30 am English
- 12:00 nm French: *Every 1st Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 nm Tagalog: *Every 2nd Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 nm Indian: *Every 3rd Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 nm Sinhala: *Every 4th Sunday of the month*
- 6:30 pm English

This month, let us focus on the theme of love in its various forms: the love of family, the love of friends, and the love of neighbours. Acts of kindness, generosity, and understanding are powerful ways to demonstrate our love for one another. In doing so, we not only strengthen our bonds as a community but also reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ, who emphasized the importance of love in our lives.

In addition to celebrating love, February is an opportune time for reflection and renewal. As we navigate the challenges of the year ahead, let us seek guidance through prayer and introspection. Let this month be a time of spiritual growth, deepening our connection with God and finding solace in His everlasting love.

WEEKDAY MASSES

- 7:30 am *Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday -*
- 7:30 am *Tuesday - Greek St. Anthony Devotion*
- 6:30 pm *Every day - English*

Fr. Theodorus ofm

Parish Priest

MASSES IN NORTH CYPRUS

- 12:00 nm St. Elizabeth of Hungary, *Every Sunday - English*
- 5:00 pm Famagusta *-Every Sunday—English*

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of February 2024



Universal Intention: - For the terminally ill
We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

"I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame," Job 29: 15.

Friday 2 February

The Presentation of the Lord Feast



FRIDAY 2 February The Presentation of the Lord Feast

The Presentation of the Lord in the temple of Jerusalem The presentation of Jesus in the temple shows him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. With Simeon and Anna, all Israel awaits its encounter with the Saviour; the “Meeting” being the name given to this event in the Byzantine tradition. Jesus is recognised as the long-expected Messiah, the "light to the nations" and the "glory of Israel", but also "a sign that is spoken against". The sword of sorrow predicted for Mary announces Christ's perfect and unique oblation on the cross that will impart the salvation God had "prepared in the presence of all peoples". (CCC 529). This feast is also known as Candlemas day and the blessing of candles is included in its liturgy.

Saturday 3 February

St. Blaise



SATURDAY 3 February St. Blaise

St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr Little is known of him. According to tradition, he was a physician and the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia and was martyred under Licinius. St. Blaise enjoyed widespread veneration in the Eastern and Western Churches due to many cures attributed to him. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. On his feast day the Church gives a "Blessing of the Throats" in honor of St. Blaise.

Sunday 11 February

Our Lady of Lourdes



SUNDAY 11 February Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes On 11th February 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared for the first time to a fourteen-year old shepherdess, Bernadette Soubirous, who was privileged to see her eighteen times. On 25th March she said to St. Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception." The message of Lourdes is the message of the Gospel: penance and conversion. On that day we are encouraged to pray for those who suffer from illness and for those who look after them.

Wednesday 14 February

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS



MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS Cyril (born Constantine, 826–869) and Methodius (815–885) were two brothers and Byzantine Christian theologians and missionaries. For their work evangelizing the Slavs, they are known as the "Apostles to the Slavs". They are credited with devising the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet used to transcribe Old Church Slavonic. [7] After their deaths, their pupils continued their missionary work among other Slavs. Both brothers are venerated in the Orthodox Church as saints with the title of "equal-to-apostles". In 1880, Pope Leo XIII introduced their feast into the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1980, Pope John Paul II

Readings for Sunday Masses

5 th Sunday of OT (4/02)	Job 7:1-4.6-7	Ps 146:1-6:1.7-9	1 Cor 9:16-19.22-23	Mk 1:29-39
6 th Sunday of OT (11/02)	Lv 13:1-2.44-46	Ps 31:1-2.5.11	1 Cor 10:31-11:1	Mk 1:40-45
7 th Sunday of OT (18/02)	Is 43:18-19.21-22.24-25	Ps 40:2-5.13-14	2 Cor 1:18-22	Mk 2:1-12
8 th Sunday of OT (25/02)	Hs 2:16-17.21-22	Ps 102:1-4.8.10.12-13	2 Cor 3:1-6	Mk 2:18-22

"I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame," Job 29: 15.

