

Abiding Press

Abiding Presence Faith Community

*A PARISH OF THE REFORMED CATHOLIC CHURCH
AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
MAKING GOD'S LOVE KNOWN IN CENTRAL FLORIDA*

February 2025 VOLUME 4 #3
5330 Poinsetta Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792
321-594-4922
Office info@apfcwp.com

Vigil Mass is Celebrated at Saturday at 5:00 pm
The Sanctuary Building of the First United Church of Christ
4605 Curry Ford Rd, Orlando, Florida 32812

Social Media

Web Site www.apfcwp.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386619738179316/?ref=bookmarks>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP9i133esG31IRPfgk-Jn4w>

Clergy Serving the People of God

Pastor: Most Rev. William R. Cavins pastor@apfcwp.com

Rev. Mr. Christopher M. Larsen

Volunteer Staff Serving the Parish

Gene L. Thompson II - Technology TechSupport@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com

Keegan Glover - LGBTQ+ Liaison

Dennis Last - JMB Crock Pot Ministry

Klaus Stodtmann - Bread Baking kstodtmann@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com

Mass Intentions & Prayer Requests

If you would like to have someone remembered during Mass or added to our Prayer Lists, please email your request to the pastor. We also invite you to support our community through your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated and can be made at your discretion.

Additionally, we offer Mass Cards that you can send to loved ones to let them know they are being remembered in our prayers.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Upcoming Dates

- February 1 Divine Worship Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord 5:00 PM
 Communal Anointing of the Sick
 Intention: RIP Cynthia Larsen
Blessing of Candles, Anointing of the Sick & Blessing of Saint Blaise
- February 3 At Home with the Word on Zoom 7:00 PM
- February 4 Rebecca's Pantry 9:30n to 11:30
 Crock Pot Class 6 PM
 Sunset Club Meeting \$5 fee
 Catrina's Mexican Fusion 925 N. Semoran Blvd. Orlando
- February 5 Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00
 Formation Class – 6:30 PM Invitation Only
- February 8 Divine Worship –5th Sunday of the Christian Year 5:00 PM
 Intention: RIP Nancy Steele
SOUPER BOWL SATURDAY – Bring Canned Soup for the Pantry
- February 10 Crock Pot Class 11 AM
 Dedicated Senior Medical Center - 4270 Aloma Ave, Winter Park
 At Home with the Word 7 PM
- February 11 Rebecca's Pantry 9:30n to 11:30
- February 12 Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00
 Formation Class – 6:30 PM Invitation Only
- February 15 Divine Worship – 6th Sunday of the Christian Year 5:00 PM
 Intention: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls
 Parish Pot Luch Sunday Supper 6-7 pm
- February 17 At Home with the Word 7 PM
- February 18 Rebecca's Pantry 9:30n to 11:30
 Crock Pot Class 10 AM
 Dedicated Senior Medical – 690 S. Goldenrod Rd., Orlando
- February 19 Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00
 Formation Class - 6:30 PM Invitation Only

February 22 Divine Worship – 7th Sunday of the Christian Year 5:00 PM
Intention: People of the Parish

February 24 Crock Pot Class 11 AM
Dedicated Senior Medical Center - 4270 Aloma Ave, Winter Park
At Home With the Word on Zoom at 7:00 PM

February 25 Rebecca's Pantry 9:30 – 11:30

February 26 Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00
Formation Class - 6:30 PM Invitation Only

*SCAP = Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest

Financial Update as of 1/25/2025

Total Income Year to Date: \$728.00. Total Expenditures Year to Date: **\$682.54**. Difference \$45.46. Ledger Balance On Hand: \$2145.15. Balance available on hand: \$2145.15.

Tax Letters 2024

The tax deduction letters were issued January 2, 2025. If you do not receive yours, please contact us a bkpg@apfcwp.com.

Make a Difference with Your Donation

You can now easily make donations online through our website! For the most efficient processing of your donation, we recommend using Zelle. If you choose a different payment method, please ensure that your donation is sent as if to an individual.

Thank you for your generosity and support! **Our email address for all donation platforms is: bkpg@apfcwp.com**

From the Bishop's Desk

Lest We Forget

The issue of **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)** is a heartbreaking tragedy that affects Indigenous communities across North America, drawing attention to systemic violence, racism, and the historical oppression faced by these women. The **Women's March on February 14**, held annually in solidarity with MMIWG, is an act of collective mourning and advocacy, demanding justice, accountability, and the end of violence against Indigenous women. In the context of the



Reformed Catholic Church, this movement speaks directly to the **Christian themes of love, justice, and respect for all individuals.**

The Reformed Catholic faith upholds the intrinsic dignity of every person, created in the image of God. This teaching calls for an active commitment to **love** and **respect** for all, especially those who are marginalized and oppressed. The violence faced by Indigenous women contradicts the core principles of **Christian love**, as it denies the humanity and sacredness of these individuals. The Church must respond with both **compassion** and **action**, standing in solidarity with Indigenous communities and seeking to repair the harm caused by centuries of injustice.

