



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XXVI No. 6 Issue #306

Monthly newsletter of Saint Joseph Seminary

February, 2025

**J**anuary has been quite a busy month. In the early days of the month, we celebrated the great feast of Epiphany. According to the beautiful rite of the Church, we had the blessing of Epiphany water on the day preceding the feast and the blessing of gold, frankincense, myrrh, and chalk on the feast itself. Following tradition, we had our Epiphany gift exchange that week with all the priests, religious, and minor seminarians participating.

Aside from a few delays for returning seminarians, the weather has been most agreeable. It snowed in the early part of the month, but not too much, and just enough for sledding and the skiing trip we took at the end of the second quarter. Now the weather has improved, and we have visited the park for soccer and football.

School is now in full swing. Finals week for the second quarter was packed with events. Priest meetings went on for three days, depriving us of our three priests and Frater Martin. On Wednesday, the priests and His Excellency came to the seminary for dinner. The dinner and company were the best. All the priests left too soon, but we fortunately saw Fr. Philip Marie and Fr. Augustine Marie on Friday of that week, because they came with us on the skiing trip. Some of the priests, religious, and seminarians have been ill during this time, but all have recovered.

As we look to the coming month of February, we ready our voices for the feast of the Purification or Candlemas and the end of the Christmas time. Our ornaments will be taken down following Candlemas, and Septuagesima Sunday will bring in the first of the liturgical aspects of Lent, as we prepare for the ceremonies and chanting of Ash Wednesday. Our academic studies will continue throughout the coming month in a wonderfully regular and clockwork style. We hope that you all have a holy month of February.

## February Calendar

- 2 – Purification BVM feastday and Candlemas ceremonies
- 7 – Leo's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 11 – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 21 – Mid-quarter
- 22 – Parish Talent Show
- 24-25 – Annual Stanford Tests
- 27 – Father Gabriel's feastday



*The visiting bishop and priests pose for a group picture with the seminarians.*

## Our Day with the Priests

*by Henry Harris, gr. 11*

**O**ne of the first things that we look forward to after Christmas break is the dinner with all of the CMRI priest at the seminary. This is a great chance for all of us minor seminarians to introduce ourselves to the religious priests that we have never met before. After we said our daily rosary, we joined in

with the priests to pray the hour of Vespers. Following this, we hosted the dinner. We were able to sit next to any of the priests during the dinner. If you were lucky, the bishop might have even sat at your table. Once the meal was over, we got to play board games with them, which is always an enjoyable experience. It is especially fun to play with Fr. Augustine, who is a board game fanatic. After having a

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great time indoors, we went to the gym, where we played hockey and soccer.

Even though we had school the next day, the seminarians stayed enthusiastic and were full of anticipation, for we were going to go skiing later in the week with Fr. Philip, Fr. Gabriel, and Fr. Augustine. This ski trip is generally the most enjoyable part of the meetings, because it gives us another chance to spend time with the priests, as well as to have a blast skiing. The priests' dinner is always the first highlight of the new year, and it is a great opportunity for us minor seminarians to become more acquainted with our heroic religious priests. We all are very thankful that the priests can take time out of their day to play some games with us, and we are looking forward to next year.

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

by Alexei Ibanez, gr. 10

**O**ur Lady is truly our greatest helper. She is always there for us and always makes sure to comfort us in our darkest hours. The meek and humble of heart are her favorite type of people, since these people cherish her Son more than others. So it was fitting that she appeared to a humble peasant girl named Bernadette. She appeared multiple times to the small French girl and told her many things concerning her Immaculate Conception and the way to convert sinners. This should be an example to us; we should all strive to be more like St. Bernadette and Our Lady in our everyday lives. If we follow their way of living we can attain heaven and convert others along the way.

Putting their way of life into ours can at first seem tricky and difficult, even though there are many remedies that help us to attain this way of life, such as the sacraments and prayer. Prayer to Our Lady is one of the most important and most effective way of getting to know God and to live a holier life. She wants to support us and help us in every way possible, but we have to allow her to do this.

It is also important that when praying we do not forget her, since she never forgets us. Growing close to Our Lady is one of the surest means of attaining heaven and growing closer to God. If we cultivate this relationship and pray to her every day, we can live a life like St. Berna-

dette. Then you will see it is not as difficult as it seems.

So let us all strive to attain heaven, our true home. It is in this place that we will see our heavenly mother and have perfect happiness. A crown waits for us there and Our Lady wishes so much to place it upon our head and to share in her Son's triumph. So let us not disappoint her and let us also ask her to help us on this weary road to heaven.

