

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

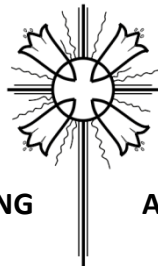
St. Casimir Parish
January, 2017

Almighty God,
grant that with the help of St. Casimir's intercession
we may serve you in holiness and justice.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS

- ***That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.***
(January Papal intention)
- That those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil will find in the mystery of the Baptism of the Lord the happiness of their destiny in Christ, and that the already baptized live their baptismal promises with deeper authenticity and fervor.
- That Christ will enlighten world leaders' hearts and minds, so that all nations will walk toward Christ's light.
- That the victims of disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.
- That those who face the hardships of life without the benefit of faith will find Christ present in the person of others who bring to them compassion and help.
- That God bless Father Bacevice and the Pastoral and Finance Councils in their efforts to secure the future of St. Casimir Parish.
- That all parishioners recognize their responsibility to St. Casimir Parish's future through financial support, commitment to parish activities, sharing ideas, and most importantly prayer.
- That for all families this New Year will be a time of profound peace and of the flowering of deep and abiding love.
- That our Ministers of Praise be validated in their belief in the power of prayer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

AT ST. CASIMIR PARISH?

- January 6th **First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:00 – 9:00am in Church**
- January 11th **Evening Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 6:00 – 9:00pm**
- January 15th **Father Bacevice's 40th Jubilee**
- January 28/29 **Altar Society's annual "Soup for the Soul"**

SAINT FOR JANUARY

SAINT RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT

Priest
(1175 - 1275)

January 7th



St. Raymond spent his life in learning, teaching, and encouraging others to stay the course of God's law. He subscribed to the teaching that "He who hates the law is without wisdom, and is tossed about like a boat in a storm." (Sirach 33:2)

As a member of the Spanish nobility, Saint Raymond had the resources and the education to get a good start in life. By the time he was 20 he was teaching philosophy. In his early 30's he earned a doctorate in both canon and civil law. At 47 he became a Dominican. His first assignment was to compile a thorough coverage of the correct administration of the Sacrament of Penance. His writing covered sins committed against God and neighbor, and it gave examples of how to handle questions of conscience.

Pope Gregory IX called Raymond to Rome to be his confessor. He also asked Raymond to collect into one volume all the decrees of popes and councils from the past eighty years. This book was called the "Decretals" and was an important source for what in 1917 became the Code of Canon Law.

When Raymond was 60 he was appointed Archbishop of Tarragona, the capital of Aragon. He didn't like the honor at all and resigned after two years. His peace in study, preaching, and prayer at the friary was short lived. At age 63 he was elected by his fellow Dominicans to be the head of the whole order. Raymond worked hard: he traveled on foot visiting all the Dominicans, reorganized their constitutions and managed to put through a provision that a master general be allowed to resign. He took advantage of this provision and resigned at age 65. For the next 35 years of his life he devoted himself to preaching and to the conversion of the Moors and their former slaves in Spain. He died in his 100th year.

Sources: *IN HIS LIKENESS*, by Rev. Charles E. Yost, SCJ, STL; *SAINT OF THE DAY*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M., Editor; *SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS*, Loyola University Press



THOUGHTS FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love as Fulfillment of the Law

#2055 When someone asks him, "Which commandment in the Law is the greatest?" Jesus replies: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets." The Decalogue must be interpreted in light of this twofold yet single commandment of love, the fullness of the Law.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Jesus goes to the voice crying out from the wilderness, preparing his way. He could very well beckon him but instead goes to him and fulfills the Scriptures. When he arrives at the river, the booming voice that once called out with raging intensity is stilled. John the Baptist humbles himself before the Lord and questions his capability. Jesus soothes his questioning heart and reveals God's mercy. As he emerges from the baptismal waters, his ministry is anointed and his purpose revealed, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased*" (Mt. 3:17). God's beloved Son, sent to walk beside, to guide and teach, to heal—to save us in the very moment we exist—is revealed.

My heart stills and the scales are lifted from my eyes. The Baptism of the Lord is the promise fulfilled of a time when *Every valley shall be filled in,/ every mountain and hill shall be made low* (Is 40:4). This is not saved for when I am called home but in the everyday as I walk the road he intended to serve his purpose. When I seek his guidance in this purpose, the mountains on the horizon are no longer daunting. When I falter and call out, he guides my feet and assures me of my abilities. The valley through which I walk becomes a lush green meadow—a glimpse of the day I will rest quietly with my little one. His heart revealed leaves me breathless and humbled at the foot of his cross.

author: Jennifer Hubbard

(Jennifer's daughter, Catherine Violet, was a victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.)