The Women's March is a powerful expression of **collective love** — a love that seeks to honor and protect the most vulnerable. For the Church, this aligns with the biblical call to **love one's neighbor** (Mark 12:31), and to defend the cause of the oppressed (Isaiah 1:17). As Christians, we are called to stand in **respectful solidarity** with Indigenous peoples, not only in words but in deeds. This includes advocating for legal reforms, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, and fostering **healing** through truth-telling and reconciliation. In the spirit of **agape love**, the Reformed Catholic Church can play a crucial role in working toward justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In Christ's Love

+*William*

Pastor

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, celebrated on February 2nd, holds deep significance in the Christian liturgical calendar, particularly in the Catholic, Orthodox, and some Anglican traditions. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple in Jerusalem, an event described in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 2:22-40). This feast marks the moment when Mary and Joseph, in obedience to Jewish law, brought the infant Jesus to the Temple to consecrate Him to the Lord, as per the custom for firstborn males.

Here are some of the key aspects of its significance:

Fulfillment of the Law: The presentation emphasizes that Jesus came not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17). By presenting Jesus in the Temple, Mary and Joseph demonstrated their obedience to the Jewish customs and rituals, showing the holiness of Jesus even in His infancy.

The Light of the Nations: The event is also significant because of the prophetic words spoken by Simeon, a righteous man who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. Upon seeing Jesus, Simeon praised God, saying,

“My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel” (Luke 2:30-32). This declaration highlights the role of Jesus as the “light” who came to bring salvation not just to Israel, but to all people, symbolizing hope and divine revelation for the entire world.

Mary’s Role and Prophecy of Suffering: Simeon also prophesied that a sword would pierce Mary’s soul, foreshadowing the suffering she would endure as the mother of the Savior. This prophecy points to the Passion of Christ and the sorrow Mary would experience as she witnessed her Son’s suffering and death. This aspect of the feast reminds the faithful of the deep connection between the joy of Jesus’ birth and the pain of His Passion.

Purification and Renewal: In the Jewish tradition, a woman who had given birth was required to undergo a period of purification (Leviticus 12). By observing this, the Feast of the Presentation also highlights the theme of purification and renewal, not only for Mary but for the whole of humanity. It can be seen as a reminder of the need for spiritual renewal and purification, both individually and communally.

Liturgical Celebration: In the Catholic Church, the Feast of the Presentation is also called “Candlemas” because it involves the blessing of candles. This is a symbol of Christ as the light of the world. The lighting of candles during the Mass reflects this theme of light, representing Christ’s illumination in the darkness of the world. It is a joyful celebration, marking the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of a new phase in the liturgical year.

Theological Reflection: The feast invites reflection on the themes of obedience, humility, and God’s presence in the world. It encourages the faithful to consider how they, like Simeon and Anna (the prophetess who also recognized Jesus in the Temple), can be watchful and open to God’s presence and fulfill their roles in His divine plan.

Veneration of Mary: This feast highlights the role of Mary in salvation history. It underscores her willingness to cooperate with God’s plan, her motherhood of Jesus, and her role in the life of the Church. It also honors her as the first disciple who, through her faith, opened the way for the salvation of the world.

One can see the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is significant as it celebrates Jesus’ presentation in the Temple, fulfilling the Law, and marks His recognition as the Light for all nations. It is a time for reflection on the themes of light, purification, and obedience, and is an opportunity to honor the role of Mary and Joseph in God’s redemptive plan.

Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday Suppers on Saturdays

In honor of the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we are excited to invite you to our next Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday Supper potluck dinner on Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Narthex after our 5 PM Mass.. This special event will not only celebrate the values of justice, equality, and community that Dr. King championed but will also offer an opportunity for reflection and discussion on important issues that affect both our church and the broader community. Our discussion on a timely and powerful question: "How do we speak words of light in a world of darkness?"

We invite all parishioners and anyone in the community who wishes to participate to contribute to the potluck by bringing a dish to share. Whether it's a favorite family recipe, a comforting meal, or something that reflects the diversity of our congregation, we look forward to enjoying the meals and fellowship you bring. Please RSVP with the church office to let us know you'll be attending and what dish you'll bring.

