

## Pastor's Corner

### Upcoming Liturgy Celebrations



**Candlemas, Tue, Feb 2.** Candlemas or the Feast of the Lord's Presentation recalls when Mary and Joseph "presented" baby Jesus to God in the Temple of Jerusalem. A man named Simeon prophesied that Jesus was the long-awaited "Light of the Nations." There is a tradition of bringing candles to Church on this day to be blessed for use in homes during prayer. That is how the name "Candle – Mass" came to be. So, if you come to Mass on Tue Feb 2, feel free to bring candles and the priest will bless them.

## Blessing of Throats

**St. Blaise Feast Day, Wed, Feb 3.** St. Blaise was a bishop in the early Church who prayed over a boy who was choking on a fish bone (the Heimlich maneuver hadn't been invented!). The prayer worked. The bone popped out of the boy's throat and he was healed. Bishop Blaise offered many other fruitful prayers for healing as well. Over time, he became the Patron Saint of diseases of the throat and respiratory illness. If you come to Church on Wed, Feb 3, you are welcomed to have your throat blessed by the priest.



**Gathering Rite of the Mass explained Feb 6-7; Eucharistic Adoration at end of Mass.** As we continue to celebrate the Year of the Eucharist, we will focus the homilies at Masses next weekend on the Gathering Rite at Mass. What is the meaning of the entrance procession? Why does the priest kiss the altar? What does the altar symbolize? Why do we begin the Mass by making the Sign of the Cross? What are the faithful supposed to do during the Gathering Rite? These questions and others will be addressed in the weekend homilies on Feb 6-7. At the end of Masses that weekend – as a way to celebrate the Holy Eucharist during the Year of the Eucharist – we will have a few minutes of Eucharistic Adoration before we recess from Church. May God bless us as we seek to grow in appreciation of the Holy Eucharist during this special year.

God bless,  
Father Joe