

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### Alex Jeffrey Pretti

by Amanda Gorman

***We wake with no words, just woe and wound. Our own country shooting us in the back is not just brutality; it's jarring betrayal; not enforcement, but execution. A message: Love your people and you will die. Yet our greatest threat isn't the outsiders among us, but those among us who never look within. Fear not the those without papers, but those without conscience. Know that to care intensively, united, is to carry both pain-dark horror for today and a profound, daring hope for tomorrow. We can feel we have nothing to give, and still belove this world waiting, trembling to change. If we cannot find words, may we find the will; if we ever lose hope, may we never lose hope, may we never lose our humanity. The only undying thing is mercy, the courage to open ourselves like doors, hug our neighbor, and save one more bright, impossible life.***

**AJP**

## MISSION OF THE PARISH

We are a welcoming Catholic Parish  
Embracing its African American culture,  
Empowering its members  
And sharing its love of Christ  
Through service to the community.

**FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

**10932 ST. CLAIR AVENUE  
CLEVELAND, OH 44108-1939**

Parish House: 216-451-3262 • Fax: 216-268-3830

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (weekdays)

Project H.O.P.E.: 216-391-7557

Parish Hall: 216-451-5908

*Please call Parish House to include prayer intentions or announcements in Sunday Liturgy*

**St. Aloysius—St Agatha School**

640 Lakeview Road • Cleveland, Ohio 44108

Phone: 216-451-2050 • Fax: 216-541-1601

Monday thru Friday: 7:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**St. Aloysius Preschool**

Phone: 216-451-4144

### Pastoral Staff

Sr Mary Jean Raymond OSU..... Parish Life Coordinator  
Fr. Daniel Schlegel.....Presbyteral Moderator  
Mrs. Nancy Lynch.....St. Aloysius School Principal  
Ms. Carol Bunn.....Hunger Center Director  
Ms. Kim James.....Preschool Director

### Parish Leadership

Gregory Clifford.....Pastoral Council  
Joe Harbert.....Finance Council  
Belinda Sims.....Liturgy-Spiritual Life Committee  
Carol Bunn.....St. Vincent dePaul Society  
Marguerite Strickland.....Choir Representative  
Chris Sledge.....Men's Club President  
Beverly Berry.....Evangelization Committee

### Community Services

Project Hope.....Andrea Wasdovich-Duffner  
Connecting Seniors to Services.....Carol Bunn

### Eucharistic Celebration

Sunday Mass:.....10:00 a.m.

**Reconciliation:** Before Sunday Mass or by appt.

**Marriages:** Arrangements made at the Parish House at least 6 months prior to the date of the wedding.

**Baptisms:** Contact the Parish House.

**First Communion, First Reconciliation:** Contact the Parish House.

**Anointing of the sick and Hospital Visits:** Contact the Parish House.

**Funerals:** All arrangements must be made at the Parish House before publication in Newspapers.

**Registration:** Everyone should be properly registered in the Parish. New parishioners should contact the Parish House. Those moving in or out of the Parish are asked to notify the Parish House.



# THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



## *Sr. Mary Jean's Column* **Catholics must decide if they serve Donald Trump or the Gospel**

This story appears in the Immigration Protests in Minneapolis and Immigration and the Church feature series.

A rosary hangs from a cross at a makeshift memorial in Minneapolis Jan 25, 2026, at the site where Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse, was fatally shot by federal agents Jan. 24. (OSV News/Reuters/Tim Evans)

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus famously proclaimed, "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other."

As the country continues to reel from the fallout over the shooting of Alex Pretti, Catholics are making it clear who they are choosing to serve. It isn't always Jesus.

After Pretti, an intensive care unit nurse at a Veterans Affairs hospital, was killed by a federal law enforcement officer in front of multiple eyewitnesses in Minneapolis Jan. 24, the Trump administration was quick to politicize his death.

Vice President JD Vance reposted Stephen Miller, who on X called Pretti an "assassin" who "tried to murder federal agents" - a statement that is not supported by any evidence. Vance then shared President Donald Trump's lengthy and borderline incomprehensible justification of the shooting.

Once again, Vance had the opportunity to call for peace and unity—to lower the temperature of the situation and express empathy with those suffering and mourning. Vance, fresh off a speech at the March for Life, could have leaned into his supposed pro-life beliefs and called for respect for human life at every stage. In fact, that would have been the Catholic response—that's how the bishops themselves responded in their statement.