As we gather, let us remember that this event is about more than just sharing a meal—it's an opportunity to reflect, connect, and grow together as we continue to follow the example set by Dr. King.

We look forward to a meaningful evening of food, fellowship, and discussion, and we hope you'll join us as we explore how we can more deeply embody respect, even in challenging times.

JMB Crockpot Ministry

Crockpot Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently low on crockpots and would greatly appreciate your support. If you can donate a crockpot or are interested in volunteering to lead a class, please reach out to Dennis Last at 321-388-1572.

Upcoming Crock Pot Classes:

- **Date:** February 4, 2025
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Sunset Club meeting at Catrinas Mexican Fusion 925 N. Semoran Blvd, Orlando (\$5 fee)

- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Time:** 11:00 AM
- **Location:** Dedicated Senior Medical Center, 94270 Aloma Ave Winter Park

- **Date:** February 18, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 AM
- **Location:** Dedicated Senior Medical Center, 904 Lee Rd., Orlando

- **Date:** February 24, 2025
- **Time:** 11:00 AM
- **Location:** Dedicated Senior Medical Center, 94270 Aloma Ave Winter Park

To register for the classes, please email us at Info@apfcwp.com.

Are you looking to become more involved in our parish?

We have a variety of opportunities for you to contribute and make a difference throughout the week. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Saturdays:** Join us in a range of roles including readers, technical support, musicians, singers, altar servers, and Eucharistic Ministers. Your participation enriches our worship experience.
- **Mondays and Tuesdays:** Help us with our Crock Pot Classes. If you're interested in presenting, please reach out to Dennis Last for more information.
- **Tuesdays:** Volunteer at Rebecca's Pantry in the morning. Your assistance can make a significant impact on those in need.
- **Wednesdays:** Contribute to our Thrift Shop. We need enthusiastic helpers to support this valuable outreach.
- **LGBTQ+ :** Contact Keegan Glover for information.
- **Ongoing:** We are also establishing a new ministry for Special Ministers to the Sick. This role is a wonderful opportunity to provide comfort and support to those who are ill.

So much to choose from! Reflect on how you might be called to serve and make a difference. What is God inviting you to do?

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or have questions, please contact [appropriate contact person/office] for more details. We look forward to your involvement and contributions to our parish community!

The Lamb of God

The Lamb of God is a significant part of the Catholic Mass, particularly during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and serves as a reminder of Jesus Christ's sacrificial role for the salvation of humanity. This phrase, often referred to as the Agnus Dei (Latin for "Lamb of God"), has deep theological meaning, reflecting Christ's identity, mission, and the central message of Christianity: redemption through His sacrifice.

The title "Lamb of God" originates from the Bible, particularly from the Gospel of John 1:29, where John the Baptist identifies Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." The Lamb symbolizes Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for the sins of humanity, paralleling the Passover lamb in Jewish tradition. In the Old Testament, the blood of the lamb was used to protect the Israelites from death during the final plague in Egypt, and the lamb was a central part of the Passover sacrifice (Exodus 12). Jesus, as the Lamb of God, takes on this role, but His sacrifice is not for temporary protection—rather, it is for the eternal salvation of all people.

In the context of the Mass, the Lamb of God underscores the core belief in Christ's atoning sacrifice. Just as a lamb was offered as a sacrifice in the Jewish faith, Christ offers Himself as the perfect and final sacrifice for the sins of humanity. This idea is further expressed in the Eucharistic Prayer, where the priest prepares the congregation for communion by acknowledging that Christ's body and blood are given for the forgiveness of sins.

This understanding is particularly clear during the Agnus Dei chant, which is sung or recited immediately before the reception of the Eucharist. The words "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us" express both the recognition of Christ's sacrifice and a plea for His mercy, making the moment of communion not just an act of remembrance but also an act of reconciliation with God.

The Lamb of God is especially significant in the context of the Eucharist, the central sacrament of Catholic worship. Catholics believe that during the Mass, the bread and wine are consecrated to become the actual Body and Blood of Christ. This transformation is a continuation of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. As the Lamb of God was sacrificed for our sins, so too, in the Eucharist, the faithful partake in Christ's Body and Blood, spiritually uniting with Him and receiving the grace of redemption.

The reference to the Lamb of God emphasizes the importance of receiving the Eucharist with reverence, as it is a participation in the ultimate act of love and sacrifice.

