

# MINISTRY OF PRAISE

St. Casimir Parish  
February, 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 those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.*** (February Papal intention)
- That as our nation celebrates Presidents Day, God will bless and protect our President and make us ever grateful for the liberty we enjoy.
- That leaders of nations will commit themselves to healing all divisions and to building a better world.
- That there is an end to all attacks on religious liberty, and for the protection of the right to practice religion in freedom.
- That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.
- 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 we accept the grace this week to see the presence of Jesus in all the circumstances and situations of life.
- That our Ministers of Praise be validated in their belief in the power of prayer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

AT ST. CASIMIR PARISH?

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> **First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, 8:00 – 9:00am in Church
- February 8<sup>th</sup> **Evening Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, 6:00 – 9:00pm
- February 19<sup>th</sup> **Parish Celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day**

SAINT FOR FEBRUARY

## SAINT PETER DAMIAN

Bishop and Doctor  
(1007 - 1072)

February 21<sup>st</sup>



***“Let us faithfully transmit to posterity the example of virtue which we have received from our forefathers.”***

(St. Peter Damian)

Peter was born in Ravenna, Italy. Orphaned at a young age, he was mistreated by the brother into whose charge he was placed. Fortunately, another brother, who was archpriest of Ravenna, rescued him and saw to his education. Peter became a teacher for a short time. He was ordained to the priesthood, and in 1035 entered the Benedictine monastery at Fonte Avellana.

Life at the monastery was strict and demanding. Peter was known for his fasting and acts of penance and for the long hours he spent in prayer. In 1043 he was elected abbot (prior) of the monastery. He began reorganizing the practices and rules of the order. Many were drawn to the monastery, and eventually Peter started five other monasteries.

In 1057 he was made cardinal and bishop of Ostia. He was called upon by the Church to settle disputes, attend synods, and fight abuses. Peter believed that in order to reform society, society's leaders must be reformed. He taught through the many letters, sermons, poems, stories, and biographies he wrote. He preferred examples and stories rather than theory in his writings. During his travels and diplomatic missions Peter remained a monk at heart. Drawn to prayer and solitude, he served the Church as best he could. Returning from what would be his last diplomatic assignment, Peter was overcome with a fever. He died on February 22, 1072 and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828.

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

#### Prayer As God's Gift

**#2559** “Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.” But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or “out of the depths” of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; *humility* is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that “we do not know how to pray as we ought,” are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. “Man is a beggar before God.”



**Blossius the Venerable**  
1506 - 1566

## Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross, and Follow Me

(Matthew 16:24)

Oh, when shall I perfectly die to myself and be free from all creatures? Oh, would that I were truly meek of heart and humble, truly poor and naked in spirit. Grant, O Lord, that by perfect self-denial, perfect mortification of my vices I may arrive at perfect love of you. You have commanded that I should love you: give what you command, and command what you please. Grant that I may love you with my whole heart, my whole mind, with all my powers, with my whole soul. Deign to heal and to reform the powers of my soul, broken and corrupted by sin, by the powers of your most holy soul. Free my soul from all distracting cares; strip from it the images and forms of perishable things. Grant me to dwell with you in the sanctuary of my soul; grant that by steadfast thought, clear knowledge, and fervent love I may always be able to flow into you.

**author: Blossius the Venerable (Father François-Louis de Blois),  
Abbot of the Benedictine Abbey of Liessies in France.)**

**Source: MAGNIFICAT, February, 2013, p. 194**

