

St. Patrick Catholic High School  
Theology Newsletter

Candlemas

February 2<sup>nd</sup> marks Candlemas, one of the oldest feasts in Christianity and one that has significance far beyond it being the alternative day to Twelfth Night to remove Christmas decorations. Candlemas dates back to the fifth century to commemorate Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph forty days after he was born. The presentation of Jesus in the temple, according to the Gospel of Luke, saw Jesus met by Anna and Simeon, with the latter holding Jesus aloft and calling him the “*Light of the World.*” However, Candlemas also marks the ritual purification of Mary, which was completed by bringing Jesus to the temple. The name “Candlemas” comes from the ritual where Christians would bring candles to mass to be blessed. As a result, many observers placed their candles in their windows at home on the night of Candlemas. This candle blessing is one of the three principle blessings of the liturgical year, the others being the blessing of palms and ashes.

ST. BLAISE, FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

*Many Catholics might remember Saint Blaise's feast day, February 3, because of the Blessing of the Throats that take place on this day. Two candles are blessed, held slightly open, and pressed against the throat as the blessing is prayed.*

*Very few facts are known about Saint Blaise. It is believed he was a bishop of Sebastea in Armenia who was martyred under the reign of Licinius in the early fourth century. The legend of St. Blaise tells us that he was born into a rich and noble family who raised him as a Christian. He became a bishop. Later, a new persecution of Christians began. He received a message from God to go into the hills to escape persecution. Hunters discovered a cave surrounded by wild animals who were sick. Blaise walked among them unafraid, curing them of their illnesses. The hunters recognized Blaise as a Bishop, so they captured him to take him back for trial. St. Blaise was eventually martyred for not renouncing his faith. .*

*Saint Blaise is the patron of physicians, sick cattle, and wild animals because of his care for them and of those with throat maladies because he blessed and saved a young boy who was choking on a fish bone.*



Upcoming Events

February 7

Mass

February 14

Mass

February 21

Mass

February 28

Adoration



St. Blaise

Pray for Us!

## Spiritual Works of Mercy

Works of mercy can be directed not only toward the needs of the body, but the needs of the soul as well. Indeed, the most serious form of poverty of all can be the poverty of the spirit, not only because it drains life of all energy, joy, and sense of purpose, but also because it is the one kind of poverty that can last forever. Indeed, the human spirit longs for the nourishment of truth, goodness, and beauty if it is to be healthy and strong and if it is to grow in sanctification and be prepared for the life to come.

That's why, in addition to the corporal works of mercy, the Church has outlined the spiritual works of mercy. Look to these works as preventative medicine for poverty of the spirit. The spiritual works of mercy are as follows: *Admonish sinners, Instruct the uninformed, Counsel the doubtful, Comfort the sorrowful, Be patient with those in error, Forgive offenses, and Pray for the living and the dead.*

### Ways to practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy

- ❖ Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others who doubt may see God's love revealed in your actions.
- ❖ Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish.
- ❖ In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times.
- ❖ Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time
- ❖ Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time
- ❖ Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering
- ❖ Let go of grudges.
- ❖ Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ❖ Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.
- ❖ Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time or passed away.
- ❖ Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers

Email family photos practicing the Spiritual Works of Mercy to Mrs. Rosetti for our social media sites: [erosetti@stpatrickhighschool.net](mailto:erosetti@stpatrickhighschool.net)

Each month Pope Francis asks for our prayers for a specific intention. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention. February's intention is **Victims**. For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution, and violence.



All money raised will benefit a local soup kitchen. Winning class will receive a pizza party.



*Our Lady of Lourdes*

February 11<sup>th</sup>

Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, St. Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old French peasant girl, experienced 18 apparitions of the Virgin Mary in a grotto at Lourdes. During the 9th vision, an underground spring with healing powers was revealed. The Holy See recognizes 67 miracles attributable to the water that flows from it.

During the 18 Apparitions the Virgin Mary spoke to Bernadette revealing that she is the "Immaculate Conception" and asking for penance and prayers for sinners. Millions of pilgrims journey to Lourdes each year to pray and bathe in the miraculous waters. St. Bernadette was found to be incorrupt (her body did not decay) during her canonization process.