



The Word

Mary Undoer of Knots,
Bless you today and
forever. Amen!

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

Liturgical Reflections

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. This year the entire month of February falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Between the events which marked Christmas and the beginning of Christ's public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family.

Being the shortest month of the year February is rich in Liturgical activity. It contains a feast (Presentation of our Lord) that bridges two other seasons (Christmas and Easter)! In addition, the faithful may receive in February two of the four major public Sacramentals that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles and the blessing of throats.

The Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd harkens back to the Christmas mystery of Light except that now, Christ, the helpless babe, is "the Light of Revelation to the Gentiles who will save his people from their sins." Candles, symbolizing Christ our Light, will be carried in procession this day, as will be the Paschal candle during the Easter Vigil Liturgy.

"The Light of Revelation" shines more brightly with each successive Sunday of Ordinary Time, until its magnificence – exposing our sinfulness and need for conversion – propels us into the penitential Season of Lent. We prepare to accept the cross of blessed ashes on Ash Wednesday (March 1) and plunge ourselves into anticipating the major exercises of Lent – fasting, prayer, almsgiving – laying our thoughts and prayers on the heart of our Mother Mary. She, who offered her Son in the temple and on the Cross, will teach us how to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow after her Son.

Saturday February 11th is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the XXV WORLD DAY OF THE SICK.

Rather than providing new World Day of Sick Prayers for patients and care givers, we are invited to access any of the recent past prayers for use. You can access them below and download and print whichever ones you would like with no purchase necessary.

Prayer card archives (2001-2016)

[Click here to view or download prayer cards from 2001 through 2016](#)



MINISTRY MUSINGS

LISTENING AND WITNESSING

A visit during a crisis situation may be shorter or much longer. In a routine visit, keep the visit short unless a person brings up significant content that they obviously need to discuss. People long for someone to be a witness for their stories.

They need someone to attend to them with compassion and acceptance so they can overhear themselves with grace, wisdom and accuracy.

Often we make meaning of our stories while we overhear what we say to others. We make new connections to themes such as grace, forgiveness, repentance and what it means to be faithful.

We gain inspiration. We grieve the losses and the injuries of our lives. We find perspective. One assessment is to ask about their joy. What is interfering with joy? What brings you joy?

Serving as a witness requires patience, maturity and the ability to tolerate confusion, anxiety and uncertainty.

This is different from witnessing to the person about your own faith and experience which may be important in other settings.

When visiting the sick we are serving as a witness to their conversation, honoring them with our attentive listening, not attempting to convert them to our own way of believing.

Your basic interest can be communicated with open ended questions, spontaneous, honest and authentic connection with your own experience, and the sacrifice of your comfort as you enter into their experience. Reflective questions to ask might be: Are you gentle with yourself? Do you take the time you deserve to nurture yourself? Are there people who treat you as "beloved?"

Pastoral listening can be exhausting work. Reward yourself for your ministry and find ways to refuel your spirit.

Listen and
silent are
spelled
with the
same letters.
Think about
that.



Important Items

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!!!!

The honor of your presence is essential. Saturday, February 25, 2017 we will be "Reignited" by the enthusiasm of Dr. Patricia Hughes from the Diocesan Office of Liturgy. This is a Required Training. Details will follow.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES FEB. 11

Pastoral Care Training (Ministry of Consolation) for the Dioceses @ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will begin February 25, March 11 and March 25. Please pray for all the people involved.

**Pastoral Care Debriefing is
February 18
at Christ the King**

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

We now have a "Ministry Link" on the parish web page. It is under Ministries