**Four More Months**

by Anthony Strain, gr. 12

**E**verybody admires a beautiful statue. Currently at the seminary the seniors, with the help of Brother Simon, are making crucifixes, in an effort to raise money for our senior trip. Brother Simon got a silicon-like material for the purpose of making molds of a crucifix, and he tasked me with making the box to pour the mold. Considering what we have done so far, we may be able to get one corpus poured and painted within a week. Hopefully between making crucifixes, the online "go-fund me" (which you can access from the Seminary website), and the meal we are planning to do sometime this month, we will be able to raise enough money to go to Rome in March, to visit its many beautiful churches and basilicas.

These last four months of school are probably going to be some of the hardest months of this school year for the seniors here. On top of making crucifixes, food, and other daily chores, we seniors have a senior project to work on. This senior project consists of making an oral presentation that is 15-20 minutes long, accompanied by a power point presentation, as well as a written research paper. For the research paper we need to have an outline, a rough draft, and a final draft of approximately five thousand words. In some states a senior project is not required but in others, such as Idaho, the senior project is a graduation requirement. Please keep us in your prayers, as we keep busy with the remaining requirements for this school year.



*In our parish we have a custom of three boys, dressed up as the Magi, presenting gifts before Mass on the feast of the Epiphany.*

Would you like to support the Seniors this year on their endeavor to travel to Europe?

Scan the QR code or follow this link:  
[gofund.me/e13951c2](https://gofund.me/e13951c2)





*The seminarians enjoyed a ski day at Lookout Pass in mid-January.*



*Winter weather does not stop the men from working on the new convent.*



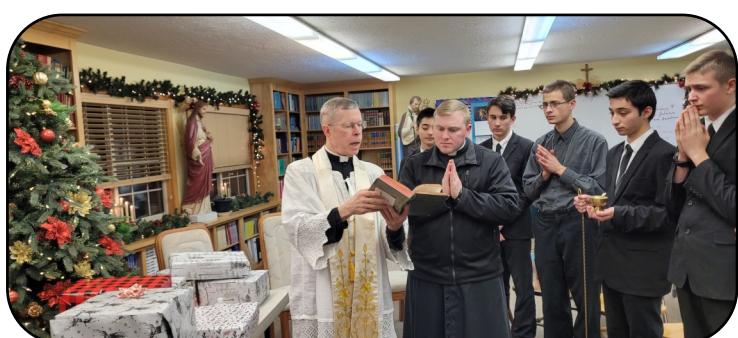
*During the Christmas Octave there is a blessing for children in our parish.*



*Sometimes grade-school boys join the seminarians in singing the High Masses.*



*“Street” hockey is a popular sport, whether indoors or out.*



*Before opening the gifts, we had the blessing of the home for the Epiphany.*



*When the priests visited the seminary, the seminarians joined them in reciting Vespers of the Divine Office.*

## Honoring the Queen

February is one of those months that does not appear to have significant liturgical themes. Coming as it does between the Christmas/Epiphany season and Lent, it is that “in-between” time when there are more ferias than usual on the calendar. That is especially the case this year with a late start to Lent.



*The sun sets over the City of Mary.*

There are, however, two wonderful feasts of Our Lady during this month. The first, on February 2nd, is called the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It reminds us of her love for modesty, purity and humility. We also see therein Our Lady's obedience—faithfully fulfilling the prescripts of the law, even though she was not obliged. The other feast of Our Blessed Mother during February falls nine days later, the anniversary of her first apparition to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858.

At Saint Joseph Seminary we celebrate the various feasts of Our Blessed Mother with special solemnity. If possible, there is a High Mass. We often precede these feasts with a novena, or at least a

triduum. There also may be, for the occasion, some special dessert and/or recreational activity.

It is most important that our youth, especially those who may become priests, develop a particular devotion to Our Lady. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort assures us that we need a strong devotion to Mary to persevere in the latter times. There are various practices of this devotion that we cherish at the seminary. In addition to the daily Little Office and daily Rosary, we also recite the Litany of Our Lady daily. We always conclude the recitation of the Rosary with a hymn in her honor. In late April, we will begin our preparation for the renewal of Total Consecration, which is an opportunity for new seminarians to make that act for the first time.

All of our devotions to Mary have no meaning, however, unless they come from the heart. It is the interior that really matters. It is my hope and prayer that

all these young men will develop a deep, tender devotion to the Mother of God during their years at the seminary—a devotion that will endure and grow throughout their lives. May our loving Mother bless each of you. We are most grateful for your support, and we pray that God will abundantly reward you.

*Father Benedict Hughes, CMRI*



*The gift exchange during Epiphany week is always an enjoyable event!*

*The Guardian* is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This Newsletter is free upon request.

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