

February 3, 2010



ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

FIAT PARENT NEWS

Saint Blaise, Pray for Us!

Dear Parents,

Wednesday, February 3rd is the Feast of Saint Blaise. Saint Blaise (sometimes spelled Blase) was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the early 4th century. While little is known of his life, he is believed to have been martyred during the persecution of Christians.

Although we know few facts about Saint Blaise, stories about him have long been part of our revered and received Christian tradition. He was said to have been not only a bishop, but also a physician. And one story handed down to us says he miraculously saved a boy who was choking to death on a fish bone.



As this story spread, people began praying to Saint Blaise for healing, especially from diseases of the throat. Devotion to Saint Blaise became very popular in the Middle Ages. And to this day, we still celebrate Saint Blaise's Feast Day with the



Blessing of Throats. Two candles which were blessed the day before (February 2nd - the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord) are tied together with red ribbon in the shape of a cross. These candles are then touched to our throats, as Saint Blaise is invoked to intercede for us that God may deliver us from diseases of the throat and all other illnesses. Blessing of Throats will take place at our 8:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, February 3rd. All are welcome!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres
Director of Faith Formation

Last Year's Palm, This Year's Ashes



As part of our Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Celebration on February 16th, we will celebrate Evening Prayer and the Burning of Palm. The blessed palm branches we received this past year on Palm Sunday are burned to provide the ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday. This is a wonderful way for all of us - children and adults - to make connections with our faith. Please gather your blessed palm branches from home and bring them to church. There are baskets at the doors of church marked for this purpose.

FIAT: Faith In Action Today

**Annunciation Parish & School
Religious Education/Faith Formation News**

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Special points of interest:

- *This Sunday, February 7th, is our Annunciation Parish Centennial Jubilee Mass & Luncheon. Mass is at 11:00 a.m., preceded at 10:30 a.m. with a musical prelude.*
- *Did you know that several original pieces of art have been especially created for our Centennial Jubilee Celebration? These will be on display beginning this Sunday, and will also be the focus of our Liturgical Catechesis on Thursday, February 11th.*

**Icon at top left of page: Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation), 16th Century, Russian Heritage, Location: Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Used with permission of St. Isaac of Syria Skete (Orthodox Byzantine Icons, Inc.); 25266 Pilgrims Way, Boscobel, WI 53805 www.skete.com

Pancakes, Palms & Pilgrims



The last day of this winter period of Ordinal Time is the day before Ash Wednesday. This day is often referred to by several different names. Sometimes this Tuesday is called Mardi Gras, which is French and literally translates to *Fat Tuesday*. It is the last day of our Carnival celebrations - the last day of feasting before the fasting of Lent. Our current Church laws for Lenten fast and abstinence are very lenient compared to past times. There was a period of time when during Lent people abstained from eating any meat or meat products, such as dairy products, eggs, and fats. In those days, there weren't refrigerators or freezers, either, so all these foods needed to be consumed before Lent began. To use up milk, eggs, and oil, people often made pancakes, which has led to Fat Tuesday being called *Pancake Day*. In some places, there are even pancake races this day.

The day before Lent is also sometimes called Shrove Tuesday. *Shrove*, or *shriven*, refers to having sins forgiven in the sacrament of reconciliation. There was a time when many people celebrated this sacrament the day before Ash Wednesday, so as to begin Lent well prepared.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on our forehead in the sign of a cross. These ashes come from the palm branches we received last Palm Sunday. We are a pilgrim people on a journey through this life to our ultimate destination of heaven. Just as we processed with fresh palm branches last Palm Sunday, on Shrove Tuesday we process with our now dry and brittle palm branches to a fire where they will be burned and transformed into the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Please join us here at Annunciation Parish on Tuesday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m. for Shrove Tuesday Evening Prayer & Burning of Palm, and our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Celebration! We feast before we fast. We eat pancakes, and burn palm, and celebrate the fact that we are pilgrims on a journey - a journey where our ultimate destination is eternal feasting at the heavenly banquet table!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Wednesday, February 3rd, 8:00 a.m.: Blessing of Throats at Mass on the Feast of Saint Blaise
- ◆ Thursday, February 4th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Liturgical Catechesis
- ◆ Thursday, February 4th, 7:00 p.m.: Baptism Preparation
- ◆ Sunday, February 7th, 11:00 a.m.: Annunciation Centennial Jubilee Mass, followed by a Luncheon
- ◆ Thursday, February 11th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Liturgical Catechesis
- ◆ Thursday, February 11th, 7:00 p.m.: RCIA Gathering for anyone interested in becoming Catholic
- ◆ Sunday, February 14th, 10:10-10:50 a.m.: Sunday Sowers
- ◆ Tuesday, February 16th, 6:00 p.m.: Shrove Tuesday Evening Prayer, Burning of Palm, Pancake Supper/ Mardi Gras

***It's Happening at
Annunciation!***

Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras

**Annunciation Parish's Annual
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper &
Mardi Gras Celebration**

**Tuesday, February 16th, 2010
beginning with Prayer at 6:00 p.m.
Adults: \$5.00**

**Children 3-10 Years of Age: \$2.00
Children 0-2 Years of Age: Free**



Admission includes all you can eat pancake supper, Mardi Gras desserts, and all Mardi Gras activities. There is a \$15.00 per family maximum!