

## **FEBRUARY 2019 LITURGY REMINDERS:**

**The feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2<sup>nd</sup>)** falls outside the Christmas season, yet its theme of recognizing and honoring the God of light is a natural extension of the themes of the Christmas and Incarnation celebration.

This feast presents an opportunity to celebrate the God who is the “source and origin of all light” (opening prayer of the procession). The action of blessing, lighting and processing with candles from Form 1 in the Roman Missal, involves the assembly in a visceral way and takes them out of their usual worship pattern. An experience of carrying the light of him in whom they profess belief may be a powerfully moving experience.

If a formal procession (Form 1) is not possible, use the solemn entrance (Form 2) and bless candles as part of the entrance rite. See the rubrics at RM February 2<sup>nd</sup>, #9-11.

This is a good day to add music--in addition to the Mass acclamations--to the parish weekday celebration. Sing a song of light (even if just the refrain) at the opening. Some suggestions include: *The Lord Is My Light*, Christopher Walker; *Christ Be Our Light*, Bernadette Farrell; or *The Light of Christ*, Donald Fishel.

**The Optional Memorial of St. Blaise (February 3<sup>rd</sup>)** falls on a Sunday this year and so is superseded by the celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Nonetheless, as the Ordo notes, a blessing of throats may be given today.

“Suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit.” Therefore, it may be worth some advance advertising in the parish including a bulletin notice about this annual healing celebration for “every disease of the throat and every other illness.”

The quotes above are from the Book of Blessings #1622-1655 which contains the full ritual for February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember that a priest, deacon or a lay minister may give the blessing using the appropriate formula in the ritual. At Mass, the blessing follows the homily and intercessions, or it may take the place of the final blessing of the Mass.

If given outside of Mass, the blessing is preceded by a brief celebration of the Word. See the Book of Blessings. Whether given within or outside of Mass, a song or psalm may be sung during the blessing. One of many appropriate songs that may be sung during the blessing is “Healer of Our Every Ill” by Marty Haugen. Your parish may have other favorite healing songs.