



EPHPHATHA

FEBRUARY IS DEDICATED TO THE HOLY FAMILY

ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY, 2011

HOLY FAMILY

See Story on Page 2

Happy Birthday

04-Robert Hoheisel

07-William Starks

12-Ava Frambers

13 Christopher

Frambers

19-Veronica Frambers

26-Samuel Willis



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Elaine Aaron &

Wayne Hemmen



Dear friends,

In hope we were saved, St. Paul says to the Church at Rome. During these February wintery months it is good to reflect on the Christian virtue of hope. In the midst of the cold, ice, and snow, we know Spring will come, but sometimes we wonder as we put on another coat! The seasons remind us of the promise of God to redeem us, to save us. This promise is offered to us in the sense that we have been given hope. This

virtue is a manner in which we can face our present situation, even if it is difficult (cold) since it leads to a goal (Spring).

Our hope of eternal life is the same. Because our trust in eternal life, this goal is enough to justify our effort to live a worthy life on this journey. Our purpose on earth is to know and love God in this life, so we can enjoy His life forever in heaven. What a goal! It makes whatever we endure here in this life time endur-



able. Remember eternity is a very long time; our present life is short. Think eternal! Hope!

Father Ken



GOOD NEWS

Eula Conrardt continues to improve and has now finished her therapy. She no longer uses a walker.

Good Job, Eula!!

NEWS TIDBITS

January 7th saw a gathering of Bill & Virginia Lichtenberger, her 3 sisters and 1 brother in Topeka, Ks for the swearing in of their niece, Nancy Moritz as a Judge of Appeals in the Kansas Supreme Court. Bill & Virginia rode with their daughter and her husband. They felt lucky that they returned home before the snow.



SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

02-Presentation of the Lord

03 St Blaise

05-Anniversary of the Constitution

10-St Scholastica

11-Our Lady of Lourdes

12-Lincoln's Birthday

14-Valentine's Day

22-Chair of St. Peter, Apostle
Washington's Birthday

24-Flag Day



We know more about the devotion to St. Blaise than about the saint himself. Although freedom of worship was allowed in the Roman Empire persecution still persisted. Blaise was forced to flee to the back country living as a hermit. One day hunters stumbled upon his cave and hauled him off to prison. Legend has it that on the way a mother came to him with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor and for decades we Catholics in the United States have the annual blessing of throats using the candles blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.



Presentation of the Lord Read LUKE 2:22-38

The Mosaic law stated that a woman was considered unclean for **40 days** following the birth of a son and double that for a daughter. When that time was up the mother was to bring to the Temple a lamb and a young pigeon or turtle-dove as an offering. Offering these to God she was cleansed of the legal impurity. A dove was required of all as a sin-offering whether rich or poor but the expense of a lamb might be too great for the poor and they were allowed to substitute a second dove.

We know that Mary remained a spotless virgin but her desire to honor God in every observance of the law prompted her to perform this act of religion.

Read the passage in Luke's Gospel about the prophets Simeon and Anna . We read of Simeon foretelling the sorrow Mary would endure and that Jesus would bring redemption

This feast is also called Candlemas, because the Church blesses candles to be used for Mass and liturgies. The origins of this feast comes from the Jewish custom of bringing the child to the Temple. It is celebrated today **40 days** after Christmas.

Until the 1960's we used to call this day "The Purification of Mary". The title changed for several reasons. We no longer believe that women who give birth need purification and the true significance of the feast concerns Jesus coming to the Temple.

On the old calendar this feast closed the Christmas season. Now we end the Christmas season with the Baptism of the Lord



The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family as noted at the top of this newsletter. This feast has shifted around but the latest is that it is celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. In 2011 it will be on Dec. 28th as there is no Sunday between Christmas and New Year's. This feast celebrates the family unit and the Holy Family . (Picture is on top of this newsletter). This month is a good time to pray for our human and spiritual families, reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit and to evaluate our own family unit. What way may it be improved? What would the Holy Family do? What are we doing to promote the family with our own cultures, neighborhoods and communities? A pious practice among Catholics is to write "J.M.J" at top of letters, etc. It was a practice taught to the children in the Catholic Grade Schools. Many have continued this practice.



Twins often share the same interests and ideas with an equal intensity. It is no surprise that Scholastica and her twin brother, Benedict, established religious communities within a few miles from each other. Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino, 5 miles from where her brother governed a monastery.

