

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Faith Formation

“There is but one, wise and truly awesome, seated upon his throne – the Lord.

-Sirach 1:8

THE DEACON'S CORNER

The church seasons change throughout the year. After Advent and the Christmas seasons, we go back to Ordinary time before we start on Lent. We stay in Ordinary time year C until Ash Wednesday on March 2. This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry from the wedding feast at Cana to Jesus teaching of the splinter in the eye on the Sunday before Lent. Please listen to Jesus carefully and apply that teaching to your own lives.

Feast of St. Blaise

In accord with various traditions, St. Blaise was born to rich and noble parents, and received a Christian education. He was a physician before being consecrated a bishop at a young age. Although such a statement seems terse, keep in mind that at that time the local community usually nominated a man to be a bishop based on his outstanding holiness and leadership qualities; he in turn was then examined and consecrated by other bishops with the approval of the Holy Father. Therefore, St. Blaise must have been a great witness of our Faith, to say the least.

During the persecutions of Licinius, when he was in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat.

By the sixth century, St. Blaise's intercession was invoked for diseases of the throat, and he became one of the most popular saints in the spiritual life of the Middle Ages. Many altars were dedicated to his honor, and even the Abbey of St. Blaise in southern Germany claimed to have some of his relics.

St. Blaise is also venerated as one of the "Fourteen Holy Helpers," a group of saints invoked as early as the 12th century in Germany and who are honored on August 8th: St. Denis of Paris (headache and rabies), St. Erasmus or Elmo (colic and cramp), St. Blaise (throat ailments), St. Barbara (lightning, fire, explosion and sudden and unprepared death), St. Margaret (possession and pregnancy), St. Catherine of Alexandria (philosophers and students, and wheelwrights), St. George (protector of soldiers), Sts. Achatius and Eustace (hunters), St. Pantaleon (tuberculosis), St. Giles (epilepsy, insanity, and sterility), St. Cyriac (demonic possession), St. Vitus (epilepsy), and St. Christopher (travelers). The German Dominicans promoted this veneration, particularly at the Church of St. Blaise in Regensburg (c. 1320).



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 3

Feast of St. Blaise

Blessing of Throats:

- Weekend Masses at St. B/St. D
- Weekday Services Jan. 31/Feb. 1

MARCH 2

Ash Wednesday

Distribution of Ashes:

- 7:45 am Mass at St. D
- 7:45 am Service at St. B
- 7:00 pm Mass at St. B
- 7:00 pm Hispanic Service at St. D
- 9:40 am Mass at Mater Dei

MARCH 20

- Sacrament of Reconciliation – 1:00 pm at St. B

MARCH 21

- Faith Formation Reconciliation Services will be this week

One reason for St. Blaise's popularity arose from the fact he was a physician who cured, even performing miraculous cures. Thereby, those who were sick, especially with throat ailments, invoked his intercession. Eventually the custom of the blessing of throats arose, whereby the priest held two crossed candles over the heads of the faithful or touched their throats with them while he invoked the prayer of the saint and imparted God's blessing. In our present Roman Ritual, the cleric prays, "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This practice continues in many parishes at the time of St. Blaise's feast day.

Just an added note of the **importance of the children coming to Mass regularly on weekends with their families.** On weekdays they attend Mass during Faith Formation sessions, but the children need to pray with their moms and dads at Mass also on the weekends. Praying together strengthens a family in more ways than we'll ever realize!!!! **Joshua says', "as for me and my house, we will serve God."**

Thank you for bringing the children to Mass!

-Deacon Glenn

"May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God." Phil 1:11

HISPANIC MINISTRY

In February we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. This has several names including Candlemas or in Spanish Candelaria. Traditionally candles were blessed on this day; this is the end of the Christmas feasts. Hispanic families bring the Infant from the family crib to be blessed before it is put away. There is also a link to Mardi Gras. The King cake was served for Epiphany and the three people who found the "baby" will bring tamales for Candelaria.

February 3, we seek the blessing of St. Blaise for protection from ailments of the throat - save us from further Covid. The vaccine is probably another way to seek this blessing.

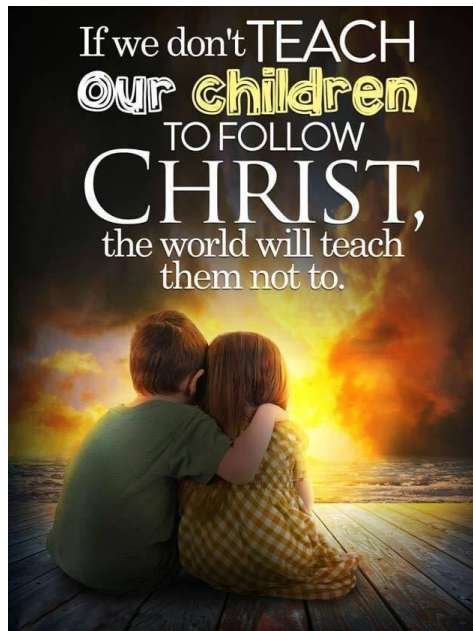
After prayer and discernment, I recognize that it is time to leave my place here in Damiansville. I will move to St. Louis with connections to The Sisters and my family. Since my phone number stays the same, I hope we can continue to be in touch. Know that after these 5+ years in service here, I hold many of you close to my heart.

En febrero celebramos la Presentación del Señor. Este día tiene varios nombres como Candelaria o Candlemas en inglés. En años pasados velas, candelas eran bendecidas hoy; este el final de las fiestas de Navidad. Familias hispanas traen su santo Niño a ser bendecido antes de guardarlo para otro año. Hay también el lazo con Mardi Gras. La rosca que compartimos el día 9, día de los reyes y las personas que sacaron el "niño" ahora traen tamales para la Candelaria. El 6 de febrero es el día este año.

El 3 de febrero buscamos la bendición de S. Blas, pidiendo su protección contra los males de la garganta – sálvanos de más Covid. La vacuna es quizás otra manera de pedir esta bendición.

Después de oración y discernimiento reconozco que es tiempo de dejar mi lugar acá en Clinton County. iré a St. Louis, estaré cercana a las Hermanas y la familia. Mi teléfono no cambia, entonces espero que podamos seguir en relación. Sepan que después de 5+ años entre ustedes, los guardo con mucho cariño.

-Sister Ellen Orf



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The Lenten schedule for the Way of the Cross starts Friday, March 4th. Watch the bulletin for the location.

