

# St. Catherine's Academy Gazette ©

Issue 22

February 2012

Holy Mother Church has dedicated this month to the Holy Family



## INDULGENCED PRAYER FOR A CHRISTIAN FAMILY

God of goodness and mercy, we commend to Thy all-powerful protection our home, our family, and all that we possess. Bless us all as Thou didst bless the holy Family of Nazareth.

O Jesus, our most holy Redeemer, by the love with which Thou didst become man in order to save us, by the mercy through which Thou didst die for us upon the cross, we entreat Thee to bless our home, our family, and our household. Preserve us from all evil and from the snares of men; preserve us from lightning and hail and fire, from flood and from the rage of the elements; preserve us from Thy wrath, from all hatred and from the evil intentions of our enemies, from plague, famine, and war. Let not one of us die without the holy sacraments. Bless us, that we may always openly confess our faith, which is to sanctify us, that we may never falter in our hope, even amid pain and affliction, and that we may ever grow in love for Thee and in charity toward our neighbor.

O Jesus, bless us, protect us.

O Mary, Mother of grace and mercy, bless us, protect us against the evil spirit; lead us by the hand through this vale of tears; reconcile us with Thy divine Son; commend us to Him, that we may be made worthy of His promises.

St. Joseph, foster father of our Saviour, guardian of His most holy Mother, head of the holy family, intercede for us, bless and protect our home always.

## Feasts and Fasts

### This Month:

February 2nd -  
Candlemas

February 22 -  
Lent begins -  
Ash Wednesday

February 29th -  
Ember Wednesday

## Inside this issue:

The Purification (Candlemas)	3
St. Blaise and Blessing Throats	5
Catholic Quiz and Word Search	7
Lost in the Temple	9
Saints Name Unscramble	11
Two Good Friends	15
The Blessing of Persons	18

St. Michael, defend us against all the wicked wiles of hell. St. Gabriel, obtain for us that we may understand the holy will of God. St. Raphael, preserve us from all ill health and danger to life. Holy Guardian Angels keep us day and night in the way to salvation.

Holy patrons pray for us before the throne of God.

Bless this house, Thou, God the Father, Who didst create us; Thou divine Son, Who didst suffer for us on the cross, Thou, Holy Spirit, Who didst sanctify us in baptism. May God, in His three divine Persons, preserve our body, purify our soul, direct our heart and lead us to life everlasting.

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*His Holiness, Leo XIII, by a rescript of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, January 19, 1889, granted to the faithful who recite the above prayer, an indulgence of 200 days, once a day.*

### “CAN’T I DO SOMETHING FOR YOU, DADDY?”

Yes; Marie was a dear little girl of just ten summers. She was kind and gentle to everybody, and her large brown eyes were all full of loving helpfulness. Really, I believe she knew as well as I do that God takes special delight in looking upon boys and girls that are obedient and meek and humble of heart.

Now, this gentleness of Marie’s made her so obedient and willing to help that she could read a request in mamma’s eyes, or daddy’s, or sister’s, almost any time one was there. She would not even wait to be asked, if she could help it.

One evening when daddy came home from work, tired and rather out-of-sorts, and was sitting at his desk reading the paper, Marie softly when up to his side. Why? Because, you see, her love and her desire to be a little angel of charity and to make others happy sent her thither.

Yes; there she stood. Then she lightly touched daddy’s arm and said, in her soft, musical voice:

“Can’t I do something for you, daddy?”

Daddy turned and looked at her. At first he did not understand. He was so tired and worn out.

“What do you mean, Marie?” he asked.

“Can’t I get you something, or make you comfortable and happy in some way, daddy? Because I love you so much.”

Then he understood. This little one for whom he was working so hard wanted to help along by her willingness. His eyes lit up.

“Of course you can, darling,” he cried, as he took her into his arms. “You can give me one big, loving kiss. And I thank God over and over again for having given me the precious girlie that you are, my own Marie!”

Oh, if little people only knew how they can make a heaven out of a home by being bits of sunshine, and sweetness, and obedient helpfulness always!

## THE PURIFICATION - FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>

(CANDLEMAS DAY)

In those days it was the law that the mother of the newborn baby should go to the Temple to receive God's blessing. This was called purification.

It was also the custom for Jewish parents to offer their firstborn son to God. This was done on the day of purification. The child was placed in the arms of a priest of the Temple, who said a prayer presenting the little one to God. Then the parents made an offering of a lamb - or, if they were poor, of a pair of turtle doves or pigeons. The lamb or doves were a sacrifice made to God instead of the child. After this offering the priest returned the child to the parents.

Forty days after Jesus was born Mary went to the Temple for her Purification. Beside her stood her husband Saint Joseph, who carried her Divine Son in his arms: The Holy Family brought with them two turtle doves, the sacrifice of the poor. This offering of the Infant Saviour in the Temple is called the Presentation.

When Jesus, Mary and Joseph arrived in the Temple, they were met by a holy old man named Simeon. God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour. Now as Simeon looked at the beautiful Child, God revealed to him that this was the Redeemer of the world.

