



January 28, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

This coming Tuesday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast falls 40 days after Christmas and commemorates the occasion when Mary and Joseph presented the child Jesus at the temple, and Simeon declared that he would be a “Light to the Gentiles.” The feast is also known as “Candlemas,” because of the reference to light, and it became a tradition to bless candles on this day. This year, the Parish Council is sponsoring a special Candlemas Prayer Service to be held on Tuesday evening during Eucharistic Adoration. Because these past months have been difficult for all of us, we especially need the Light of Christ to shine on us and dispel our darkness and gloom. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

February 3 is the feast of St. Blaise, the day when we traditionally bless throats. Because of coronavirus concerns, the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship has advised that we should omit the blessing of throats individually, and instead offer the blessing of throats “in globo,” that is, to the entire congregation at once, by using the throat blessing prayer as a “prayer over the people” in conjunction with the final blessing of the Mass. So, this is how we will proceed at Masses on February 3.

Lent is not too far away – Ash Wednesday is February 17. In my opinion, living with all the COVID19 restrictions and limitations amounts to a huge, imposed penance. I don’t think additional voluntary penances over and above that are necessary. Of course, we still must obey the laws regarding days of fast and abstinence. The Vatican has also advised us to modify the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday, because of coronavirus concerns. Briefly, they advise that the formula “Remember you are dust...” be said only once over the whole congregation and that the ashes be sprinkled on the heads of individuals without any physical touching.

Also coming up in Lent will be “40 Days of Adoration,” sponsored by the Diocese of Columbus. This is meant to promote prayer and awareness of the Real Presence of Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, by having Eucharistic Adoration take place in various designated churches around the Diocese on each of the 40 days of Lent. You will hear more about this in the days leading up to Lent. Please take note that St. Andrew Church is the designated church for this on Tuesday, March 23. Adoration will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. that day. While we will be welcoming visitors from other parishes that day, I also want to be sure that there are St. Andrew parishioners in attendance before the Blessed Sacrament all throughout this day. Watch for more information to come on this.

Happy February, and may God protect you all and keep you safe.

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney