

WORSHIP

PARISH HOUSE HOLY COMMUNION



Children, Family and Friends are welcomed to join us for our monthly Parish House Holy Communion in the Auditorium on Sunday, February 5th. Fr. Pat offers this child friendly service especially for the young people. This month we will be blessing candles as part of a Candlemas celebration. The service is followed by cake and ice cream for February's birthdays. Come and join our celebration!

CANDLEMAS, THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

February 2nd is observed in the Church as the Feast of the Presentation, recalling the story of Jesus' presentation in the Temple in Jerusalem following his birth. The Bible story reveals to us the nature of Jesus' person and ministry as two prophetic figures, Simeon and Anna, see in this child the light of God and the Messiah (anointed one). We are given a glimpse of God's light to the world in this powerful story. Candlemas is the early Church's adding onto the winter observance of ancient peoples, especially the Celts, who observed this time of year with a festival of flame and fire. For the ancient ones, this was the deep darkness of winter, but the fires and light reminded the people of the coming light and warmth of spring and new life. Festive fires burned around the country and people came to light candles to carry home the flames to their homes. They believed the Imbolg fire warded off evil, demons and storms. Christians see the warmth and light these people observed in the person of Jesus Christ. The Church has long held the custom of blessing candles for people to take home with them on Candlemas. We will bless these candles at the Parish House Holy Communion service. If you have candles you would like to drop off, please bring them to the office by Friday, February 2nd or to the service on Sunday.



CANDLEMAS

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS



Renewal of Vows

Couples interested in renewing their wedding vows are encouraged to sign up for the Sunday, February 12th 11:15 a.m. service. The service takes about half an hour and will be followed by cake and champagne. Please see the sign up list in the Parish Hall or speak with Fr. Pat about details.

VALENTINE'S DAY

February 14th is observed as Valentine's Day. Flowers, cards, chocolate, candy and feast mark this holiday now, but there is a religious story behind it. In the third century, a priest named Valentine conducted weddings despite the Roman Emperor's ban on them (he was trying to recruit soldiers for his armies). Valentine would be arrested and imprisoned. During his time there, he befriended the jailer's daughter. Valentine was sentenced to death, and wrote a thank you letter to the girl. He signed it, "With love from your Valentine." The priest shared his thanks and love with a girl who showed him care, kindness and compassion. We might want to remember St. Valentine this year ... the person who rests behind the holiday we now observe.



Random Acts of Kindness Month

February is Random Acts of Kindness Month.

With all the random acts of nastiness in our society, churches are being asked to extend an unexpected kindness to strangers as well as to people they know, including spouses, parents, children, and pastors.