



Scout Mass

Photos by Susan McKinney

Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies from St. John the Evangelist, Greece, are busy making plans for a special scout Mass which will take place Sunday, Feb. 6 at 9 a.m. Among those participating will be, left to right, David Pierce, Daniel Pierce, David Collins and Scott Reynolds.

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 5:1-11. (R1) Is. 6:1-8. (R2) 1 Cor. 15:1-11.

Next Sunday's readings center on vocation: the call of Isaiah (R1); the call of

Peter, James, and John (R3). In the second reading Paul tells us why God calls prophets and apostles: to preach the gospel.

Vocation is God calling man to a specific task. It implies both a revelation and a response.

God called Isaiah to proclaim His holiness to Israel. In the days of King Uzziah men had forgotten that God is holy — "wholly other." Uzziah dared one day to snatch the censer from the hand of the high priest and enter the Holy of Holies himself. He was struck with leprosy. Shortly after, God called Isaiah and allowed him a glimpse of His glory to fit him for his vocation. In that vision Isaiah saw his own sinfulness and would have despaired had not God taken the initiative and purified him. Purged, Isaiah offered himself to God and spent the rest of his life proclaiming the holiness of the Lord.

When God sent His Son to earth, He wished men to discover who Jesus really is and to follow Him. So one day Jesus lifted the veil a bit on His divinity. He said to Peter, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." "Well, of all things," Peter must have thought, "I'm the fisherman; He's only a carpenter. Doesn't He know that one doesn't fish in the daytime? Moreover we have just finished fishing all night and had caught nothing. It just doesn't make sense."

Yet Peter had faith, so he responded, "If you say so, I will lower the nets." The amazing catch that followed revealed something of Jesus. Like Isaiah in the presence of divinity, Peter cried out, "Leave me, Lord, I am a sinful man." But Jesus did not leave Peter; instead He said, "From now on you will be catching men." With that they left everything and became His followers.

God's call does not stop with prophets and apostles. It recurs day in and day out, like the rising of the sun. The preaching of the Gospel calls each of us to follow Jesus (R2). Following Jesus means building a strong attachment to Him and developing an intimate friendship with Him. When Isaiah responded to God's call, it meant God became the center of his life. For Peter, James and John it meant leaving everything and making Jesus the center of their lives.

The trouble with our responding to God's call is that too often we want ourselves to be the center. That is why God's revelation is needed: to help us see ourselves as we really are.



Father Fedor directing the adult choir during a rehearsal.

Four Choirs Active At Horseheads Parish

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Horseheads — Music at Sunday liturgies is not lacking at St. Mary our Mother. The parish has four active choirs, involving more than 110 persons. They cover the range of styles and ages: a Children's Choir, the Celebrate Life Singers, a teen-aged group, and the adult folk group and adult choir.

The four groups are not the only ones who sing, according to Father David Fedor, associate pastor, as the responses of the congregation often "match full organ," he said recently.

The music activities also extend beyond Sunday Mass. The adult choir gives concerts, and recently issued a record that has sold 125 copies. The Celebrate Life Singers give performances in nursing homes and for various groups. Their accomplishments include performances of "Superstar" and "Godspell." The adult folk group did a jazz Mass last October, which was "both musical and liturgical," Father Fedor commented.

Director of the adult choir, Father Fedor is not new to the musical side of liturgy. Known for his organ recitals, and, locally, for the organ he reconstructed in the rectory basement, he coordinated the music for last year's Christ Mass at St. Peter and Paul in Elmira.

Father Fedor noted that many factors contribute to the participation of both the congregation and those in the groups. He credits his predecessor, Father Thomas Nellis, as having done much to teach the parishioners the value of singing for liturgy, and how to sing. He also emphasizes the contribution of Father Bartholomew O'Brien, pastor, who has set a "priority on liturgy," Father Fedor explains.

Other factors concerning the make up of the suburban, mobile parish also are important, he added. He noted that possibly the Church becomes an immediate home for people just settling in a new community, increasing their involvement.