Taking the Infant Jesus in his arms, Simeon told God that now he was ready to die; he had seen the One Whom God had promised to send to save men from sin:

*"Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy Word, in peace;*

*Because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples:*

*A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory for Thy people Israel."* (Luke 2: 29-32)

As he gave the Child back to His Mother, Simeon foretold that Jesus would bring salvation to those who followed Him; but that many would refuse to follow:

*"Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be contracted."*

Simeon also told Mary that she would suffer greatly as the Mother of the Saviour: These were his words to her: *"And thy own soul a sword shall pierce."* (Luke 2: 34-35)



Nowadays in our churches, on the Feast of the Purification, candles are blessed. For this reason we also call the feast Candlemas Day.

Throughout the year the blessed candles burn in our churches and in our homes to remind us that Jesus Christ, Our Saviour, is the Light of the World.

*(taken from: "Praise to Mary Our Mother," Imprimatur 1949)*





The Holy Family ~ Feast day, February 15<sup>th</sup>



### ST. BLAISÉ AND BLESSING THROATS

The feast of St. Blaise, February 3, is the day to receive the *Blessing of Throats*.

St. Blaise was a physician who was made Bishop to Sebaste in Armenia. Bishop or not, he withdrew to a cave and soon had a reputation for curing both men and beasts. It is told that if the animals found him at prayer they would wait patiently for him to finish. Under the emperor Lisinius, Agricola, governor of Cappadocia, came to Sebaste to persecute the Christians. Sending his hunters out in quest of wild beasts for the arena, they were startled to find at the mouth of the cave on Mount Argues, wolves, tigers, bears and lions waiting for Blaise to finish his prayers. They promptly arrested him and tried without success to make him apostatize. While he was in prison the poor and the sick and the lame continued to come to him. The most familiar of the events surrounding him appear to have happened at this time. He returned to a poor woman the pig which a wolf had stolen, and he cured the little child with the fish bone caught in his throat from this miracle grew his great reputation as a healer of throats. According to the Acts of his martyrdom (considered somewhat legendary), after horrible torments he was thrown into a lake upon which he proceeded to walk, inviting his tormentors to join him. They took up the challenge and were drowned to

the last man! Told by an angel to return to dry land and receive martyrdom, he did, and was promptly beheaded on the shore, and of course went straight to Heaven.

Special candles are blessed to be used in the *Blessing of Throats*. In this blessing of candles we find mention of his power of healing throats, granted him at his request as he was dying, it is said . . .

. . . In virtue of which, among other gifts, thou didst bestow on him the prerogative - of healing all ailments of the throat. Thus we beg thy Majesty that, overlooking our guilt, and considering only his merits and intercession, thou wouldst deign to bless and sanctify and bestow thy grace on these candles. Let all Christians of good faith whose necks are touched with them be healed of every malady of the throat, and being restored in health and cheer, let them return thanks in thy Holy Church, and give praise to thy wondrous name which is blessed forever. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity of the Holy Spirit, God, eternally. Amen.

When we go to church to have our throats blessed, this is what the priest says as he touches our throats with the crossed candles:

“Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver you from sickness of the throat, and from every other evil; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

St. Blaise is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers or Auxiliary Saints, the others being St. George, St. Erasmus, St. Pantaleon, St. Vitus, St. Christopher, St. Denis, St. Cyriac, St. Achatius, St. Eustache, St. Giles, St. Margaret, St. Barbara, and St. Catherine. So we greet him on his feast day and give thanks to God for his blessing. And I don't suppose he'd be cross if we said that really and truly this *Blessing of Throats* might well be termed the liturgical antibiotic.

*(taken from: "The Year and Our Children," Imprimatur 1956)*





St. Blasé ~ Feast day, February 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Patron Saint of Illnesses of the Throat

CATHOLIC QUIZ ON FEASTS AND FASTS

1. What is a festival of the Church?
2. What does the Church commemorate on March 25<sup>th</sup>?
3. What is the octave of a feast?
4. What is Easter Sunday?
5. What is Good Friday?
6. What is the vigil of a feast?
7. What is "Holy Week?"
8. What is Palm Sunday?
9. What is Passion Sunday?
10. What event is commemorated in the Mass of the Holy Innocents, December 28<sup>th</sup>?



