

THE ORATORY OF SAINTS
GREGORY & AUGUSTINE



TRADITIO | REVERENTIA | COMMUNITAS

Welcome to the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine

The Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine is pleased to welcome you. We are an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis faithful to the teachings of the Church and striving to grow as a family of faith through the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass and other Sacraments.

In the First Book of *The Confessions*, the other great St. Augustine (of Hippo) wrote the following: “Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee.” Whether you are curious about the traditional Latin Mass and interested in exploring its beauty, searching for a parish community where you and your family will feel at home, or seeking rest for your heart, we hope that the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine can provide that respite for you.

Our bulletin serves to provide information about the weekly activities occurring here at the Oratory. Along with our website (www.stlouislainmass.com), the bulletin is your point of contact with the ever-increasing activities at the Oratory. I hope this will give you some sense of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. I am delighted that God has brought you here! *Oremus pro invicem!*

—The Very Reverend Monsignor C. Eugene Morris, Rector

MASS AND SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses

- 6:30 am (Low Mass)
- 8:00 am (Low Mass)
- 10:00 am (High Mass)

Weekday Masses

- Monday thru Friday: 6:30 am & 12:15 pm
- First Friday: 6:30 pm
- Saturday: 8:15 am

Confession

- Sunday: 7:00 -7:45 am; 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- Monday thru Friday: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- First Friday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Saturday: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Divine Office

- Sunday: Prime @ 7:20 am; Terce @ 9:40 am; Vespers @ 2:30 pm; Compline @ 7 pm
- Monday: Vespers @ 6 pm & Compline @ 7pm
- Tuesday & Thursday: Compline @ 7 pm
- Wednesday: Compline @ 6:30 pm

Infant Baptism – Baptisms are normally scheduled on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of the month beginning at 10:00 am. Families expecting newborns and anticipating that they will be baptized here at the Oratory should schedule their baptism at the earliest convenience by contacting the Oratory office.

Adult Baptism – If you are interested in becoming Catholic or if you are an adult Catholic not yet confirmed, please contact the Oratory office for more information about adult catechesis.

Matrimony – Please contact the Oratory office at least six months prior to the desired date for the rite of marriage. The date is reserved after consultation and confirmation from the Rector of the Oratory.

Extreme Unction/Visitation of the Sick – Contact the Oratory to arrange the sacrament either at home or in the hospital.

STAFF/ORGANIZATIONS

- **Rector:** Msgr. C. Eugene Morris
rector@oratorysga.org
- **Vice-Rector:** Fr. Michael Rennier
vicerector@oratorysga.org
- **Deacon:** Deacon Steve Pieper, MD
deacon@oratorysga.org
- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller
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- **Facilities Manager:** Ben Schubert
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- **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD):**
ccd@oratorysga.org
- **Altar servers:**
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- **Altar and Rosary Society:**
altarandrosary@oratorysga.org
- **Knights of Columbus:**
kofc17355@oratorysga.org
- **Troops of Saint George:**
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- **Oratory Schola:**
schola@oratorysga.org
- **Choir:**
choir@oratorysga.org
- **Young Adults:**
youngadults@oratorysga.org
- **Oratory Events:**
events@oratorysga.org
- **Almonry of Ss. Gregory & Augustine:**
almonry@oratorysga.org
- **Online Giving:**
<https://www.osvhub.com/st-louis-latin-mass>

CONTACT US

314-644-2144 / stlouislainmass.com
7230 Dale Avenue, Richmond Heights, MO 63117

FROM THE RECTOR

It is far too easy to place our confidence in the things we know, understand, and see. As a consequence, we are tempted to trust in our natural abilities and the things of the world rather than trusting in the Lord and His fulfilled promises. When the Lord heals in our Gospel today it is not only to manifest His Messianic power but also to provide us an opportunity to trust in Him. The Lord truly desires to heal us and shows that desire by bestowing His healing powers on many in Sacred Scripture. The leper and the centurion, from different worlds, different classes, suffering different things both share a trust in the Lord’s promises. They approach, they ask, and their requests, made in faith, are granted as the fruit of their faith. We do not always receive everything we ask for in prayer, but we always receive that which we need from God. What is required from us is the humility to trust in the Lord as we seek His healing power and the faith and confidence that God’s providence will indeed provide for us. What is also required of us is obedience to the voice of the Good Shepherd who tends to His flock from His own flesh and Blood. Bolstered by all of this overwhelming evidence of God’s healing power, let us proclaim with joyful hearts the glory of God made manifest in our own lives.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 26 January:

