

Parents: begin weekly lessons for your child at appropriate age level, other material available
Presentation of the Lord – February 2, 2025 When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, they offered a sacrificial gift “in accord with the dictate in the law of the Lord.” An offering of a specific size or kind is not “dictated” when we bring our gifts to the altar at Mass. Is my gift reflective of the many blessings I’ve received?

Week of January 19

Monday 8:00am Piedmont
Tuesday: 8:00am Piedmont
Wednesday 6:00pm Piedmont,
Thursday: 8:00am Piedmont
5:15pm Van Buren
Friday: 8:00am Piedmont
Saturday 4:30pm Williamsville/
Sunday 8:30am Van Buren Parish Family
11:00am Piedmont

all Piedmont masses are live streamed on Facebook: daniel hirtz

Tues. 6:00pm Holy Hour and Confessions Piedmont

Thurs. 6:00pm Adult Enrichment Van Buren

Sun. 6:00pm Adult Enrichment Piedmont

Confessions by appointment and ½ hr. before mass

Outreach for Dec. / Rent 301.00 1 fam. / Utilities 2531.00 25 fam. / Gas 63 1575.00

DEATH, really? They say there are only two things we know for sure, death and taxes. Every once in a while I hear someone say 'If I die.' sorry, it's not if; but when. As a Christian I find it interesting that when speaking about death with others they will most often say they are not afraid of death but how it comes about. As such we probably think we would rather die in our sleep than from a long, slow, cancer process. No matter how well we live we will probably have little control how much suffering may come physically or emotionally. When I think of the lives of the martyrs I am enamored at how 11 of the apostles, like Jesus, died for truth, Jesus' death and resurrection. They would not have died if it were a lie. I think of others who suffered a great deal and some who died swiftly, like St. Paul getting his head cut off or St. Sebastian who was shot with arrows. They died for truth; Jesus is the way the truth and the life. Still others died for someone, like St. Maximillion Kolbe, who exchanged his life for another and was consequently starved to death in a Nazi death camp, then finally given a death shot. Or I think of St. Gemma, a doctor who had cancer and was pregnant. She chose death that her child might survive knowing the cancer treatment would kill the child. It makes me think: if death is inevitable; and I can't control how it will come, then why wouldn't I choose being able to die for someone else when Jesus says there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend. I recently watched a Netflix movie, 'all the light that is unseen' in which the one Nazi leader would consistently use the fear of death as a way of getting what he wanted. He would say something like 'I'll give you 30 seconds to give me what I want or I will kill you. Sure enough the other person was not able to and was shot. In the next scene he tells a man I'm going to kill every member of your family if you don't give me what I want in 30 minutes. After 20 minutes the man spills the beans knowing others will die but then he himself is killed, and of course, his whole family. In the next face-off the Nazi again tries to get this man to reveal where his daughter is in so many minutes or else. When that didn't work he begins torturing him before he finally kills him. But that man's daughter was saved. In the next scene that same girl's uncle is put in a situation where he feels compelled to protect an enemy from his own resistance party and is killed in the process. He says 'I would rather die a happy tiger than an imprisoned tiger. When one goes to war they are a hero whether they save 100 lives, or only 1. The big thing is: why would anyone, knowing they are going to die at some point anyway, not want to give their life for another. Whether protecting one in the womb or a hundred years old we are called to lay down our life the the other. Ultimately I may judged on 'he who holds on to his life will lose it' or 'no greater love than to lay down one's life.'"