PARISH NEWS



**EL SHADDAI
DWXI-PPFI
NICOSIA, CYPRUS CHAPTER
32nd ANNIVERSARY
FEBRUARY 11, 2024
"I am willing, Be clean"
w/Fr. Theo Herdistyan ofm, Fr. Zach Dulniok ofm &
Sis. Berna Koutsidou
COME AND JOIN US**



**EL SHADDAI
DWXI-PPFI
KYRENIA CELL GROUP
10th ANNIVERSARY
FEBRUARY 25, 2024
"This is my Son Listen to Him."**

**With Fr. Zach Dulniok ofm & Sis. Berna Koutsidou
COME AND JOIN US**



FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

The French-speaking community is multicultural and multilingual. Its members are from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and France and various other countries. The Mass in French is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at 12.00 noon. A choir singing in French, but also in Latin and in African languages, enhances the worship. The choir meets twice a month, on the two Saturdays (afternoon) before the Mass, in St Anthony Hall (Caritas). It gladly welcomes all who want to join.

Contact: Stéphane Noël : 96 46 47 01

If you wish to have your name included in our "French Mass" list, please send a message to Monique (99 79 52 07 ou moniqueburston@yahoo.com)

NOTE: After the 12.00 noon Mass in French of Sunday 4 February, there will be a friendly gathering in St Francis Hall and/or the Church Garden. We will share food and drinks. Please bring a dish if you can. About the gathering, contact Joël : 96 84 4518 or Stéphane : 96 46 47 01

Monique Burston

HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS & MESSAGES

The appointment of Bishop Fr. Bruno Varriano

- It is of historic importance that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Father Bruno Varriano as Auxiliary Bishop for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for the Latins of Cyprus.
- His provisional consecration date is March 16, 2024. The date and place of his ordination is subject to change.

First Communions 2024:

- This year the children of our parish will receive their First Holy Communion on June 2, 2024.

The Sacrament of Confirmation:

- On June 23, Pentecost Day, some children of our Parish will receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Our Holy Cross parish feast:

- September 14 is our parish feast. However, since this year it falls on Saturday, it has been decided to move it to Sunday, September 15. If it is possible for him, the Patriarch plans to visit us on that date.

Lenten Pilgrimage (local)

- The Parish Council decided to organise our Lenten pilgrimage for Monday, April 1, 2024, since it is a public holiday. The destination will be decided later.

Parish Pilgrimage (abroad)

- The Parish Council proposed to organise a parish pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy in the second week of October 2024, to celebrate the 800th year's anniversary of the Franciscan order.

**Fr. Theodorus Beta Herdistyan ofm
President of the Parish Council**

"I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame," Job 29: 15.

MORE NEWS

Life of a Saint: Saint Bernadette Soubirous (January 7, 1844 – April 16, 1879)



Saint Bernadette Soubirous photo taken in 1861

Saint Bernadette Soubirous' Story

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. Bernadette, 14 years old, was known as a virtuous girl though a dull student who had not even made her first Holy Communion. In poor health, she had

suffered from asthma from an early age.

There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked skepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

According to Bernadette, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on March 25 she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realize who the Lady was.

Few visions have ever undergone the scrutiny that these appearances of the Immaculate Virgin were subject to. Lourdes became one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, attracting millions of visitors. Miracles were reported at the shrine and in the waters of the spring. After thorough investigation, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862.

During her life, Bernadette suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until at last she was protected in a convent of nuns. Five years later, she petitioned to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers. After a period of illness she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmarian and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized in 1933.

Reflection

Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there. Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand—as we all must do from time to time.

You can receive the Parish Newsletter electronically.

Send an email to Berna
bernadette@cytanet.com.cy

Notices, Contributions, etc. for Parish Newsletter

Please send your notices and other contributions for the next newsletter to Berna (bernadette@cytanet.com.cy) and/or to the Parish priest (holycross@cytanet.com.cy), or leave them in an envelope in the Church Library.

Deadline for submissions: 25 February

Coffee Morning in the Library

Wednesday 7 February
from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Rosemarie and Monique
99216007 & 99795207

"I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame," Job 29: 15.