(answers to be found on the last page of the newsletter)

WORD SEARCH

1. PRESENTATION
2. SIMEON
3. ANNA
4. TEMPLE
5. DOVES
6. PURIFICATION
7. BLESSED VIRGIN
8. CANDLES
9. TRAVEL
10. LOST
11. CHILD JESUS
12. DOCTORS
13. FOUND
14. SWORD
15. PIERCE
16. SOUL

I	E	T	H	S	O	U	L	N	K	N	T	H	I	G
N	C	A	T	I	S	R	O	T	C	O	D	U	S	B
R	R	I	G	I	D	N	I	T	N	E	E	L	A	V
B	E	R	F	O	U	N	D	N	A	M	D	E	T	I
S	I	O	P	Q	Z	P	U	R	F	I	T	N	O	Z
V	P	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	L
L	I	O	A	N	E	D	N	R	E	W	C	O	R	O
S	A	I	N	I	M	E	T	N	D	H	I	J	L	S
U	V	T	O	R	P	G	I	R	A	N	V	D	Q	T
S	U	A	E	S	L	T	I	O	A	N	O	N	A	T
E	I	C	V	I	E	T	Y	L	E	V	A	S	O	P
J	A	I	B	C	D	L	E	F	E	G	E	H	I	D
D	J	F	K	L	M	E	N	S	O	P	Q	L	R	R
L	N	I	G	R	I	V	D	E	S	S	E	L	B	O
I	S	R	T	U	V	A	W	X	Y	Z	A	C	B	W
H	D	U	I	E	F	R	G	C	A	N	D	L	E	S
C	H	P	I	J	L	T	K	M	O	S	V	X	I	M

### THE COURAGE OF ST. VALENTINE

The story of St. Valentine is very interesting and it shows that even when the saints were suffering every kind of pain and torture, they had the courage to go on and do all they could to help others.

St. Valentine was a priest who did much good among his people. At the time when he lived, wicked men were trying to kill everyone who believed in Christ. They were especially anxious to kill those that were teaching the people to know Christ.

St. Valentine was not afraid, but went about doing his work and helping his people. When he was thrown into prison he did not forget his friends. He spent his time praying for them and writing little letters to them. He tied these messages around the necks of pigeons and sent them to his friends. You can imagine how glad they were to get a letter from the good Father Valentine, as they called him. These letters cheered the people and helped to make them strong in their faith.

Now you know why people send valentines. However, instead of sending such silly messages as some people are sending today, we should send kind letters to the sick, the poor, and the helpless, to cheer them from their sufferings. That is what St. Valentine did.

*~ Taken From: "Practical Aids for Catholic Teachers," Imprimatur 1928 ~*



Two eyes to see nice things to do;  
 Two lips to smile the whole day through;  
 Two ears to hear what others say;  
 Two hands to put the toys away;  
 A tongue to speak kind words each day;  
 A loving heart to work and play;  
 Two feet that errands gladly run  
 Make happy days for everyone.

*~ Louise M. Ogleve ~*







## LOST IN THE TEMPLE

### 1. The Journey to Jerusalem

Jerusalem was the holy city of the Jews. Here stood the beautiful marble temple where the priests daily offered sacrifice to God. Here the people came year after year to celebrate the great feasts of the Jewish religion. It was the custom of Joseph and Mary to make a yearly journey to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover. Can you tell the story of the first feast of the Passover?

When Jesus was twelve years old, His parents brought Him with them to celebrate this feast. The boy Jesus enjoyed the trip. Many friends and relatives from Nazareth were with them. The women rode part of the way on donkeys that were led by men or boys. Perhaps Jesus led the donkey when His Blessed Mother was riding. We can well imagine how carefully He picked the smooth parts of the road and how kindly He urged the donkey onward. In the evenings, the whole company pitched their tents near some well or stream. Joyful boys ran here and there gathering wood for the fires or carrying water.

After a few days of travel, they reached Jerusalem. How happy Jesus was as He entered the gates of the holy city! Mary and Joseph had often told Him about its wonders, and now He was in the midst of them.

### 2. The Temple

The Temple was one of the most beautiful buildings that the world has ever seen. Four marble courts of wonderful splendor rose one above the other. Those who did not believe in the God of Israel were permitted to enter the first court, but it meant death to them if they went beyond it. The women worshiped in the second court, unless they were bringing a sacrifice to the altars. Men and women never worshiped together in the Jewish temples, so the men had the next court for themselves. The highest court, which was the Court of the Priests, was the richest and most beautiful part of the Temple. Glistening gold and sparkling jewels dazzled the eyes. Here was the altar of sacrifice, the altar of incense, and the Holy of Holies.

The temple was the dearest place on earth to every Jewish heart. To pray within its walls brought peace and happiness to the troubled soul. How dear to our hearts should be our churches, because they contain the living God Himself, and not merely His altars or His laws as did the Jewish temple!

### 3. Jesus Remains in Jerusalem

After the celebration was over, the pilgrims began to leave the city. All those going toward Nazareth decided to journey together. It was never safe to travel along the lonely roads in small parties. Robbers of the meanest kind often lay in wait for the weary travelers to take from them their food, money and

everything else of value. In the land where Jesus lived, things have not changed very much since those days, for even in our own times it is not safe to travel there in small groups without armed guides.

When the hour of departure arrived, all the people going in the direction of Nazareth had not assembled. Some of the party, therefore, started without waiting for the rest. Joseph was among these. Later the second group followed them. The Blessed Virgin and some of her friends were in this group. Mary did not see the first group depart, so she thought that Jesus was with Saint Joseph. And Joseph naturally thought that Jesus was with His mother.

