



## ***Some Thoughts for February 2022***

**By Marge Loenser**

The name February come from the Roman “Februa” which was their feast of purification. We start this February with the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord. You grandparents have got to envy Simeon and Anna at the Presentation. How they doted on baby Jesus. Imagine holding God as a baby in your arms!

February 2 is also my youngest daughter, Celeste’s birthday. I often say she is triply blessed as--the Presentation, Candlemas Day, and Ground Hog Day all decorate the anniversary of her birth.

On the 3rd we celebrate St. Blaise, the patron saint of throat diseases. His remains are in a church named after him in Croatia. In the year 917 the spirit of St. Blaise visited the church in Dubrovnik and told the people that there were fleets of Venetian warriors anchored off the harbor of the Aegean getting ready to attack the city.

His warning saved the city and he became their patron saint. St. Blaise was martyred in the 4th century by beheading.

Another saint we honor this month is St. Agatha. She was murdered for refusing to marry a Roman nobleman as she had pledged her virginity to the Lord. St. Agatha is the patron saint of breast feeding and breast cancer.

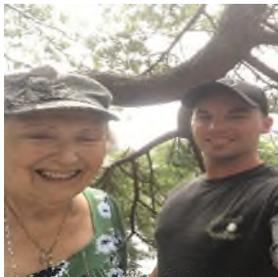
We honor Our lady of Lourdes on the 11th. Healing miracles are still occurring from the holy water that sprung from the ground when St. Bernadette, at Mary's bidding started digging in the dirt. Our Lady had a basilica built there and today thousands of pilgrims visit the springs for healing.

Of course, we can't help but think of Valentine's Day when we think of February. There were 3 martyred priests by that name in the 3rd century. One of them would marry young Roman soldiers that were forbidden to wed by emperor Claudius. He was imprisoned for this, and when he healed a young blind woman, was released and started to evangelize this pagan household.

For this he was imprisoned again. In prison he exchanged letters with the young woman he had healed. His last letter to her before he was killed was signed from "Your Valentine." Thus began the tradition.

My dear sisters in Christ let us never cease to be thankful for all the wonderful saints that came before us. They gave their lives for Jesus. Let us be thankful for all the blessings we have each day. Despite these very trying times let us not be discouraged, but let us keep Jesus in the forefront of our daily life. We are being tested and we need to continue to be good Christian examples to this corrupted society. Don't ever forget that in the end, Jesus will conquer, and that this earth is only our temporary dwelling-- heaven is our real home. God bless us each one.

Love in Christ Jesus, Marge.



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark's Church in Sea Girt where she is Lector and Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark's. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.