In the Mass, the Agnus Dei is sung after the Fraction Rite, when the priest breaks the host (the consecrated bread). The Lamb of God is invoked three times, and the faithful respond with petitions for mercy and peace, acknowledging their need for Christ's redemptive grace. This moment is not only a prayer for forgiveness but also an invitation to experience the peace that comes from reconciliation with God through Christ.

Lastly, the Lamb of God is a symbol of hope. It represents Christ's victory over sin and death. By recognizing Jesus as the Lamb of God, Catholics affirm their belief in His role as Savior, the one who brings ultimate peace and eternal life to those who believe in Him. This recognition reinforces the Mass as a celebration of Christ's love and the salvation He offers to all.

In summary, the Lamb of God in the Catholic Mass carries profound theological significance, highlighting Christ's sacrifice, His role in redemption, and the invitation to participate in His body and blood through the Eucharist. It is a reminder of the deep mercy, love, and grace that Jesus offers to humanity and is a central aspect of the Mass's celebration of the Paschal Mystery—the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Prayer for Vocations

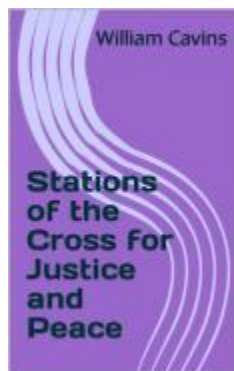
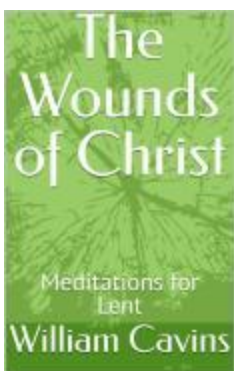
Gracious God, we give thanks for your call to both women and men to serve in Christ's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. We ask that you send your Holy Spirit to inspire and guide others to respond with generosity and courage to your call. May our community of faith nurture and support vocations rooted in sacrificial love, especially among our youth and young adults. Through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Prayer for Those in Formation

Lord, we lift up all those in formation, preparing to serve with hearts full of faith and dedication. Grant them wisdom, strength, and discernment as they grow in their journey. Guide their minds, strengthen their spirits, and fill them with your love. May they always walk in humility and grace, ready to serve others and follow the path you have set before them. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

Current candidates in formation include Zach Baker, Ken Gladding, and Kody Hall, All for the Diocese of St. John XXIII.

Bishop's New Book for Lent



Bishop Cavins' has a new book you might consider for the Lenten Season. It is entitled: ***The Wounds of Christ: Meditations for Lent***. It is available on Amazon in hardback or paperback. You can also still order **Stations of the Cross for Justice and Peace** also on Amazon.

New Policy Adopted

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors on January 25, 2025, and upon a motion made by Deacon Larsen and seconded by Mr. Thompson the following Policy on the Designation of Private and Public Spaces was adopted unanimously by those present with immediate effect.

APFC PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SPACE DESIGNATION

Bishop's Residence - 5330 Poinsetta Ave., Winter Park, FL 32792 - The entire residence is private property owned by William R Cavins and Gene L Thompson II. At those times where a worship service is publicly announced and scheduled in the monthly church newsletter, only the front entry and chapel are considered public space for the duration of worship. All other portions of the residence are private property.

Rental Space - First UCC Orlando - 4605 Curry Ford Rd., Orlando, FL 32812- The property is owned by the Congregation of the First United Church of Christ who lease the Sanctuary Building to Abiding Presence Faith Community from 4 pm to 8 pm Saturdays and on other agreed upon dates. Within that time frame the Vestibule, Narthex, Nave, and Sanctuary are considered Public Space. Both offices, located on either side of the Sanctuary are considered private space as are the hallway, food storage, and bathroom to the North of the narthex. All other portions of the property fall under the jurisdiction of the First United Church of Christ - Orlando and are subject to their policies.

Family Faith Activities

Courtesy of LTP's At Home with the Word 2024.

February 2, 2025

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Activities

- ◆ Sing "The King of Glory Comes" for your table grace this week.
- ◆ Many cultures have deep respect for ancestors and living elders. Take out pictures of the elders in your family and life and talk about them. Whether they are alive or with God, why are they still important?
- ◆ The Canticle of Simeon, also called Nunc Dimittis, (the words from Luke 2:29-32) is one of three great canticles in the Gospel. It is traditionally prayed in Night Prayer. Pray this prayer together as a family to close your day this week.

Questions

- ◆ What is refining? What does it mean to refine gold or silver? What else is refined? How are people refined by God?