The happy people traveled on for the day, talking about the beautiful temple, the solemn services of the priests, and about the many relatives they had met during the week. It was a lovely day for walking. The air was sweet with the breath of the first blossoms of spring. When the darkness of night made traveling impossible, the first group selected a pretty spot covered with grass, where they pitched their tents. Joseph had fixed his tent, filled the jars with water, and started a fire by the time the second group arrived.

Mary looked anxiously around for Jesus and did not see Him. "Where is Jesus?" she asked.

Joseph stared at her in amazement. "Jesus?" he said. "I thought He was with you."

"And I thought that He was with you," said Mary, as her eyes filled with tears. "My boy, my boy is lost!" she cried.

Mary and Joseph hurried through the camp to find Jesus, but He was nowhere to be found. Mary's heart was filled with terror. She blamed herself for not being more watchful.

Back to Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph hastened. Their feet and the tired donkey could not carry them fast enough. They imagined that all sorts of things had happened to Jesus. They thought that perhaps He had been killed or stolen. Perhaps He had walked with another party in the opposite direction.

Through the streets of Jerusalem they hurried, asking everyone they met: "Have you seen our boy Jesus?" No one had seen Him. They called at the home of their relatives, but Jesus had not been there. They went to the houses of their friends, but Jesus was not to be found.

#### 4. Found At Last

Oh, how they prayed that God would save His Son! After three days of searching, Joseph and Mary entered the temple. There, to their joy and amazement, they saw the child Jesus talking to the Jewish doctors, asking them questions, and His answers putting to shame the wisdom of old men.

The joy of the Blessed Virgin was so great that she burst into tears, and threw her arms around her boy, saying: "Why have you done so to us? Behold your father and I have sought you sorrowing."

Jesus did not like to see His mother in sorrow so He kissed away her tears. Then He said some strange words to her: "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?"

The Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph did not understand what Jesus meant. They did not know that He was speaking about the great work for which He came into the world—the great work of saving men's souls. The Jewish doctors told Joseph that Jesus was a wonderful boy. They were astonished at the things He knew.

Joseph embraced the child Jesus, and the Holy Family began their return trip to Nazareth. This quiet little village was to be Jesus' home for the next eighteen years. There He lived with Joseph and Mary, loving them and obeying them.

Jesus, the Son of God, was a beautiful example of obedience to all boys and girls. He loved His mother so dearly that He did all in His power to make her happy. He helped her about their little home, and He helped Saint Joseph in the carpenter shop. The little boy Jesus is our model. Let us learn from Him to honor, obey, and love our parents.

### Can You Answer These Questions?

1. How were the people divided in the Temple?
2. Explain how Jesus became lost.
3. What was Jesus doing when his parents found Him?
4. Why could Jesus answer the questions of the doctors so well?
5. In what special way is the boy Jesus our model?

~ "A Child's Garden Of Religion Stories," Imprimatur 1929 ~



### UNSCRAMBLE THE SAINTS NAMES

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. THAAGA      | A. BRIGID         |
| 2. ACITSCHSALO | B. AGATHA         |
| 3. DIGBRI      | C. DOROTHY        |
| 4. DLRUMUA     | D. VALENTINE      |
| 5. FASTSINUU   | E. BERNADETTE     |
| 6. OROTYHD     | F. SCHOLASTICA    |
| 7. GNAISUIT    | G. APPOLONIA      |
| 8. ENVALENTI   | H. ROMUALD        |
| 9. LIASBE      | I. ANDREW CORSINI |
| 10. ETERBNADET | J. MATTHIAS       |
| 11. SUTIT      | K. FAUSTINUS      |
| 12. SAIMATTH   | L. IGNATIUS       |
| 13. APOLOPIAN  | M. BLAISE         |
| 14. WEANRD     | N. TITUS          |
| ORINSIC        |                   |



## OUR LADY OF LOURDES-February 11

*“Behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” St. Luke, 1:48*

Several years ago Harpers published a book with the title “THE VOYAGE TO LOURDES.” It is the work of a famous doctor and scientist, Alexis Carrel. It was edited by his wife and was released six years after the doctor’s death.

The story tells of a Dr. Louis Lerrac, which, as you can readily see, spells Carrel backwards. He visited Lourdes in 1903 to see for himself whether cures were really brought about there through prayer to Our Lady. He was particularly interested in one case, that of a Marie Ferrand, who was almost dead of tubercular peritonitis. Dr. Carrel told a friend that if such a case would be cured he would be converted.

Before his astonished eyes, after the water from the shrine had been poured on the stomach of the sick woman. The swelling subsided and breathing and heart-beat returned to normal. Dr. Carrel had been born a Catholic, but had become a skeptic, one who questions and doubts, especially in matters of religion. He was unable to explain scientifically the remarkable cure which he had witnessed. As a result he returned to the faith of his youth.

