

# THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

(followed by Novena to St. Anthony)

5:00 pm

+ John Vincente

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:00 am

+ Vicente Moniz

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

5:00 pm

(followed by Miraculous Medal Novena)

+ Agostino Indaco

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:00 am (8:30 - 9:30 am adoration & recitation of Divine Mercy Novena)

+ Holy Souls in Purgatory

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

5:00 pm

+ Elmer & Bella Cortes

+ Maria Sousa

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:00 am

+ Emilia & Antonio Figueiredo

11:00 am

Mass for the People - *pro populo*

### 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2022 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the narthex (including EFT consolidated boxes). Please, please, please be sure to take yours home with you after Mass today. Many thanks!

## OFFERTORY

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Envelope Contributions	\$2,690.80
Loose Collection	\$ 176.10
EFT Donations	\$1,148.00
Total Collection – Thank you	\$4,014.90



If you are visiting today,

**St. Patrick's Parish welcomes you.**

### FR. JOE IS BACK!

Fr. Joe is back and would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his travels. *Nanri!*

### CCFOWR

The Catholic Community Foundation of Waterloo Region invites you to join in on a virtual event – “Tech Meets Parenting: A Balancing Act” on Thursday February 24th from 7:00pm-8:00pm. This family-focused event will explore our relationship with technology. We will discuss the importance of and tactics around being a good role model and setting boundaries at all ages. Space is limited, register today! <https://www.ccfowr.org/speaker-series>

### CAN YOU HELP?

The liturgical seasons, particularly Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, provide opportunities to enhance our worship space by the use of banners, flowers and other seasonal arrangements. If you have a flair for decorating, we encourage you to assist in this ministry. The time commitment is several hours per season. Please contact Dawn Wylie at 519-740-8865. Many thanks.

## DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday	Rev. Msgr. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.
Tuesday	Rev. Pierre Caouette, L.C.
Wednesday	Discalced Carmelite Sisters (O.C.D.)
Thursday	Rev. Louis DeVaugelas, L.C.
Friday	Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C.
Saturday	Rev. Adam Zettel, L.C.

### HEARING THE CALL TO A VOCATION TO SERVE THE CHURCH?

Contact Bishop Lobsinger at: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

FEBRUARY 19 & 20

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Lectors</b>	M. Henry	A. Sousa	C. Terpstra
<b>Communion</b>	P. Cooper L. Henry	B. Sousa J. Streppel	B. O'Brien R. O'Brien

# FEBRUARY 13, 2022

## FEBRUARY 14 IS AN INTERESTING DAY FOR CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS

We live in the midst of a secular culture that celebrates Valentine's Day, which supposedly marks the joy of romantic love in our lives. However, the Catholic faith prescribes that we celebrate the Memorial of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, a monk and a bishop whose lives did not include romance as we think of it.

So, who and what are we called to celebrate on February 14 each year?

Let's begin by examining what little is known about the life of St. Valentine, the namesake of Valentine's Day. St. Valentine of Rome lived and ministered as a priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius, in the early 200s. Claudius began to understand that single soldiers fought more vigorously and valiantly than married soldiers, that is, they were willing to die more readily for the Empire. So, he made it illegal for young men to get married. In direct violation of the Emperor's edict, Valentine performed clandestine marriage rites for the young couples. That's how he came to be a patron of young lovers. For these illegal, but Christ-centered acts, Valentine was martyred in about the year A.D. 269.

Within a few generations, the Catholic Church began to establish her liturgical calendar, celebrating feast days of certain saints. It is possible that February 14 was chosen as St. Valentine's memorial to supersede the pagan love festival of Lupercalia, which was, more or less, a city-wide orgy coupled with animal sacrifice. Obviously, that festival was antithetical to the Christian understanding of love, marriage, and sex.

Take note, though, that St. Valentine was not simply a patron of *romance* in the way we think of it today. He was committed to uniting young men and women in the Christian understanding of marriage: one man and one woman, until death do they part. He was a priest of the Catholic Church, and he was martyred for his faith in the Lord, and for his commitment to Christian love and marriage. Even if we are to celebrate St. Valentine, we should do so from this angle.

In 1969, as one of the effects of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church implemented an update liturgical calendar. The new calendar removed the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day because there was so little that could be accurately known about his life (although still celebrated in the Extraordinary Form). In its place on that day, the Church began celebrating the Memorial of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the apostles to the Slavic peoples of Europe.

Cyril and Methodius were brothers born in the 820s in Thessalonica, a city in Macedonia on the Greek peninsula (the same city to which St. Paul wrote two of his New Testament letters). These brothers took up the call to go and evangelize an eastern European culture that did not yet know the Gospel. They traveled to Khazaria (what is roughly the Ukraine, today), lived in a monastery, learned the native language, and brought many of these people to conversion by their dedication and charity.

After years on that mission, they were called to Moravia, in central Europe. To find success in their new mission, Cyril developed an entirely new alphabet by which they could translate the Bible and other liturgical texts for the people to understand. (This was the precursor of the modern Cyrillic alphabets, including Russian.) During these years, the brothers worked diligently to allow people to read sacred texts and worship in their vernacular language. They did so in the face of opposition from bishops in the Holy Roman Empire who wanted to allow only the use of Latin for purposes of Church mission and ministry.

Cyril, the younger brother, died on February 14, 869, just 50 days after entering a cloistered monastery. The words of his dying prayer give us an indication of his heart for mission. To the Lord, he prayed, "Inspire the hearts of your people with your word and your teaching. You called us to preach the Gospel of your Christ and to encourage them to lives and works pleasing to you. I now return to you, your people, your gift to me." This reveals that his whole mission was to bring people into transformative relationship with God; and Cyril knew that he played only one small part.

Cyril's dying wish was that his brother would continue the missionary work they had begun. Shortly after his brother's death, Methodius was appointed and ordained a bishop. This allowed him to continue the mission of evangelizing the Slavs, despite opposition from bishops within the Empire. His efforts were interrupted by three years in prison when those bishops made him a political enemy of the Empire. Despite such obstacles, Methodius succeeded in translating most of the Bible, and other important religious texts, into the Slavonic language. Again, the guiding vision of mission prevailed.

What, then, do we learn from the lives and works of these three men whom we celebrate on February 14? Regardless of whether we prefer to celebrate St. Valentine or Sts. Cyril and Methodius, it is most appropriate and fruitful for us to celebrate *agapé* love, the charity that it takes to lay down one's life for the good of another. And, we celebrate mission, the tireless efforts of men and women to bring that love to individuals and societies who do not already know. See, mission is the expression of love, and *agapé* is the essence of mission. All three of these men went on mission because they were driven by *agapé* for others.

On this February 14, let's celebrate nothing other than *agapé* (charitable love) and zeal for mission. That is the way that we will change the world! *Sts. Valentine, Cyril, and Methodius, pray for us!* <https://catholicexchange.com/who-what-do-catholics-celebrate-on-february-14/>

"Darkness...

cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.