- ◆ Were you ever presented in the “temple”? When? Were there elders like Anna and Simeon there? What was their reaction?
- ◆ What do you think of the idea that a baby can have a great destiny? Are there people around you who are hopeful about your destiny? What are they hoping?

February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

- ◆ Taking your cue from today’s Scriptures about the call of Isaiah, Paul, and Simon Peter, initiate this conversation with your child. At bedtime one night, ask “Have you ever felt that God asked you to do something?” This might just be a little ghost thought that flits through your mind and disappears. You, the child, can grab it by the tail and pull it back and look at it. You, the parent, can give an example of one of your own ghost thoughts that feels like God calling. Anyone can ignore the call or can choose to say, “Here I am. Send me.”
- ◆ If you have children of different ages, choose a quiet moment when all are present and ask, “Do you think God answers prayer? If so, how?” Older and younger children will probably have very different answers. Some may relate a time they received or failed to receive an object they asked for. Others may talk about how God transformed their request and gave them something they needed more or changed them in some way.
- ◆ After Mass one Sunday, remind your child of the “Holy, Holy,” perhaps singing it together. How do you feel when you sing it? What do you think “holy” means? Are you holy? Am I? Depending on the child’s age, you can explore the meaning of “holy” as “set apart” and its connection with wholeness and health. God commands us to be holy as God is holy.

Activities

- ◆ When people grow closer to God, they sometimes get a new name, like a special nickname. Jacob became Israel, Saul became Paul, and Simon became Peter, which means “rock,” because he was the rock on whom Jesus would build the Church. What would be a good God-related nickname for you? Invent names that reflect your relationship to God. They can be proper or generic names, words for objects or animals, qualities, or emotions.
- ◆ Tell the story of the great catch of fish (Luke 5:1–11). How did Simon Peter feel when his prayer for fish was answered? Did he get what he wanted? How was he changed? Have you ever been changed by prayer, answered or unanswered?
- ◆ On February 11, World Day of the Sick is celebrated. Lead your children in praying for people with chronic illnesses.

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday of the Christian Year

Activities

- ◆ Read the first reading (Jeremiah 17:5–8) and ask family members to draw two images. The first illustration is of the cursed one who “is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season.” The second drawing is of the blessed one who “is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream.”
- ◆ At the dinner table, invite family members to repeat the responsorial psalm refrain “Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.”
- ◆ Ask the children to draw a picture of heaven with people who are laughing and enjoying others’ company. They might want to show people leaping for joy at being in the kingdom of God.

Questions

- ◆ Ask family members what it must feel like to be cursed as described in the reading from Jeremiah. Then ask what it must feel like to be blessed.
- ◆ Ask family members what it means to hope. What do they hope for? What is the possibility that those hopes will be realized? What does it mean to “hope in the Lord” as we sang in today’s responsorial psalm?
- ◆ Read the Beatitudes in Luke 6:20–26. Ask the children what they hunger for other than food. Do they hunger for things? What do they think it means to hunger for God?

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday of the Christian Year

Activities

- ◆ Read 1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 1–13, 22–23 to the family and then ask them to act it out. Three people are needed: the sleeping Saul, David, and Abishai. Perhaps the children could make a spear from cardboard.
- ◆ During the prayer before meals, sing or say, “The Lord is kind and merciful.” During dinner ask family members how they have experienced mercy that day.
- ◆ In the Gospel, Jesus says, “If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?” Is there an elderly neighbor or a disabled person who you could invite for a meal?

Questions

- ◆ Tell the children that in the time of David, priests, prophets, and kings were anointed. They were chosen by God to lead the people. When we were baptized we were anointed. The oil of anointing gives strength and comfort. Why does a person need strength from God to follow Christ?
- ◆ Repeat the responsorial psalm refrain “The Lord is kind and merciful.” Ask family members when they have desired mercy at school, at work, or with friends. Did they receive it?

Remind them that God is always merciful.

◆ Ask the children to think of a person who is hard for them to love. Ask them if they think God loves that person. Tell them that today's Gospel says, "For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" Ask what that means about whom they are to love.

Fabulous February Saints

January is a month rich in saints' feast days in the Reformed Catholic Church, many of whom are celebrated for their holiness, devotion, and significant contributions to the faith. Here is a list of Catholic saints commemorated in January:

February 1

- **St. Brigid of Ireland** (c. 451–525) – Foundress of the order of nuns and abbess of Kildare. Patroness of Ireland.
- **St. Ansgar** (801–865) – Archbishop of Hamburg-Bremen, known as the "Apostle of the North."