In 1935 Dr. Carrel wrote a masterly work entitled “MAN THE UNKNOWN.” In its pages he points out that, although we have found out a great deal about man from the standpoint of medicine and surgery, there with regard to the spiritual nature of man we have merely scratched the surface. In this study he defends many of the mystical experiences which take place at Lourdes, France. His experience there had brought about his conversation.

What is Lourdes? Where is Lourdes? Why has it become world famous? The story goes back to February 11, 1858. On that day a little girl fourteen years of age was walking by a rocky cave near her native town. She was looking for pieces of wood to build the fire for her poor parents. She was all alone because her companion had gone on ahead of her.

That little girl was Bernadette Soubirous, who has since been immortalized by being declared a saint, and whose name has been put upon the lips of the world by Franz Werfel’s touching account, “THE SONG OF BERNADETTE”. The rock was the famous Grotto of Lourdes, and the lady she saw was none other than the Blessed Virgin Mother of God.

This was the first vision which Mary granted to Bernadette. The last took place on July 16, 1858, the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Our Lady gave the little girl many messages. She told her to drink the water from a spring which suddenly sprang up at the foot of the grotto. She bade the child have the priests erect a church on the spot and then in one of the apparitions our Blessed Lady revealed her name: “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

After some delay the bishop appointed a committee to study the appearances. They decided that all were true. A church was erected on the spot. Little Bernadette joined the Sisters of Charity; she never returned to Lourdes. Throughout her life she remained sweet and humble and holy. In 1879 she passed away, and in 1935 Pope Pious XI declared her a saint.

Hundreds of thousands visit that little village each year. And every year hundreds of cures are reported. A group of non-Catholics as well as Catholic doctors and scientists make a thorough investigation of every report.

Hundreds and thousands have returned to their God and their faith because Mary appeared to a simple peasant girl in a lonely cavern in the Pyrenees. A group of doctors, including even atheists, have declared

that in 1948 there were eleven cures which positively and scientifically surpass all the powers of nature.

What are we to think of these miracles? First of all the Catholic Church teaches that it is perfectly reasonable to believe that Almighty God, who created and who sustains the world, may suspend the operation of that physical order where He sees fit. God's Church also teaches that it is entirely in keeping with the wisdom and goodness of God that certain exceptions be made to the rules of nature for the benefit, especially the spiritual benefit, of man. Here are some reasons for such exceptions: God wants to remind men that He really does exist; God wants to remind men of His power, His holiness, His mercy; God sometimes wants to emphasize the authority of some person with a message for mankind.

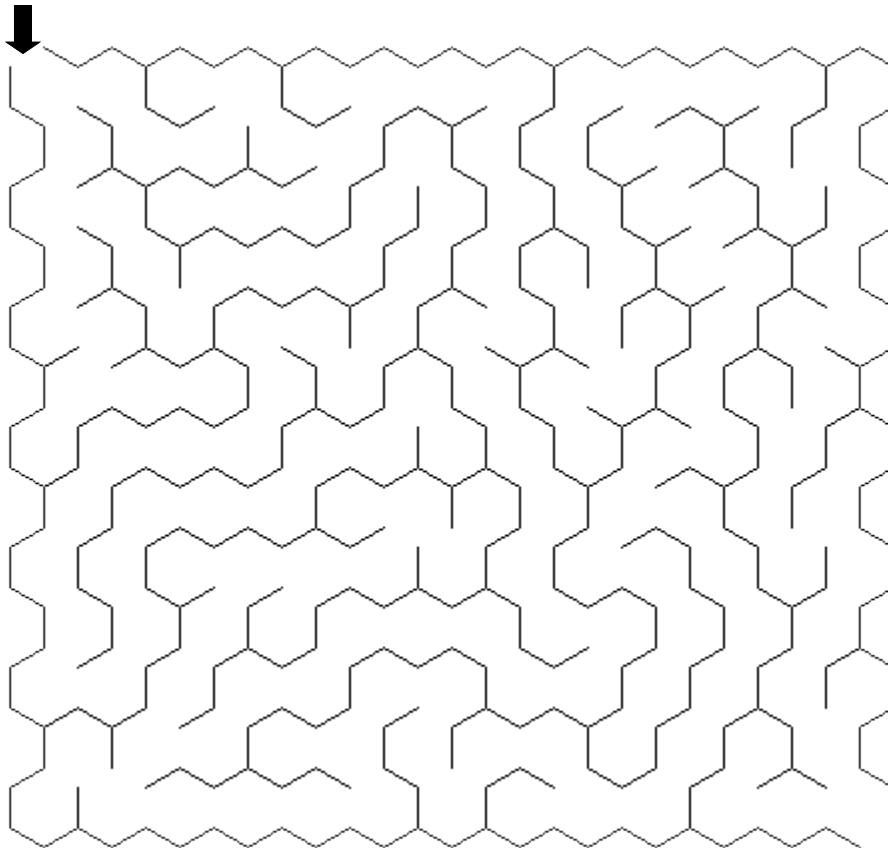
That was the case at Lourdes. Mary had a message for men, a call to prayer and spiritual life. To back up that message God worked miracles, spiritual as well as physical. At Lourdes new hope is given to suffering souls. At Lourdes misery and despair are banished. At Lourdes the forces of evil are often broken of their power. At Lourdes many are set on the path to paradise. At Lourdes many realize for the first time Christ's power, Christ's mercy and protection and love.