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Terce @ 9:40 am
- Coffee Hour @ 11:30 am
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm
- Compline @ 7:00 pm

Monday, 27 January:

- Server Training @ 4:30 pm
- Girls’ Guild @ 4:30 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Troops of St. George @ 6:30 pm
- Compline @ 7:00 pm

Tuesday, 28 January:

- Compline @ 7:00 pm
- Choir practice @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday, 29 January:

- Holy Hour @ 5:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Thursday, 30 January:

- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Friday, 31 January:

- No Events Scheduled

Saturday, 1 February:

- Catholic Latin Class @ 7:00 am

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PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2025

01/12-01/19 D’Cunha	01/19-01/26 Schenk
01/26-02/02 Stolarski	02/02-02/09 Henry
02/09-02/16 Santschi	02/16-02/23 Kiser
02/23-03/02 Agnew	03/02-03/09 Buyle
03/09-03/16 Leljedal	03/16-03/23 Grizzle
03/23-03/30 Turntine	03/30-04/06 Haulard
04/06-04/13 Kelly	04/13-04/20 Jones

04/20-04/27 Holman	04/27-05/04 Carapella
05/04-05/11 Cook	05/11-05/18 Hayward
05/18-05/25 Fowler	05/25-06/01 Blum
06/01-06/08 Wisniewski	06/08-06/15 Catalano
06/15-06/22 Kenney	06/22-06/29 Raymond
06/29-07/06 Hayes	07/06-07/13 Schuette
07/13-07/20 Filla	07/20-07/27 Petrick

Drop off and pick up the statue in the vestibule (back of church). Place the statue bag on the floor to left of the Oratory table. To join or to quit the schedule contact Sharon Alexander saalex@sbcbglobal.net

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MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, 27 January – **St. John Chrysostom**

- 6:30 am: John & Beverly Sweeney (d)
- 12:15 pm: Hank Thomas (d)

Tuesday, 28 January – **St. Peter Nolasco**

- 6:30 am: Jim Griffin (d)
- 12:15 pm: George Aita (d)

Wednesday, 29 January – **St. Francis De Sales**

- 6:30 am: Anna Schulte Otto (d)
- 12:15 pm: Edward McKenna (d)

Thursday, 30 January – **St. Martha**

- 6:30 am: Taylor Bookout (d)
- 12:15 pm: David Majewski (d)

Friday, 31 January – **St. John Bosco**

- 6:30 am: Pamela Burbach (d)
- 12:15 pm: Rich Murphy

Saturday, 1 February – **St. Ignatius of Antioch**

- 8:15 am: Ron Haller (d)

Sunday, 2 February – **The Purification of the BVM**

- 6:30 am: Pro Populo
- 8:00 am: The Hughes Family
- 10:00 am: Taylor Bookout (d)

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~ 01/19/2025 ~

Weekly Collection Total	\$ 15,531.20
Online Giving	\$ 6,617.94
Total	\$ 22,149.14
Needed	\$ 17,869.00
Year to Date Total	\$ 474,527.77

CANDLEMAS CELEBRATION: 2 FEBRUARY @ 10:00 am

Holy Mass

Sunday, 2 February 2025, we will celebrate the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary traditionally known as Candlemas.

The traditional blessing of candles will take place at the 10:00 am Holy Mass. Candles will be blessed immediately upon the entrance of the sacred ministers. After the blessing of Candles, they will be distributed at the communion rail and then they will be lit by the servers. Weather permitting, we will have an outdoor procession around the Church celebrating the Light of Christ (please dress accordingly). If the weather does not cooperate, our procession will proceed inside of the Church.

The candles can be taken home for your personal spiritual use and there will be more candles available on the Oratory table in the back of Church. Please take only those candles that are needed.

The faithful are allowed to bring their own candles for blessing. Candles should be brought only on that day and placed on the tables provided that will be near the altar of the Blessed Mother PRIOR to Holy Mass. Candles should be accessible to be blessed with holy water and be marked clearly with the name of the person/family that is having them blessed. Finally, all candles must be retrieved at the conclusion of Holy Mass. Any candles that are not retrieved at the conclusion of Holy Mass will be distributed by the Oratory. Please call the Oratory with any questions.

