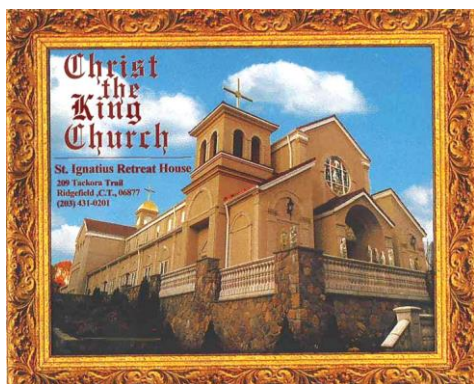


Christ the King Church

Society of St. Pius X



PARISH BULLETIN

January 21, 2024

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Prior: Fr. Jean Violette

The Feast of St Polycarp

GREGORY DIIPPO

The martyrdom of Polycarp is recorded in a letter sent by the church of Smyrna to that of Philomelium and “to all the congregations of the Holy and Catholic Church in every place.” This letter is the first authentic account of an early Christian martyrdom after that of St Stephen’s in the Acts of the Apostles. The Saint was very elderly at the time of his arrest and condemnation, for he himself says when ordered to reproach Christ, “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?”

When he was sentenced to be burned alive, the soldiers were going to nail him to the pyre, at which he said, “Leave me as I am; for He that gives me strength to endure the fire, will also enable me, without your securing me by nails, to remain without moving in the pile.” He was therefore only bound with ropes, “like a distinguished ram [taken] out of a great flock for sacrifice, and prepared to be an acceptable burnt-offering unto God.” The letter also records his prayer spoken before the pyre was lit.

Church Sanctuary Lamp:

The Davis Family

Chapel Sanctuary Lamp:

The Stettz Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ the King's Chapter of the Holy Name Society will hold an induction ceremony this morning at the 9:00 am Mass. The monthly meeting will follow at the retreat house. Mr. Giannelli will speak on Freemasonry. All the men of the parish are welcome.

Bake Sale – Join us this morning for our monthly Bake Sale in Jogues Hall after both Masses.

Father Andrew Ferrelli, an American SSPX priest presently stationed in Argentina will be visiting us in Ridgefield to give a conference presenting the South American District on **Tuesday January 23 at 7:00 PM** in Jogues Hall. Everyone is invited to come, and I hope you will be numerous, to come learn of the SSPX's work in South America. Friends & family are also welcome. A collection for the missions will be taken and refreshments will be served.

Parish Rosary – Join the Altar & Rosary Society next Sunday **January 28th** at 8:30 a.m. for the monthly parish rosary prayed for the intentions of the Altar & Rosary Society, Christ the King Parish, Padre Pio School, an increase in priestly and religious vocations and all the prayer requests placed in the Parish Intentions Board for the month.

The Altar & Rosary Society - The Ladies of the ARS will meet after 9:00 am Mass next Sunday. All the ladies of the parish are invited.

Confirmations – H.E. Bishop Fellay will be in Ridgefield Sunday April 14, 2024 for Confirmations.

First Holy Communions – will take place on Sunday May 5th.

Capital Campaign received \$488,117.00 for 2023. More next week.

Please continue to pray for the members and friends of the parish who are homebound or ill: Konrad Eldracher, Mrs. Mary Licurse, and her daughter Margaret, Mrs. Jo-Anne Galasso, Bridget Patricia Conlan, and Mrs. Geraldine Wilson.

MASS SCHEDULE

January 21, - January 28, 2024

Sunday, January 21

7:00 A.M.

9:00 A.M.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Low Mass (*pro populo*)

Sung Mass

Monday, January 22

7:15 A.M.

8:15 A.M.

St. Vincent & Anastasius, *Martyrs*

Low Mass

School Mass

Tuesday, January 23

7:15 A.M.

8:15 A.M.

St. Raymond of Penafort, *Confessor* / St. Emerentiana, *Virgin, Martyr*

Low Mass

School Mass

Wednesday, January 24

7:15 A.M.

8:15 A.M.

St. Timothy, *Bishop, Martyr*

Low Mass

School Mass

Thursday, January 25

7:15 A.M.

8:15 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

Conversion of St. Paul, *Apostle*

Low Mass

School Mass

Rosary & Benediction

Friday, January 26

7:15 A.M.

8:15 A.M.

St. Polycarp, *Bishop, Martyr*

Low Mass

School Mass

Saturday, January 27

7:15 A.M.

St. John Chrysostom, *Bishop, Confessor, Doctor*

Low Mass

Sunday, January 28

7:00 A.M.

9:00 A.M.

Septuagesima Sunday

Low Mass (*pro populo*)

Sung Mass

Emergency sacramental phone number: 475-289-1358

Please note that if you wish to be buried from Christ the King Church you must not have in your will the direction to be cremated.

“O Lord God Almighty, the Father of Your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of You, the God of angels and powers, and of every creature, and of the whole race of the righteous who live before You, I give You thanks that You have counted me, worthy of this day and this hour, that I should have a part in the number of Your martyrs, in the cup of Your Christ, to the resurrection of eternal life, both of soul and body, through the incorruption [imparted] by the Holy Ghost. Among whom may I be accepted this day before You as a fat and acceptable sacrifice, according as You, the ever-truthful God, have foreordained, have revealed beforehand to me, and now have fulfilled. Wherefore also I praise You for all things, I bless You, I glorify You, along with the everlasting and heavenly Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, with whom, to You, and the Holy Ghost, be glory both now and to all coming ages. Amen.”

However, once the fire was set, it billowed out around Polycarp “in the form of a sail” and although he seemed “like gold or silver glowing in a furnace,” would not consume him. This is one of many famous examples of the refusal by Nature itself to cooperate with the persecutors of God’s Saints, forcing them to take the matter into their own hands, and accept responsibility for the evil which they do. At this, his side was pierced with a dagger, and the flow of blood that came forth was so great that the flames were extinguished.

The official in charge refused to allow the Christians to take the body for burial, but rather had it cremated, the standard pagan practice; this was certainly done in despite of the doctrine of the bodily resurrection. Nevertheless, the Christians of Smyrna “took up his bones, as being more precious than the most exquisite jewels, and more purified than gold, and deposited them in a fitting place, whither, being gathered together, as opportunity is allowed us, with joy and rejoicing, the Lord shall grant us to celebrate the anniversary of his martyrdom, both in memory of those who have already finished their course, and for the exercising and preparation of those yet to walk in their steps.”