As we approach the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, we will beg her to appear to us with her blessings. We will beg her to help us that one day, like Bernadette, we shall see her face to face, gracious and beautiful and loving, to live forever with her in the company of her divine Son. Amen.

~ "Feasts Of Our Lady," Imprimatur; no year listed ~



Help Blessed Mother and St. Joseph find the Child Jesus





~ Our Lady of Lourdes - Feast Day, February 11 ~



## TWO GOOD FRIENDS

Getulio was a poor Italian boy, who lived in the hills outside of Rome. He was twelve, but small for his age. His eyes were dark brown; his skinny face, legs, and arms were deep tan from the hot Italian sun. Although he was not strong looking, Getulio worked hard and was a happy lad, most of the time.

In the village where he lived, the people were very poor. They could not give their children the nice things that you boys and girls have, like clothes, toys, and books. In Getulio's home even food was scarce. And so, even though he was very young, the boy had to quit school and work so that the family would have food.

Getulio's work was not easy. He gathered wood for the fires of the people who lived in the town. There was no gas, no electricity, no oil in this little Italian town. So the people needed wood for cooking and for heating their homes.

Now, in Italy wood is scarce and hard to find. There are not big forests such as we have where thousands of trees grow. People who gather wood must go into the country and search long hours to find it. That is what Getulio did every day.

Getulio had a donkey name Jacimo. Jacimo was a very small donkey with very large ears. He was really no taller than a good-sized shepherd dog, and not as long. He was a patient beast and used to plod along on his dainty stiff legs with his head bobbing and his great ears flapping.

No matter how hot the day, or how heavy the load he carried on his back, Jacimo was always the same. He never became angry. Even when the flies were bad and bit him often he never lost his patience. He just swung his ropelike tail a little harder and beat them off.

Getulio and Jacimo were good friends. The little boy could not play with the other children in the town because he had to work so hard. He started out at four o'clock for the distant hills where he gathered his wood. And his mother always gave him his lunch to carry along. This way he was usually in the hills all day with Jacimo.

Now we know that animals don't talk, but sometimes strange things do happen. It has been said that St. Francis of Assisi talked to the birds and that all the animals in the country loved him. And in Getulio's case, Jacimo really did talk to him.

When they were alone in the country hunting for wood they had long talks. Getulio spoke Italian and Jacimo spoke donkey language, but they understood each other.

One day as they were walking along, Getulio began to feel sorry for himself. It was warm, the road was dusty, and he had only a piece of dry bread for lunch.

"Why do I have to work so hard?" he asked Jacimo. "Some of the other children in town do not work half as hard as I. I get up at four o'clock in the morning and do not get home until late at night. Children in America hardly ever work. They go to school. They play and swim. Why wasn't I born an American?"

"Little Master," said Jacimo—he always called Getulio 'Little Master'—"your life is hard. Indeed, it would have been nice to be born an American. But do not be sad. Your life could be much, much worse."

"How could it be worse?" cried Getulio.

“Well,” replied Jacimo, “you could have been born a donkey. Think of how much harder my life is than yours. Now don’t misunderstand me. I am not complaining. We donkeys learn early that complaining just makes a hard life harder. We were made to be beasts of burden, so we just accept our life and do our best.”

“Is that why you are so patient and good?” asked Getulio.

“Yes,” replied Jacimo. “I just try to be happy and good. I try to be patient, because if God had wanted me to have an easier life I would have had it. I try to be just a good donkey.”

“Perhaps if I felt that way,” answered Getulio, “I also would be patient.”

“You have a much better reason that I to be patient, Little Master,” said Jacimo. “The God, who made me, made you, too, but you have a soul.”

“What has that to do with it?” asked Getulio.

“Everything,” replied Jacimo. “Because you have a soul you can look forward to the next life in Heaven. I have no soul. My whole life will be spent here. So if I suffer much here, all I ever will know is suffering.”

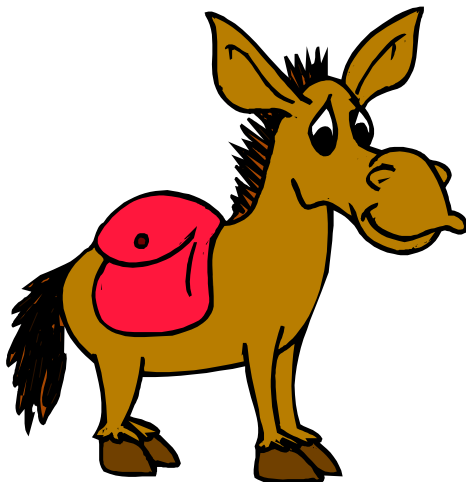
“Oh, you poor donkey!” cried Getulio.