February 2

- **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** (Candlemas) – Commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple.
- **St. Blaise** (c. 316) – Bishop and martyr, known for his intercession for healing, especially of throat ailments.

February 3

- **St. Blaise** (c. 316) – Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, martyred for his faith.
- **St. Anselm of Canterbury** (1033–1109) – Archbishop of Canterbury and Doctor of the Church, known for his works on theology and philosophy.

February 5

- **St. Agatha** (c. 231–251) – Virgin and martyr, patroness of breast cancer patients.

February 6

- **St. Paul Miki and Companions** (1562–1597) – 26 martyrs, including Paul Miki, who were crucified in Japan.

February 8

- **St. Jerome Emiliani** (1481–1537) – Founder of the Somascan Fathers, devoted to caring for orphans and the poor.
- **St. Josephine Bakhita** (1869–1947) – Former slave who became a Canossian Sister and was canonized for her witness of forgiveness and faith.

February 10

- **St. Scholastica** (c. 480–543) – Twin sister of St. Benedict, founder of the Benedictine nuns.

February 11

- **Our Lady of Lourdes** – Commemoration of the apparition of the Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, in 1858.

February 14

- **St. Cyril and St. Methodius** (c. 827–869) – Brothers and missionaries who worked to spread Christianity in Eastern Europe, especially in Slavic lands.
- **St. Valentine** (c. 269) – Priest and martyr, associated with love and patron of lovers.

February 17

- **Seven Founders of the Servite Order** (1233) – Seven men who founded the Servite Order of religious life.

February 18

- **St. Bernadette Soubirous** (1844–1879) – Visionary of the Marian apparitions at Lourdes, canonized as a saint.

February 20

- **St. Eucherius of Lyon** (d. 450) – Bishop of Lyon, known for his missionary work and religious writings.

February 23

- **St. Polycarp** (c. 69–155) – Bishop of Smyrna, one of the Apostolic Fathers, martyred for his faith.

February 28

- **St. Romanus** (d. 460) – Martyr and early Christian saint.

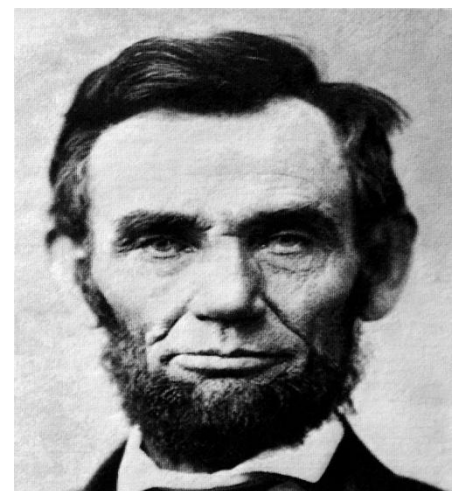
These saints represent a wide array of vocations, from hermits and bishops to teachers and mystics, and their feast days invite the faithful to reflect on the diversity and beauty of the Church's history. The saints commemorated in January offer models of holiness, perseverance, and devotion to Christ, reminding us of the many ways God works in and through His people. Which saint is your favorite? Share your thoughts on our Facebook page!

February Recipes

Chicken Fricassee: Abraham Lincoln, well known for his love of food and cooking, had a favorite chicken recipe for a beloved comfort classic skillet chicken dish.

Ingredients

- A whole chicken 3 to 4 lb. or a cut-up whole chicken
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground mace
- 2 teaspoons fresh marjoram or 1/2 tsp. dry leaves
- 1 1/2 cups cream half-and-half, or milk
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced ham optional



Instructions

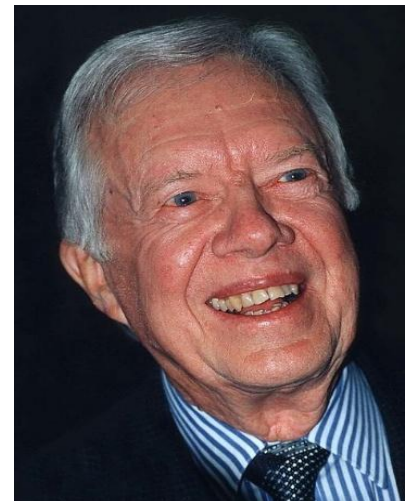
1. If you buy a whole chicken, cut it into 8 similar size pieces and remove the skin. Separate the drum from the thigh as well. If using a cut-up chicken, remove the skin as well.