As a Catholic, Vance could have chosen to share the Gospel message of healing and human dignity. Instead, he chose to offer the MAGA message of division and blame.

"This level of engineered chaos is unique to Minneapolis. It is the direct consequence of far left agitators, working with local authorities," he wrote on Jan. 24.

Yesterday, he doubled down, sharing an apocryphal story of immigration agents being doxed and thrown out of a restaurant in Minneapolis before offering his analysis.

*continue*

## **MINISTERS - February 1, 2026**

LECTORS	
Mary McCombs	Trewery Ford
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	
Belinda Sims	Walter Morris
Greg Clifford	David Woody
SUNDAY COUNTERS	
Greg Clifford	Paul Martin
Joe Harbert	

## **MASS INTENTIONS - JAN 25-FEB 1, 2026**

Feb 1	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Richard & Rosemary McKeon
Feb 3	Tuesday 11:30 a.m.	St. Aloysius & St. Raphael Parishes
Feb 8	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Somrak Family

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Sharon Alexander, Eben Anderson, Jr., Denise Brewster, Henritta Broadus, Lois Bunker, Greg Clifford, Angela Comedy, Jerri Evans, Joe Fears, Miles Frierson, Irene Gantt, Victoria Harden, Jamar Harland, Kellen Harland, Jemaine Harland, Keli Harland, Madelyn Harland, Deborah Howard, Eugene Jones, Marlene Jones, Paulette Jones, Rosetta Mackey, Mary McCombs, Deborah McIntyre, Yvonne Nettles, Toni E. Payne, Trudy Payne, Jaxon Peck, Jordyn Peck, Clarice, Barbara Williams, Ann White, Vermonte Wright

## **HOMEBOUND & NURSING HOMES**

Marilyn Anthony, Margaret Atwell, Barbara Bridges, Evelyn Davis, Vyrdy Hopes, Paulette Jones, Everette Matlock, Sr., Mary Ann Melton, Jackie Reese, Etta Reynolds, Vivian Watkins, Lavonia Williams

## **Continued**

"This is just a taste of what's happening in Minneapolis because state and local officials refuse to cooperate with immigration enforcement. They have created the chaos so they can have moments like yesterday, where someone tragically dies and politicians get to grandstand about the evils of enforcing the border.

"The solution is staring everyone in the face. I hope authorities in Minneapolis stop this madness," Vance offered, ominously.

Vance's comments are once again a moral stain on our collective witness of Catholicism—but they are no longer surprising. Given its scandal, the vice president's cafeteria Catholicism must continue to be repudiated by people of faith.

Unfortunately, Vance is not the only Catholic who has chosen MAGA over Jesus.

*continue on insert*



# FEBRUARY 1, 2026

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sunday	Feb 1	10:00 a.m. - Mass
Monday	Feb 2	
Tuesday	Feb 3	11:30 a.m. - Mass Community Meal
Wednesday	Feb 4	
Thursday	Feb 5	
Friday	Feb 6	
Saturday	Feb 7	Revival Zoom Meeting
Sunday	Feb 8	10:00 a.m. - Mass
Monday	Feb 9	
Tuesday	Feb 10	11:30 a.m. Mass

### Save the Dates

**Diocesan Revival** - This year we will host the revival on **February 18, 19, 20**. You will be hearing more from the committee soon. Many volunteers will be needed to help make this a wonderful experience for everyone who attends.

**Funeral Mass for Cezanne Whittington** - The family has requested that the date be changed to Saturday, **March 7, 2026**. As of right now, the funeral will be at 10:00 a.m. with a repast afterwards in the parish center.

### COLLECTION SUMMARY 1/26/26

~~-NO COLLETION DUE TO WEATHER-~~

\$.00 - Offertory  
\$.00 - Renovations  
\$.00 - Special Collections  
\$83,200.00 - Collection Annual Target (till 6/30/26)  
\$68,968.85 - Collections Year to Date

Another way to donate to the collection - go to:

[saintalloysiuscleveland.com](http://saintalloysiuscleveland.com)

St. Aloysius Online Contribution  
Click to make online giving

Online payment  
Custom Amount



Scan to Pay

## PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Take advantage of the simple convenience of safe, automatic, regularly scheduled contributions (or one-time gifts for special collections).