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FEAST OF ST. BLAISE: 3 FEBRUARY 2025

The traditional blessing of throats on the Feast of St. Blaise will take place at the conclusion of both Holy Masses on Monday, 3 February 2025.

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A MESSAGE FROM MSGR. MORRIS

I want to take this opportunity to let the faithful of the Oratory know of some health issues I have. In the early Fall of 2024, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. It has been caught early enough that no symptoms were present, but blood work revealed the cancer. I have undergone a series of tests to determine the best course moving forward and that decision involves surgery. The surgery is scheduled for 27 January 2025 and will require an overnight stay. I will then spend the next several weeks in recovery. I am hoping that I will be recovered well enough by Ash Wednesday which is 5 March 2025. I am grateful to both Fr. Rennie and Fr. Linus who will maintain the liturgical schedule for the Oratory as I will be unable to leave the rectory during my convalescence. The doctors consulted are confident of a full recovery and I am at peace with all that has transpired. There is no cause for anxiety or worry as we trust in the Lord's providence. Please pray for me and for those doctors and nurses involved in my surgery. Know that during my recovery you will remain in my daily prayers. Let us always have recourse to Our Lady of Walsingham and our patrons, Ss. Gregory and Augustine!

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SEPTUAGESIMA & THE LENTEN SEASON

The season of Septuagesima begins Sunday, 16 February 2025 providing the opportunity to better prepare ourselves for the Lenten Season which begins on Ash Wednesday, 5 March 2025.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on the Fridays of Lent after the conclusion of the 12:15 pm Holy Mass.

The schedule for **Holy Week: HOLY THURSDAY @ 5:00 PM; GOOD FRIDAY @ 3:00 PM; HOLY SATURDAY @ 2:00 PM.** This information is shared early so that you might plan your schedules accordingly.

All of this information will continue to be available both in our bulletin and online. In a few weeks there will be a sheet on the Oratory table in the vestibule that will have all this information for our Lenten season.

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LENTEN DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

In order to assist the faithful during the Lenten season, there will be a Day of Recollection for both the women and men of the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine. The day begins with Holy Mass at 8:15 am and concludes by 2 pm. The retreat is open to non-parishioners and everyone is encouraged to attend. The cost for the day is \$25 and includes lunch. **Further information can be found on the Oratory table in the vestibule of Church.**

- The Women's Day of Recollection – 29 March 2025
- The Men's Day of Recollection – 5 April 2025

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TROOPS OF ST. GEORGE

Virtus. Honor. Fraternalitas. Calling all boys ages 6-18 and their fathers! How would you like to pray The Rosary around the campfire, The Angelus atop Taum Sauk Mountain, or St. Michael's Prayer in military formation? Troops of St. George uses the outdoors as our canvas and the sacraments as our path to light the way for the formation of Holy Catholic men and boys. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30pm in the St. Joseph Room in addition to campouts, hikes and service projects. Cost is \$50/person, with a max of \$150/family and scholarships are available. Please visit troopsofstgeorge.org, contact tsg@oratorysga.org, or join us at our next meeting for more information.

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EPIPHANY WATER, SALT, AND CHALK 2025

Epiphany water, salt and chalk have been blessed and are available to the faithful for as long as it remains. Please take what you need. Also, you are free to use your own containers for Epiphany water. All of the blessed water will be available until we run out.

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2025 CALENDARS

The calendars for 2025 for the Oratory Community have arrived. This year's calendar comes from the Transalpine Redemptorists, a community of traditional monks rooted in the Redemptorists charism who practice both the contemplative and active life. Their motherhouse is in Scotland and they have recently founded a house in Montana.

LOST and FOUND

As promised, the lost and found has been emptied and removed from the main vestibule. If you have lost/left your missal in church – please contact the office to see if we have it. For the other miscellaneous items, such as children’s books, rosaries, prayer cards, eye glasses, etc. please visit the lost and found which will be located in the St. Joseph Room on Sundays only, during coffee hour.

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TRIVIA KNIGHT: 22 FEBRUARY 2025

Registration is now open for the Oratory Trivia Knight on 22 February at Boland Hall on the campus of the Cathedral Basilica (4431 Lindell Blvd). Doors open at 6pm; trivia starts at 7pm. Join the Knights of Columbus council as we raise funds to further support the Oratory. Tables of 8 are \$200 per table. Raffles and other games will be offered during the event. Some refreshments will be provided; outside food and beverages are welcome.