2. Combine salt, pepper, nutmeg, mace, and marjoram, and rub into the chicken.
3. Place the chicken pieces in a large skillet with a lid. Pour the cream or milk over the chicken and turn to coat the pieces.
4. Cook over medium heat until the liquid begins to bubble, then lower the heat and cover. Simmer until the chicken is fork-tender, about 30 minutes. Remove to a platter and keep warm.
5. Combine the butter and flour and then gradually add it into the remaining liquid in the pan. Cook and stir until the sauce thickens.
6. Return the chicken to the sauce and reheat. I like to check an instant-read thermometer to make sure the chicken has come to temperature. Place thinly sliced ham around the edges of the platter or skillet and serve with biscuits and Abraham Lincoln liked to do.

Cheese Grits: Jimmy Carter's favorite dish

Ingredients:

- 4 cups chicken bouillon
- 1 cup enriched white hominy
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter
- 2 cups grated sharp cheddar
- 4 eggs yolk
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup cold milk
- 4 egg whites, at room temperature



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Grease the inside of a 2-quart casserole dish.
3. Bring bouillon to a boil in a 2-quart saucepan;
4. add grits gradually, stirring with a wire whisk. Reduce heat and continue cooking, stirring vigorously, until mixture thickens.
5. Cover and cook for 15 minutes, stirring often.
6. Remove from heat and add Worcestershire sauce, butter, and 1 1/2 cups of the cheese, stirring until well-balanced.
7. In a small bowl, blend egg yolks with 1/2 cup of milk.
8. Pour into grits and mix thoroughly; add more milk if necessary, thinning to the consistency of cream of wheat.
9. In a clean, dry bowl, beat egg whites until stiff. Fold into grits.
10. Pour into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with the remaining 1/2 cup of cheese.
11. Bake on the middle shelf of a preheated oven for 30 minutes or until fluffy and brown. Serve at once and enjoy!

Dwight D. Eisenhower's Vegetable Soup: The President's own recipe with his own directions.

Ingredients

- 1 meat bone
- a couple pounds of mutton or beef soup meat
- 5 quarts water
- small piece of garlic
- vegetables
- salt
- black pepper



President Eisenhower's directions:

1. "The best time to make vegetable soup is a day or so after you have fried chicken and out of which you have saved the necks, ribs, backs, uncooked. (The chicken is not essential, but does add something.)
2. Procure from the meat market a good beef soup bone – the bigger the better. It is a rather good idea to have it split down the middle so that all the marrow is exposed. I frequently buy, in addition, a couple pounds of ordinary soup meat, either beef or mutton, or both.
3. Put all this meat, early in the morning, in a big kettle. The best kind is heavy aluminum, but a good iron pot will do almost as well. Put in also the bony parts of the chicken you have saved. Cover it with water, something on the order of 5 quarts. Add a teaspoon of salt, a bit of black pepper and, if you like, a touch of garlic (one small piece). If you don't like garlic, put in an onion. Boil all this slowly all day long. Keep on boiling till the meat has literally dropped off the bone. If your stock boils down during the day, add enough water from time to time to keep the meat covered. When the whole thing has practically disintegrated, pour out into another large kettle through the colander. Make sure that the marrow is out of the bones. I advise you let this strain through the colander for quite a while as much juice will drain out of the meat. (Shake the colander well to help get out all the juice.)
4. I usually save a few of the better pieces of meat to be diced and put into the soup after it is done. The rest of it can be given to your dogs or your neighbor's chickens. Put the kettle containing the stock you now have in a very cool place, outdoors in the winter time or in the ice box; let it stand all night and the next day until you are ready to make your soup."

Annual Meeting of the Parish Reports

Annual Meeting of the Parish
11 January 2025

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer by Bishop Cavins 6:13 PM
2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Annual Meeting – MOTION – Dennis Last / Chris Larsen That the minutes of last year’s meeting be approved. **CARRIED**
3. Pastor’s Report – See attachment A – MOTION – Chris Larsen / Dennis Last that the Pastor’s Report be approved as presented **CARRIED**
4. Financial Report – See Attachment B Front MOTION Gene / Keegan Glover That the Financial Report be accepted. **CARRIED**
5. Old Business – There being none the Chair began New Business
6. New Business
 - a. Budget for 2025 – See Attachment B Back MOTION Gene Thompson / Chris Larsen That the proposed budget be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**
 - b. Growing the Parish
 - i. Target Groups
 1. Families
 2. Hispanic
 3. LGBT Community
 - a. Transgender Community – MOTION by Keegan Glover / Chris Larsen That the parish discern what other affirming churches are doing for the above-named groups and identify a need those churches aren’t meeting which we might fill. **CARRIED**
 - b. Come Out With Pride MOTION Keegan Glover / Gene Thompson That APFC participate in Come Out with Pride 2025 with both a booth and an parade entry. **CARRIED**
 - c. Fundraising – MOTION that the parish have another Pancake Supper for Fat Tuesday. Dennis Last / Gene Thompson **CARRIED**
 - d. Synod 2025 – Discussion ensued about what would be required of the parish October 2-4, 2025. . The Bishop noted he had negotiated a room rate of \$99 a night and that First UCC had rented the narthex to the RCC for \$100 a day. He noted that the Presiding Bishop has asked that a budget be set for the Synod but that nothing further has transpired from the RCC Board of Directors. No Action to take at this time.

