

FEBRUARY 2020 LITURGY REMINDERS:

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd) falls on a Sunday this year. While outside the Christmas season, this feast day:

- recognizes and honors the God of light as a natural extension of the themes of Christmas and the Incarnation
- it supplants the presidential prayers of the 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time because it is a feast of the Lord
- Take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate fully this important feast of the liturgical year

The Presentation is an opportunity:

- to celebrate the God who is the “source and origin of all light” (opening prayer of the procession)
- to take the assembly out of their usual worship pattern and involve them in a visceral way. The action of blessing, lighting and processing with candles from Form 1 in the Roman Missal and the experience of carrying the light of Christ 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 2nd, #9-11.

Here is a brief checklist for the Presentation of the Lord:

- Choose a form of celebration
- Have candles available
- Identify ministers to assist
- Look for seasonally appropriate music that is known by the community. 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.
- Communicate the special celebration to your parish several weeks in advance.
- Be mindful that a blessing of throats may be given on February 2nd after the conclusion of Mass in anticipation of the Memorial of St. Blaise.

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FEBRUARY 2020 LITURGY REMINDERS:

The Optional Memorial of St. Blaise (February 3rd) falls on a Monday this year.

Some suggestions and some notes:

- **Advertise in advance** – Because this memorial focuses on healing and “[s]uffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit,” it may be worth some advance advertising in the parish including a bulletin notice about this annual day, a time to pray for healing for “every disease of the throat and every other illness.”
- **At Mass** -- the blessing follows the homily and intercessions, or it may take the place of the final blessing of the Mass.
- **Outside of Mass** -- the blessing is preceded by a brief celebration of the Word.
- See the Book of Blessings for the quotes above #1622-1655 and for the full ritual for February 3rd.
- **The blessing** -- Remember that a priest, deacon or a lay minister may give the blessing using the appropriate formula in the ritual.
- **Music** -- Whether given within or outside of Mass, a song or psalm may be sung during the blessing. One of many appropriate songs is “Healer of Our Every Ill” by Marty Haugen. Your parish may have other favorite healing songs.