The Celebrate Life Singers is the parish's oldest group, having been formed nine years ago. Father Fedor said that the group "has done more for teenagers than any other organization in this parish." In addition to their musical activities, group members also have an annual retreat.

The adult choir was formed five years ago, and

the adult folk group was begun in October, 1974, Father Fedor said. The Children's Choir was added a year later.

Obviously, Father Fedor feels that music is an important part of liturgy. "We're heady people," he explains, involved with facts and figures much of the time. "But as human beings we are much more than that," he said. "Liturgy speaks to the whole person, including the emotional side."

The arts have always been used to "speak the unspeakable," he continued, and the music in liturgy can express "some things that mere words cannot express very well." It is "very proper," he said, "that music and the arts play an important role in liturgy."

Carillons To Honor Fr. Cloonan

Savannah — An enthusiastic group from St. Patrick's parish here responded to a meeting called by the parish Advisory Committee and voted unanimously to purchase carillons for the church in memoriam to Father John L. Cloonan.

A goal of \$2,000 was set for the project and a committee was set up with Joseph Kolczynski chairman; Yolanda Lambert and Shirley Thurston.

Harry Lambert, advisory board chairman, anticipates that the carillons will be installed by Easter Sunday. A dedication date has not been established.

Business in the Diocese

Ronald Schoeneberger, national credit manager at R.F. Communications, has been named chairman of the St. John Fisher College alumni fund drive. He was graduated from Fisher with the pioneer class of 1955, and received a J.D. degree from Georgetown Law School three years later. He lives in Irondequoit.

Russell J. Torregiano of Avon, formerly of Marine Midland Bank, has been elected an assistant vice president of Security Trust Company and manager of the bank's Mt. Morris office. He is active in St. Agnes Parish.

Insights into Liturgy

By FATHER BENEDICT EHMANN

liturgy. Let's look at some of its treasures.

EPIPHANY — The zenith of the Christmas time — has happily in these recent years come into bright focus by being placed now on a Sunday, the Sunday closest to Jan. 6, the fixed date when it always used to be celebrated. Formerly, the feast fell most times on a weekday, and only a small cluster of people was on hand to solemnize it. Now 50 times more people on Sunday are gathered into its bright radiance and joy.

CANDLEMAS — The farewell solemnity of the Christmas time — is still fixed to Feb. 2, and no arrangement is called for on the calendar allowing it to be celebrated on the nearest Sunday. So it can come and go each year with only a few of God's people even noticing it. And that's a pity. For **Candlemas** is rich with thoughts and graces of Jesus' Nativity.

Candlemas used to be called the **Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. This was a rather unhappy and even misleading title. The Church has discarded it on the new calendar. It is now called the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**.

It is the 40th day after Christmas. When Jesus was 40 days old, his parents obeyed the Mosaic requirement to present the "firstborn" to the Lord God in the Temple, and to "redeem" him (buy him back) with an offering of two doves. Had they been more affluent, they would have had to offer a lamb. The whole incident is recorded in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2. You are invited to read it.

For its celebration the Church has a very beautiful

In her Office of Evening Prayer the Church sings: "This day the Blessed Virgin Mary presented the Child Jesus in the Temple. Simeon, filled with the Holy Spirit, received him into his arms and blessed God." Because Simeon carried the child Jesus and called him the Light which was to shine for all the people, the liturgy of the feast calls for the people to carry blessed lighted candles processionaly into the church for the Eucharist. From this it is clear why the feast has long been known as **Candlemas Day**.

The liturgy makes much of the fact that this was the first time that the Infant Lord was present in the Temple. The Church sees in this how the Lord and his people meet one another, since the Temple is the symbol of God's People. She prays, "O Lord Jesus, you appeared among men in the substance of our flesh and were presented in the Temple by your parents. Simeon, that venerable old man, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, recognized you, received you and blessed you. So we ask that we may be enlightened and trained by the same Spirit to recognize you really and truly and to love you faithfully."