“Yes, I am poor in happiness,” said Jacimo. “But I would be much poorer if I complained. You must never complain. If you suffer much here and are patient, God will make you happy in the life to come. You will go to Heaven where you will be happy always. What difference does it make if you suffer a few years on earth when you know that this suffering is going to get you into Heaven?”

“I never thought of it that way,” said Getulio. “I guess maybe you are right.”

“Of course I’m right,” said Jacimo. “Oh, Little Master, if only I could look forward to Heaven like you can. If I could only feel that after my hard life here I would be happy. It would be so much easier to be patient.”

“Yes, it would be easier to be patient, wouldn’t it?” said Getulio. “And it is going to be easy for me now. I am not going to complain when I start work early in the morning. And I am not going to grumble when I have only a slice of dry bread to eat for lunch.”



“Good Little Master,” said Jacimo. “You will see that it is easy to be patient. Just keep thinking of God and how happy you will be in Heaven. Stop thinking about other children, who are not poor like you. Be glad you’re poor and that you can suffer now. You will be so much happier when God calls you.”

“Thanks, my good friend, Jacimo,” said the little boy. “You make me ashamed. I have so much to be thankful for and you have so little. I complain so much and you are so patient. You have taught me a lesson. I’m glad I’m a poor boy, and that I have to work hard. I will gladly bear the suffering God sends me, because I love Him and I know He will reward me in Heaven if I am patient.”



THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Model of every child,  
Humble, obedient, meek, and mild,  
Lead our children along the way  
Of grace and strength from day to day.

Mary, Mother benign, we ask  
Thy blessing on each household task;  
Mirror of Mothers, Virgin pure,  
Good and happy homes insure.

Joseph, silent, just and kind,  
Man of the house in whom we find  
Pattern of fathers, guide them all  
In daily troubles that befall.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
Be our model in life and death!

~ Edward O'Toole ~



## THE BLESSING OF PERSONS

*“The blessing of the Lord be upon you: we have blessed you in the name of the Lord.” Psalm 128:8*

During a mission I was giving in Sacred Heart Church, Webb City, Missouri, in January 1947, Father Bray, the pastor, and I were invited to dine at the home of Larry (Moon) Mullins, All-American fullback of Notre Dame during the late twenties. The six Mullins children, ranging in age from 5 to 13, were some of the best-behaved youngsters I have ever met. Not one argument or quarrel or correction during our two-hour stay.

After the meal each child took turns singing for us—capably and naturally, even happily. As we prepared to leave, Mary, Larry’s splendid wife, asked me to bless the children. They dropped on their knees about me as I blessed them:

“May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, descend upon you and remain with you forever.”

They made the sign of the cross over themselves and thanked me heartily. They seemed to have a sincere appreciation of a priest’s blessing.

Mother Church provides a number of such blessings of persons. They are so numerous and varied that we cannot even mention all of them. A blessing given by the Church or in the name of the Church is a sacramental. It has a special power, not of itself, but from the prayers of God’s Church. In the Old Testament the word “to bless” had many meanings, but chiefly two:

1. When God blessed someone or something He showered His benefits upon that person or thing. Thus God blessed Noe and his sons after the flood; He blessed lifeless objects like bread, water, houses and lands.
2. When man blessed something it meant that the blessing drew down the favor of God. Usually an external sign accompanies a blessing given by man. Thus we read that Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph by placing his hands upon their heads. (Gen. 48:13.) The usual manner of blessing is by placing the hands over or on someone, but sometimes is given by mere word, or with water, oil, or salt.

Accordingly, a blessing is a church ceremony which calls upon God to give a certain person, either for a time, or for all the future, a religious right to divine protection or to the exercise of worship. We can merely refer to a few general divisions of such blessings.

1. a) Blessings of invocation mean calling down God’s protection upon some person, asking God to deliver or preserve someone from certain evils, or to obtain spiritual or material benefits from Him.
  - b) A constituting blessing raises a person from the profane to the sacred state.
2. Blessings can be simple or solemn:
  - a) Simple blessings are given without any solemnity, such as the blessing at meals.
  - b) Solemn blessings have certain ceremonies, like the blessing of candles on Candle-mas day.
3. Still another division is based on the person giving the blessing: certain ones are reserved to the Pope; others to bishops, to priests, to religious superiors. Even lay people may bless. We might explain such a lay blessing first:

a) A parental blessing may be given by a father or mother to their children. This was common in the Old Testament and in early Christian times. The lives of the saints offer many examples.

The simplest method is to make the sign of the cross over all the children or over each one singly, often with holy water. In the more solemn blessing the parent places his hand on the head of the kneeling child and prays:

“God bless you,” or “I bless you my boy (my girl).”