## SUNDAY READINGS

**1st Reading - Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13**  
*True strength is found in seeking the Lord with humility and righteousness.*

**2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**  
*God chooses the foolish and weak to shame the wise, so that all glory belongs to Him.*

**Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12a**  
*The Beatitudes are a blueprint for finding true joy and holiness through humble living.*

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURES

Mon Feb 2 - Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40 (or Luke 2:22-32)  
Tue Feb 3 - 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3;  
Mark 5:21-43  
Wed Feb 4 - 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6  
Thu Feb 5 - 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13  
Fri Feb 6 - Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29  
Sat Feb 7 - 1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34

## SAINT DOMINIC COMMUNITY DINNER & DIALOGUE

### Thea Bowman: Embracing the Diversity of the Catholic Church

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL CAFETERIA

You are encouraged to attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass prior to the event.



The evening will include a light supper, a brief presentation about the life of Thea Bowman, and time for small group reflection facilitated by members of the Racial Equity Task Force. Sister Thea Bowman lived with faith, joy, and perseverance. She left an enduring mark on the Catholic community, and Sister Thea Bowman's cause for sainthood is currently underway.



Please watch the documentary *Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood* prior to the event.

Register via the QR code or call the rectory at 216-991-1444.





Continued from the bulletin 2/1/26

## ***Catholics must decide if they serve Donald Trump or the Gospel***

This story appears in the Immigration Protests in Minneapolis and Immigration and the Church feature series.

Political agitator and Catholic Matt Walsh posted a barrage of profanity-laced comments to his X account, blaming Pretti's killing on "leftists" and calling for the protesters to be treated as "violent insurrectionists."

Meg Hunter-Kilmer, also a writer and Catholic speaker, has been powerfully outspoken in her condemnation of ICE actions with her thoughtful commentary and prayerful spirit.

Dawn Eden Goldstein posted a video reflecting on Pretti's life, calling him a "martyr of charity" and shedding light on his Catholic background.

These Catholics, and so many others, chose Jesus.

In the days and weeks ahead, we will learn more about Pretti's shooting. We will hear from celebrities, athletes, content creators and average Joes as they weigh in one way crushed in the arrest and thrown in the Gulag. They are criminals and it is time to start treating them as such," while repeating, "NO MORE MERCY."

A Catholic priest online advocating against mercy. Jesus wept.

Those Catholics have made their choice – they serve Trump. But as bleak and horrifying as the situation might be, my social media feed was full of Catholics unequivocally condemning the administration's brutality. Those reluctant to speak out became empowered. Those who had already been speaking out became emboldened.

Chris Damian, a Catholic writer on the ground in Minneapolis, has been posting hopeful and helpful messages detailing recent happenings in the Twin Cities and amplifying voices of protest and prayer.

Jesuit Fr. James Martin shared a simple but prophetic message on his social media honoring Pretti and Renee Gold – killed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer Jan. 7 – as "Children of God."

It is time for Catholics to choose who our master is. Do we serve Donald Trump? Or do we serve Jesus? Only one of them leads to salvation. We should choose wisely.





# COLLABORATIVE REVIVAL

## Rooted in Faith. Rising in Hope

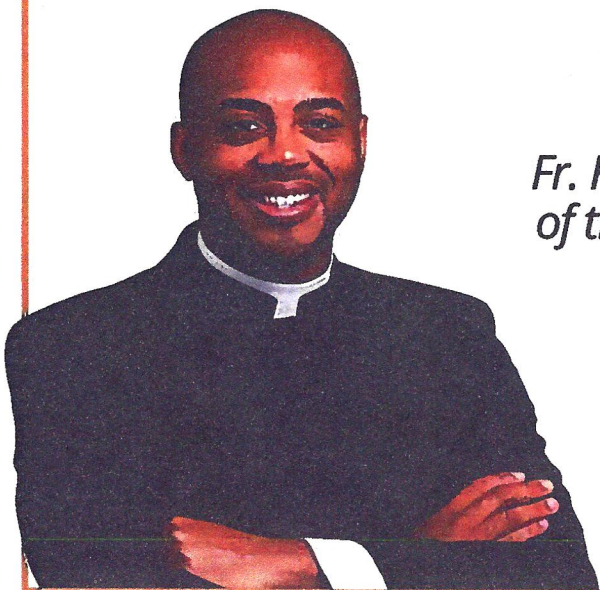
**February 18-20, 2026**

**7:00PM** each night

**St. Aloysius Church 10932 St. Clair Ave. Cleveland**

*with special guest:*  
**Fr. Kareem Smith**

*Fr. Kareem serves as the Pastor of the Church  
of the Blessed Sacrament in New Rochelle, NY*



**SCAN the QR code  
to support activities for  
Black Catholic youth in  
the Diocese of Cleveland!**