The Church invites us to meditate on the following symbols and contrasts in the scene of the Presentation:

1. The sinless Jesus and Mary are above the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law, but they submit obediently to them.
2. The Infant Jesus is "presented", offered to his Father as the "firstborn". Simeon prophesies how his destiny will make him a "sign that will be contradicted" even to the point

of death, "death upon a cross." The Presentation is the first step of that offering which was to prevail throughout the Lord's life until the consummation of Calvary.

3. The Divine Redeemer becomes the "redeemed" by the offering of the two doves. Mary and Joseph are too poor to offer the customary lamb, but they have a better lamb to offer, the "Lamb of God."

4. The ancient Simeon carries the little Child. But the Child is his God who carries and sustains him.

5. In Simeon the Old Testament may be seen, its long waiting now fulfilled, its Messiah now in its arms, its surrender to the beginning of the New Testament: "Now, Lord, dismiss your servant in peace, for my eyes have seen the salvation you have promised." In the twilight of the Old Testament, the light is already shining. Simeon sees it in the Divine Child he holds. It is sunset for the Old Testament, sunrise for the New.

In the Office of Readings for this Feast, the Church gives us a beautiful page from one of the sermons of a 7th Century patriarch of Jerusalem, St. Sophronius: "Let us all hasten to meet Jesus. Since we have faith in the mystery, let us go eagerly. Let no one absent himself, no one fail to carry a light. We add the small radiance of our candles to show the divine splendor of him who comes to make all things resplendent; for it is he who expels the darkness with his own glorious, eternal light. We carry burning candles to manifest the inner radiance which must be ours as we meet Christ. Each year we celebrate this mystery. Never shall we let its remembrance slip away."

COURIER-CALENDAR

Catholic Mission Guild — Regular meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, K of C, Thurston Road at Brooks.

St. Thomas More Club — Disco dance for singles 18-35, 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, Wishing Well, 1190 Chili. Club information: 482-9961, or Box 1041, Rochester 14601.

St. Philip Neri — Italian buffet and dance, sponsored by Women's Club, 8 p.m. Feb. 26, parish hall. Reservations, limited to 200, with Gina Morreale, 288-8148; Lorraine DeNunzio, 544-8314; rectory, 482-2400.

Holy Family — Rosary Society, 8 p.m. Feb. 9, David Murante of Public Defender's Office guest speaker, Mrs. Joseph Vatter hostess. Church services 7:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory-St. Joseph's — Archconfraternity of the Holy Family. Mass and breakfast Feb. 6.

Children's Theatre — Tic-Tac Players in The Great Cross Country Race, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 5 and 12, Nazareth Arts.

Luncheon Theatre — Happy Moments in Mine (Bob Berkly of the Mine Workshop) 12:15 p.m. Feb. 8-11 and 15-18, Geva Theatre, 168 S. Clinton.

Geva Evenings — The Birthday Party, by Harold Pinter, Feb. 26 and 9-11, 8 p.m. curtain except Sundays, 4 p.m.

Classic Film Series — A Star is Born, Janet Gaynor 1937 film, 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow, Rochester Museum.

Time-Life Series — The Wizard Who Spat on the Floor, a study of Thomas Alva Edison. Discussion follows film, Feb. 6, 2 p.m., Rochester Museum.

Star Theatre — Sunward! at Strasburgh Planetarium, Monday-Friday 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1:30, 3:45 and 8, through April 17. Reservations, 271-4320 244-6060, ext. 56.

Gallery Concert — Thomas Lymenstull, piano, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, Memorial Art Gallery.

Eastman School Concerts — Wind Ensemble, with Helen Boatwright, soprano, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, School Symphony, 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7. Both free at Eastman Theatre.

Kilbourn Series — Guitarist Gene Bertoni with Mike Moore on bass playing contemporary jazz, improvisations, old favorites, 8 p.m. Feb. 8, Kilbourn Hall.

Forum on Justice — Death Penalty series opens Feb. 9 with presentation on legal background by Robert Feldman and Norman Palmiere, 12:15 p.m. at 101 S. Plymouth.

Series on Prisons — Overview of Present Penal System, by Dorothy Wadsworth of State Correction Commission, 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, at Jewish Community Center, 12001 digwood.