Often he makes the sign of the cross with holy water on the child’s head, praying:

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”

Sometimes parents bless their children at a distance, by adding a blessing to their letters. The occasions at home when parents might bless their boys and girls are without number. It should be done every evening and on the occasion of important events, like First Confession, First Communion, marriage, and going on a journey.

b) In the beautiful blessing of an expectant mother the priest prays:

“O Lord God... accept the sacrifice of a contrite heart and the fervent desire of Thy handmaid (here he mentions her name) who beseeches Thee for the preservation of her offspring which Thou hast granted her to conceive; take care of her and guard her against all stratagem and injury from the wicked enemy; so that, by the assisting hand of Thy mercy, her offspring may come prosperously to the light of day, and may be preserved for holy regeneration (Baptism) that it may serve Thee in all things and merit everlasting life.” The other prays are equally expressive.

c) The nuptial blessing of a bride is particularly complete and helpful.

d) Among the prayers for a sick child the priest asks:

“O God, on whom we all depend for strength, both in youth and maturity, extend Thy right hand upon this Thy servant, who at this tender age, is ill, that, being restored to health and vigor, he (she) may come to the fullness of all his allotted years, and all the days of his life ever thank Thee and serve Thee faithfully.

e) There is a blessing for infants and for those at death’s door, for mothers after childbirth. In short, there is a blessing for every type of person and for every kind of need and desire.

The simple blessing of the priest is one highly treasured by the faithful. It is proper to ask for it frequently, particularly in your home and in the hospital.

To appreciate blessings as did the children of Larry Mullins is to appreciate one of the most commonly used and most highly helpful sacramentals of Mother Church. Amen.



For thy soul be not ashamed  
To say the truth.

*Ecclesiasticus 4: 24*

Be not willing to make any  
manner of lie: for the custom  
there of is not good.

*Ecclesiasticus 7: 14*

But doing the truth in charity,  
We may in all things grow up  
In Him Who is the head, even  
Christ.

*Ephesians 4: 15*



### The Will of God

I worship Thee, sweet Will of God,  
And all Thy ways adore,  
And every day I live I seem  
To love Thee more and more.

I have no cares, O blessed Will!  
For all my cares are Thine;  
I live in triumph, Lord, for Thou  
Hast made Thy triumph mine.

He always wins who sides with God,  
To Him no chance is lost;  
God's will is sweetest to Him when  
He triumphs at His cost.

All that He blesses is our good,  
And unblest good is ill;  
And all is right that seems most wrong  
If it be His sweet Will.

~ Rev. Frederick W. Faber ~



## ANSWERS TO CATHOLIC QUIZ

1. Festivals, (or feasts) are certain days of the year which the Church wishes to keep holy in a special manner.
2. On this day (the feast of the Annunciation) the Church celebrates the mission of the Archangel Gabriel, who announced to the Blessed Virgin that she was to be the Mother of God.
3. The octave of a feast is composed of the eight days which follow the feast.
4. The feast of the Resurrection of Christ from the dead; the “feast of feasts.”
5. The Friday in Holy Week—the day on which Christ died.
6. The day before a feast, set aside for preparation, watching, prayer and generally fasting.
7. Holy Week is the week before Easter Sunday, and it commemorates the Passion and Death of Our Lord.
8. Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter, and is the first day of Holy Week. It commemorates Our Lord’s triumphal entry in Jerusalem, at which time the people threw palms at His feet.
9. Passion Sunday is the Sunday before Palm Sunday and is so called because the celebration of Our Lord’s Passion is drawing near.
10. The slaughter of the little children of Bethlehem at the order of Herod, who sought to destroy the infant Jesus.

## ANSWERS TO UNSCRAMBLE THE SAINTS NAMES

1. B, 2. F, 3. A., 4. H. 5. K. 6. C. 7. L. 8. D. 9. M. 10. E. 11. N. 12. J. 13. G. 14. I

*This is a series of Catholic Gazettes for children. We are trying to put a little information in each gazette for all ages. We pray that it will help all to know and love the Faith better. It is put together by the students of St. Catherine's Academy as part of their Language, Religion, Art and Typing Courses. A.M.D.G. We hope you enjoy it. If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments please let us know at : <jwillson61@charter.net>*

*God Bless all of you!*

*Tim, the father of this clan, Timmy, Mary, Sarah, Katie, Patrick, Elizabeth and the teacher, Julie. God is good!!*

*~ ALL ARTICLES ARE MEANT TO BE IN KEEPING WITH THE SOUND TEACHINGS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, WHICH IS THE SAME CHURCH FOUNDED BY OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST AND WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF TIME.~*



On this feast let us celebrate  
That special kind of love,  
That has led so many men to shed  
Their blood for God above.  
Let us ask God to grant to us  
A love so holy and true  
That we may die to self and serve  
Only Him in all we do.  
And so our dear St. Valentine  
Intercede for us we plead,  
That God may confer to us True Love  
In our thoughts, our words, and deeds.



Happy St. Valentine's Day

From: The Willson Family  
Tim, Julie, Timmy, Mary, Sarah, Katie,  
Patrick and Elizabeth