The story is told that Scholastica and Benedict visited each other in a farmhouse as Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. She sensed she was dying and did not want Benedict to leave. He did not want to spend the night outside his monastery thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out preventing Benedict returning to his monastery. They parted the next morning and 3 days later while Benedict was praying he saw his sister's soul rising heavenward in the form of a dove. He buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

The Chair of Peter is a relic conserved in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The chair of a bishop is a *cathedra*. The *cathedra* in St Peter's in Rome was once used by the popes. It was therefore often thought to have been used by St. Peter. Pope Alexander commissioned Bernini to build a sumptuous monument which would give prominence to this ancient wooden chair. It is built in the shape of a great throne, supported by the statues of four Doctors of the Church, 2 from the West—St Augustine & St. Ambrose, and 2 from the East—St John Chrysostom & St Athanasius. Above the Chair are 2 angels bearing the tiara and keys, symbols of the Roman pontiff's authority. There is a host of angels among rays of light and huge billowing clouds. In their midst is the precious window divided into 12 sections—a tribute to the 12 Apostles, the fine alabaster window shows the Holy Spirit as a dove—the soul of the Church which He never ceases to help and guide. There are 3 medallions: Consignment of the Keys, the Crucifixion of St. Peter and the Beheading of St. Paul.



The Chair is symbolic of the authority of the pope as Vicar of Christ and successor of St. Peter. The special chair in any Cathedral is called the "*cathedra*" symbolizing the authority of the bishop in his diocese. The word '*cathedral*' is derived from the Latin word '*cathedra*' and refers to the presence of the bishop's/archbishop's chair or throne.

This feast commemorates Christ's choosing Peter to sit in his place as the servant-authority of the whole Church. (Read Mt 16:18-19)

This chair refers to the occupant, not the furniture. Its first occupant, St. Peter, stumbled a bit, denying Jesus 3 times and hesitating to welcome Gentiles into the new Church. Some of its later occupants have also stumbled a bit, sometimes even failed scandalously. As individuals, we may sometimes think a particular pope has let us down. Still, the office endures as a sign of the long tradition we cherish and as a focus for the universal Church.



MORE ON THE MASS

When parishes start using the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal, the texts of the prayers won't be the only changes Catholics in the pews see. The new Missal will include 17 additions to the Proper of the Saints, the part of the Missal that includes prayers for the observances of saints' days. The Proper of Saints follows a calendar established by the Vatican and modified by the bishops of each country to include saints of local importance.

Prayers used throughout the Mass and some responses of the congregation will change. Sacred chants and music used in worship will be updated.

"Lord be with you" will become "**and with your spirit**" The response is not to the person of the priest but to the Spirit of God who ordained him to permanent service in the Church. It is an acknowledgment of the 'spirit' and grace which is in him.

Instead of saying 'we believe' at the beginning of the Creed, Catholics will soon recite, "**I believe**" The reason is to underline the fact that although we share our belief together, each one of us is called to make an individual profession of faith.

An important point is that the changes will invite the faithful to pause and reflect on what, after many years, we may have taken for granted. People will listen more attentively to the various prayers proclaimed by the priest and these will convey a much deeper richness, which can be the basis of meditation and prayer for the enrichment of one's spiritual life.

Websites

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Click on "Ministries & offices"

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Try this one for viewing a Signed Mass by Fr. Luberti

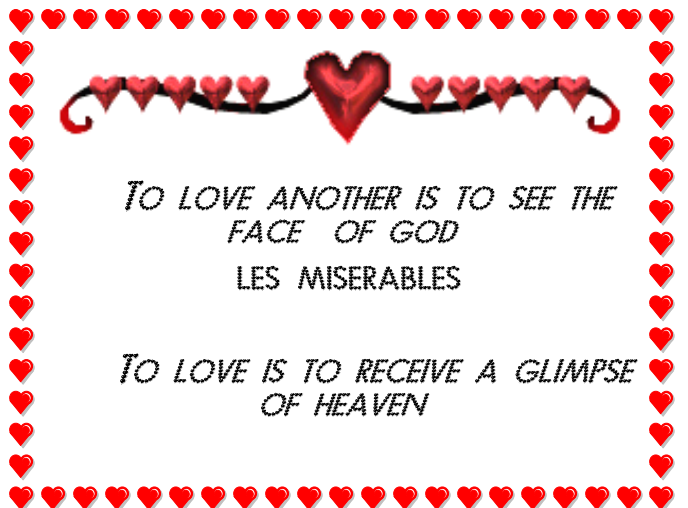
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CURIOUS GEORGE

Curious George has been wondering if those of you who have email would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via E-mail?? If would you like to do so, please let Sister Eula know ASAP. This would save stamps. George knows that many are computer wise and might like to receive the Newsletter via E-mail.



*TO LOVE ANOTHER IS TO SEE THE
FACE OF GOD
LES MISERABLES*

*TO LOVE IS TO RECEIVE A GLIMPSE
OF HEAVEN*