Round sponsorships are \$100. Please send your business or organization's name, logo, and a 2-3 sentence summary/description. Tangible items, gift certificates, or other donations to be used as raffle items are also welcome. No item/donation is too large or too small!

To pay for table registration and/or round sponsorship, please send funds via Venmo (@KC17355) or mail a check, payable to "Knights of Columbus Council 17355" to the Oratory at 7230 Dale Avenue 63117. Please make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus Council 17355." Please also note whether you are paying for a table registration and/or round sponsorship. This event is for adults (nursing babies welcome). Registrations are limited, so act quickly! We will add tables to a wait-list if necessary.

Email kofc17355@oratorysga.org for registration or any other information.

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LATIN COURSE

The Cantores Sancti Ludovici and other Latin instructors are offering another 8-week course in Ecclesiastical (Catholic) Latin designed especially for the laity. The dates are as follows: February 1, 8, 15, 22 AND March 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 7:00am-8:00am in the St. Joseph Room. As with the previous course, the meetings will be largely stand-alone, so it is not necessary to attend them all. While integrating basic Latin grammar and syntax, this course is primarily intended to increase the devotion and piety of the faithful by offering glimpses of the rich theology and history contained in the prayers of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Divine Office, and other Catholic prayers in their original language. There will be a special focus on Holy Week texts [let's make Holy Week even better!].

This course is free, but RSVP registration is requested to schola@oratorysga.org. Students must be 12 years of age or older. There is no required textbook, but a list of helpful books will be provided to registrants. We encourage you to join us to learn more about our deep Roman Catholic heritage!

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MEN’S CONFERENCE (FEBRUARY 2025)

Catholic Men for Christ: Archdiocese of St. Louis is holding its annual conference on **Saturday, 15 February 2025**. The conference begins at 8:45 am and concludes at 4:00 pm and is being held at the Si Commons on the campus of St. Louis University High School. For more information please visit: catholicmenforchrist.org.

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WOMEN’S CONFERENCE (MARCH 2025)

Catholic Women for Christ: Archdiocese of St. Louis is holding its annual conference on **Saturday, 8 March 2025**. The conference begins at 8:45 am and concludes at 4:00 pm and is being held at the Si Commons on the campus of St. Louis University High School. For more information please visit: catholicwomenforchrist.org.

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ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

Annual Giving statements are available for pick up. You will find your statement in the boxes on the back table in the Church vestibule. All statements not retrieved by Monday, 27 January will be mailed. Please notify the office (via email please) immediately if any changes to your contact information need to be made regarding your name or address. This is also an opportunity to notify the office with any changes to phone number, cell number or email address. Again, please make every effort to notify the office of these changes through email. Our email address office@oratorysga.org. In advance thank you for your generosity and attentiveness to these details.

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BLESSED ITEMS

If you wish to have items blessed, please drop them off at the rectory (Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm) and include your name and telephone number. Please make sure all items are clearly marked. Once Msgr. Morris or Fr. Rennie have blessed the items Donna Mueller, Administrative Assistant to the Rector, will call you to let you know the items are ready for pick up (from the rectory office, Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm). **Please drop off/pick up items at the front door on Dale Avenue, across from the field parking lot.**

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DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS - BOOKS

Please accept a copy of "The Secret of the Holy Face" by Fr. Lawrence Carney as a donation to all parishioners available in the vestibule of the Church today. Given the course of events occurring in our country and within the Church, especially with regard to the current growth of Communism, it is recommended that Catholics understand and pray the Holy Face Devotion. This powerful devotion was given to mankind by our Lord and evolved as a weapon to combat the evils of Communism when it first appeared. Though the devotion became less popular, primarily after Vatican II, many Catholics now believe there is an urgent and renewed need for this prayerful exercise given its promises.

Numerous miracles are associated with this devotion which has the full approval of the Catholic Church. In 1843 the Lord spoke these words Sr. Marie de Saint Pierre, a Carmelite nun, in Tours:

"The earth is covered with crimes. The violation of the first three Commandments of God has irritated My Father. The Holy Name of God blasphemed, and the Holy Day of the Lord profaned, filling up the measure of iniquities. These sins have risen into the throne of God and provoked his wrath which will soon burst forth if justice be not appeased. At no time have these crimes reached such a pitch."

