



The Serra Club of Arlington
Minutes for Tuesday 01 February 2022 | Luncheon Meeting
The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia



Guest Speaker

Reverend Father Joseph Bergida, Parochial Vicar, St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Annandale VA

GUEST SPEAKER – REVEREND FATHER JOSEPH BERGIDA (ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH)

Reverend Father Joseph Bergida was born in Minnesota and spent the first two years of his life right outside the Twin Cities. His family relocated to Northern Virginia where he grew up in Herndon, Centreville, and the Shenandoah Valley. After high school, Father attended Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, double majoring in philosophy and theology. Throughout high school and college he worked summers with his dad in his real estate business.

After college, Father Bergida studied for two years at St. Charles Borromeo in Philadelphia, and then for five years in Rome where he earned his Licentiate in Sacred Liturgy from the Pontifical College Sant'Anselmo [*Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo*] in Rome, Italy. Father Bergida was ordained in 2012 and currently serves as a parochial vicar at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Annandale VA.

Notably, Father Bergida celebrated Father's Day Mass with his grandfather, Father Bob Hamel on June 17th, 2012. Father Hamel baptized Father Bergida as an infant (*see article in **Catholic Spirit**, June 19, 2012*). Father Bergida played a role in initiating an early effort to name Saint Mary Catholic Church as a minor basilica. Additionally, Father is an avid street hockey player.

Highlights from Father Bergida's presentation include:

- The World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated on the feast which commemorates the presentation which Mary and Joseph made of Jesus in the temple "to present Him to the Lord." It will be observed on February 2 and is intended to help the entire Church esteem ever more greatly the witness of those who have chosen to follow Christ. Originally, the feast was celebrated on February 14, the 40th day after Epiphany (January 6), because Christmas was not yet celebrated as its own feast
- This Gospel scene reveals the mystery of Jesus, the One consecrated by the Father, come into the world to carry out his will faithfully. Simeon points to Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and by a prophetic word foretells the supreme offering of Jesus to the Father and his final victory
- The purpose of this day is threefold:
 - This celebration answers the need to praise the Lord more solemnly, and to thank Him for the great gift of consecrated life.
 - The observance is intended to promote a knowledge of and esteem for the consecrated life by the entire People of God.
 - This day invites all consecrated persons to celebrate solemnly the marvels which the Lord has accomplished in them, to discover by a more illumined faith the rays of divine beauty spread by the Spirit in their way of life, and to acquire a more vivid consciousness of their irreplaceable mission in the Church and in the world.
- Normally, this day is simply called the "Fortieth Day after Christmas". However, in Jerusalem, the

Epiphany was actually first celebrated on the feast of Christ's birth. From Jerusalem, the Feast of the Fortieth Day (also known as "Candlemas") spread to the Universal Church; and was later kept on February 2 on the Universal Calendar. Candlemas is also known as the concurrent Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ as well as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- Christ is the "light" entering the temple. Light a candle for those you are praying for as part of Candlemas.