- e. Election of Board Member – MOTION Gene Thompson / Chris Larsen that Klaus Stodtmann be elected to the Board of Directors for a 3 year term ending in 2028. **CARRIED**. Klaus accepted election with the proviso that he would not be present except when in Orlando.
- f. Lent
 - i. Drive thru Ashes – MOTION Keegan Glover/ Chris Larsen That APFC offer Ashes on a drive thru bases on Ash Wednesday **CARRIED**
 - ii. Soup suppers / rotating to homes MOTION Dennis Last/Gene Thompson That are weekly soup suppers during Lent be done on a rotating basis at parishioners’ homes. **CARRIED**

7. Other New Business

- a. Crock Pot Ministry – Dennis reported that the current locations were under new managers and that he has to set up new dates. Klaus Stodtmann suggested he consider doing an online class. Another suggestion was conducting in person classes on campuses. No actions taken and referred to the Board Meeting in February.

8. Closing Prayer – Deacon Larsen

9. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Most Rev. William R Cavins
Pastor
12 January 2025

The Financial Report

The following represents the financial condition of the parish as of 8 January 2025.

Receipts 2024: \$13589.25

Expenses 2024: \$13917.51

Bank Balance January 1, 2024: \$2427.95

Bank Balance January 1, 2025: \$2099.69

Current Balance as of 1/8/2025 - 2065.97

Breakdown of Expenditures 2024 & Budget Proposal 2025 are attached.

Pastor's Report

We have now completed a full year utilizing First UCC as our base for weekend worship. I am pleased to tell you they have decided not to increase our rent for this coming year. We had 14 Active Contributors to the parish's financial stability. Sadly, that number may decrease this coming year as people move away from Orlando.

In total we have celebrated 75 Public Masses, 1 Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest, and 9 public Evening Prayers. We also celebrated 1 public funeral at the church. We celebrated 1 wedding in Key West. I have anointed 72 people for the Sacrament of the Sick.

We offered Breaking Open the Word weekly throughout the year.

Dennis will give you his report on the Crock Pot Ministry.

We conducted 7 Lenten Soup Suppers which raised funds for Rebecca's Pantry. We have conducted a monthly food donation program in support of the pantry as well as contributed cash to its operation. Several members have helped unpack pallets of food and distribute food through the Pantry.

We introduced Pinwheels for Peace in September. In October we celebrated Pride by manning a booth at Orlando's Come Out with Pride Festival. We collected eyeglasses in November for the visually impaired. Some of our parishioners have contributed items for sale in Joni's Treasure's Thrift Shop operated by First UCC.

I have included in the Central Florida Project as a member of the Clergy Division. In addition, I am now a member of the Interfaith Council for Central Florida and a member of the Affirming Pastors.

I want to thank everyone for their support of the parish and our ministry during 2024. I wish to acknowledge Gene Thompson II for his dedicated and selfless service in handling our technology issues and assisting with the bookkeeping for the parish. Klaus Stodtmann has also assisted in technical advice and baking the breads for our Eucharistic celebrations. We also acknowledge Dennis Last for his dedicated service to the ministry of Reader as well as the Crock Pot Ministry. I am also thankful for each of our financial benefactors who make it possible for us to carry God's love to the people of Central Florida and pay for the rent on this beautiful facility. Our thanks go out also to the good people of the First United Church of Christ for the greatly reduced rate they are renting their building to us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bishop William Cavins

Pastor

1/2/2025

Budget Proposal 2025

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed
Rent	\$3350.00	\$3150.00
Expense	\$1743.86	\$1000.00
Food Pantry		
/Nutrition	\$1345.48	\$1400.00
Liturgy	\$3614.78	\$750.00
Outreach	\$1123.81	\$1200.00
Education	\$194.03	\$200.00
Postage/Printing	\$1363.47	\$700.00
Contingency	\$0.00	\$500.00
Synod	\$0.00	\$500.00