In 1845, the Reparative Mystery of the Holy Face was revealed to Sister Saint-Pierre as the Lord stated: "I seek Veronicas to wipe and venerate My Holy Face which has few adorers... and by My Holy Face, you will work many miracles."

The Lord gave Sister Saint-Pierre the Golden Arrow prayer as special reparation for blasphemy. She then prayed the rosary asking Our Lady's intercession in helping her to get the Lord's message to others. Shortly thereafter Mary's apparition at La Salette followed which affirmed the Lord's words to Sister Saint-Pierre, "The Church will be in eclipse."

The revelations to Sister Saint Pierre are also at the foundation of Our Lady's warning at Fatima, regarding the spread of atheistic errors of secular humanism, Socialism, and religious suppression contained in Communism and of revolutionary men.

Please consider studying and praying the Holy Face Devotion for our country and for Holy Mother Church in these challenging times.

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BAPTISMS (October-December 2024)

(In alphabetical order)

- Clara Brigid Corona (Cameron & Miranda)*
- Louis Patrick Corona (Cameron & Miranda)*
- Lucille Simone Marie Fowler (Jacob & Teresa)*
- Patrick Andrew Gibbons (John Thomas & Grace)*
- Jane Adeline Henzler (Philip & Laura)*
- Margaret Rose Holmes (Charles & Emily)*
- Evalyn Rosemarie Jones (Gabriel & Sarah)*
- Michael Joseph King (Ryan & Ashley)*
- Zelie Elizabeth Leljedal (Jonathan & Caryn)*
- James Xavier McCurren (Mitchell & Emily)*
- Joseph Barrett Paske (Joseph & Carrie)*

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NEW FAMILIES for DECEMBER (alphabetical order)

A warm welcome to our new parishioners!

- Bill Diepenbrock
- The Dulatt Family ~ Patrick & Lori
- Adam Gordon
- The King Family ~ Ryan & Ashley, Patrick, and Michael
- The McKenzie Family ~ Clark & Linda, Kristin, Erin, and Ryan
- Rommel Romero

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your charity, please pray for the following members of the Oratory who are ill: Emily Brex; Damien Bruening, son of Aurora Miller; Jeanmarie DeCoster; Mary Gleckler, mother of Cathy Saccente and Mary Nelson; Hannah Green, daughter of Nicholas & Julie Green; Lena Henry, daughter of Toni & Mickey Henry; Shane Kiser, husband of Maggie Kiser; Nicholas Lober, son of Bob & Theresa Lober; James Frances Mooney, father of Dr. Joseph Mooney; Michael Norfleet, son of Marsha Norfleet; Elizabeth Ryan; Patrick Schneider; Leah & Sylvester Soldinie; Lara Trudell, daughter of Sharon and Jim Alexander; and Renee Weidner.

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PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

- Leona May Auer, mother of Keith Auer
- Elizabeth Berwin, cousin of David O’Gorman
- Rev. John Deken, brother of Janet Deken, Joan Pisoni, and Beth Stolarski
- Anthony DeStefano, uncle of Emily Lund
- Robert Milton Folle, father of Dottie Schwartz
- Kathleen Graham, mother of David Graham
- Sharon Koenig, sister of Dottie Schwartz
- Jeannette Mailloux, grandmother of Danielle Daub
- Robert Michael Marcos, step-father of Mary Auer
- Thomas McClay, father of Danielle Daub
- Andrew Pumphrey, brother of Katie Keys
- Gerald Saykes, husband of Karen Saykes
- Louis Schubert, father of Ben Schubert
- Thomas Schuette, brother of Robert Schuette

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USHERS’ SCHEDULE

Sunday, 26 January

- 6:30 am** Jim Alexander*, Chris Bauman
- 8:00 am** Sam Ashlock*, Greg Rheinheimer, Michael Nelson, Kenny Buyle
- 10:00 am** Jesse Hermann*, Charlie Raymond, Joe Gassiraro, Tom Gates

Sunday, 2 February

- 6:30 am** Bill Saccente*, Ben Schubert
- 8:00 am** Greg Rheinheimer*, Michael Nelson, Kenny Buyle, Kip Babington
- 10:00 am** Joe Gassiraro*, Tom Gates, John Simmons, Mark Scheer

Sunday, 9 February

- 6:30 am** Chris Bauman*, Evan Adair
- 8:00 am** Michael Nelson*, Kenny Buyle, Kip Babington, Terry Conway
- 10:00 am** Tom Gates*, John Simmons, Mark Scheer, Robert Morgan

Sunday, 16 February

- 6:30 am** Ben Schubert*, Bill Saccente
- 8:00 am** Kenny Buyle*, Kip Babington, Terry Conway, Jeff Martin
- 10:00 am** John Simmons*, Mark Scheer, Robert Morgan, Patrick Kelly

+ Altar Server Schedule: January - February 2025 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
26 January 2025	6:30 am	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00 am	Castor Armesto			
	10:00 am	Philip Petrick	Peter Blum	Anthony Green	Benedict Armesto
2 February 2025	6:30 am	Jack Ryan			
	8:00 am	Benedict Armesto			
	10:00 am	Michael Rheinheimer	Avery Blaxton	Kolbe Grizzle	Leo Grizzle
9 February 2025	6:30 am	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00 am	Leo Grizzle			
	10:00 am	Joseph Blum	Isaac Robeson	Elijah Robeson	Elijah Garvey

First Friday/First Saturday

1 February 2025	8:15 am	Sebastian Petrick	Matthew Rheinheimer	Kolbe Grizzle	Leo Grizzle
7 February 2025	6:30 pm	Philip Petrick	Castor Armesto	Matthew Emmet Roberts	Benedict Armesto

Dear Faithful,

Again, we thank our generous Giving Tuesday donors who made possible the acquisition of our beautiful crèche now housed in the Marian transept and available as a place of prayer until February 3rd. As you make your visits to the crèche in these final days of the Christmas season, perhaps consider the points of reflection below:

Our Crèche - Five Points to Ponder

One - Between the Ox and the Ass

Note the location of the Christ Child, Our Lady, and St. Joseph between the Ox’s shed and the Ass’s shed. The architect who designed the stable chose this arrangement in order to make quite clear the fulfillment of the famous prophecy in the Book of Habakkuk: “Between two animals you are made manifest.” The ox and the ass not only represent the poverty into which Christ plunged Himself, but also the peoples He came to save: Jews symbolized by the Ox, a clean animal, and gentiles symbolized by the Ass, an unclean animal. While today, we see the Holy Family as the three fundamental figures of any Nativity scene, in some early iconography, the ox and the ass were considered even more important depictions than St. Joseph, due to their great symbolic significance.

Two - The Hymn of the Angels

A mighty archangel stands above the manger and a choir of angels flies in the distance behind him after having summoned the shepherds. At each Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we join our voices to the angels of Christmas morning when we sing the Gloria.

Three - Symbols of Epiphany

Although in the recent history of the Church, Christmas has enjoyed more prominence as a feast than Epiphany, in truth, Christmas is but a quiet precursor to the splendor of Christ’s manifestation to the world which we celebrate in the Feast of Epiphany. In our crèche here at the Oratory, we have included imagery to remind pious souls of all three of the great scenes included in Christ’s manifestation as King. First, we see the Three Magi adoring at the crib and presenting their gifts, a testament to the worship of all lands and nations. Next, we see two clay jars which may call to mind the water jars at Cana used by Christ in His first great miracle. And finally, we see a stream, calling to mind Christ’s upcoming Baptism in the River Jordan.

Four - Symbols of the Passion

The prominence of wood in the stable building, both in its paneled walls and hayloft of dark angled beams, may call to mind the wood of the Cross. The use of holly from the tree which grows just next to our church reminds us of Christ’s crown of thorns and drops of Precious Blood.

Five - A playful Detail

And finally, during installation of the nativity on 23 December, a schola member added rolled oats to the troughs for the ox and the ass lest they grow hungry during the many weeks of Christmas.

Special thanks to Mrs. Erin Turntine, president of the Oratory Altar and Rosary Society for her research which led us to the beautiful Ulrich Nativity figures. And heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Scott Varian, an architect who graciously designed and built our stable *pro bono*. For months prior to the build, he developed his vision for a Northern European structure of graceful asymmetry featuring rich but rustic wood work and authentic thatching. The stable is a most fitting addition to our English Gothic church and will inspire the hearts of young and old for years to come. Deo Gratias!

***Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us who have recourse to thee!
Ss. Gregory and Augustine, pray for us!***

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"Perfect love casts out fear."
1 John 4:18

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St. Veronica, Pray for us. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on us.

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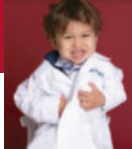
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