

# OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



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February 2025

#### \*February Dates to Remember\*

- February 1: First Saturday; Feast of St. Brigid of Kildare
- February 2: Candlemas (Feast of the Presentation of Jesus/Purification of Our Lady)
- February 3: Feast of St. Blaise
- February 5: Feast of St. Agatha
- February 6: OLV Religious Education Class 6, 6:00 p.m., parish hall
- February 7: First Friday
- February 8: Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita
- February 10: Feast of St. Scholastica
- February 11: Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
- February 12: Feast of the 7 Holy Founders of the Servites
- February 13: OLV Religious Education Class snow date
- February 14: Feast of St. Valentine
- February 16: Septuagesima Sunday
- February 18: Feast of St. Simeon
- February 22: Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
- February 23: Feast of St. Peter Damian; Sexagesima Sunday
- February 27: Feast of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

When we greet the month of February, we do so with joy, for despite the wintry weather, we know that we are ever more closely approaching spring. Often, we may associate February with love, since we celebrate St. Valentine's Day in this month. As a whole, the month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family: Jesus, Mother Mary, and St. Joseph. At the center of this month is familial love, a trinity that reflects the Blessed Trinity itself: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Jesus is the One Who gives us hope of spring. He is the source of all love. From love, so much can grow. Through the love of God, none of our efforts to glorify Him are impossible. He gives us the gifts for our souls we need to succeed in our spiritual lives, on our journeys to Heaven. Jesus gave His life to save us all. For all of us, He achieved objective salvation (universal salvation), but we all individually develop a relationship with God, and strive towards subjective salvation (personal salvation). Souls will be judged individually in a particular judgment, a review of their lives. After the second coming of Christ, there will be a general (collective) judgment of all souls. God loves us all personally. He knows us more deeply than we can even know ourselves. Our Lady has countless spiritual children, but knows every soul uniquely, just as an earthly mother knows all of her children, identifying all of the traits that make them so special. God creates all people out of love. We are made for the purpose of loving and serving Him in our earthly lives so that we may love Him in Heaven as well. To love and serve God, He calls us to love each other. The faithful are called to worship in community. Together, we can grow in love for God, encouraging each other on our journeys to Heaven. Rather than engage in competition, we strive to live in communion, which ultimately stems from living in communion with God. At the heart of God's Commandments is love: God shares with us what actions are needed in order for us to be more like Him, and join Him in Heaven. He wants us to follow the way of life so that we will enjoy the greatest beauty and goodness of His creation, all that He offers us from the treasures of His Heart. Last month, we honored Mary, Mother of God. As Jesus' Mother, and our heavenly Mother, Mary helps us to become more godly, exemplifying what it means to live a human life devoted to God. When we follow His Commandments, regularly seek God's mercy through the sacrament of Confession to help us to remain faithful and strong in living out God's Commandments, and frequently receive Holy Communion in a state of grace, we are opening ourselves to most fully receiving God's love, which enables us to love each other well, seeing the light of Christ illuminating every soul we meet. Presiding over us and helping us in our efforts to love God and each other well is Our Lady, Queen of Families. Our parish community is one family of families. In the universal Church, we worship God as one mystical Body. February begins with Candlemas, the last day of the Christmas season. We welcome Christ with candlelight, honoring Him at His birth, and again at this midpoint when we remember Christ's Presentation at the Temple (and Our Lady's Purification) that signals to us the coming of Lent, a deeper purification period when we prepare to celebrate the triumph of Christ's light over darkness at Easter. Light draws us all together. This month, may our hearts be sparked with a greater love for God. May the pure love of Jesus and Mary burning in the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, respectively, inspire us with hope for the flourishing flowers of springtime Our Lord and Our Lady bring. Just as St. Simeon waited faithfully in the temple, knowing that God would keep His promise to allow St. Simeon to see the Savior, may we trust that, in His great love, God will keep His promises to us, helping to carry us through every season by guiding us with His divine light. May we carry the spirit of Christmas forward, beyond Candlemas, holding Jesus in our hearts year-round, just like St. Simeon, who cradled the Christ Child in his arms, the fulfillment of God the Father's promise.

Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum,

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Marian Chant of the Season:  
**Ave Regina Caelorum**

Chaplet Spotlight: **Servite  
Rosary (Chaplet of the  
Seven Sorrows of Our  
Lady)**

Other recommended chaplets:

- **Chaplet of the  
Immaculate  
Conception**



## Prayer to St. Bernadette

O Saint Bernadette, who, as a meek and pure child, did eighteen times at Lourdes contemplate the beauty of the Immaculate Mother of God and receive her messages, and who afterwards wished to hide yourself from the world in the convent of Nevers, and to offer thyself there as a victim for the conversion of sinners, obtain for us the grace of purity, simplicity and mortification that we also may attain to the vision of God and of Mary in Heaven. Amen.

### Saint Spotlight: St. Bernadette

When Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette, she identified herself as the “Immaculate Conception.” St. Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879) dealt with ailments throughout her life, which prevented her from fully pursuing a formal education. Once she began to discuss Our Lady’s appearances to her, she was faced with skepticism. However, after St. Bernadette informed others of Our Lady’s title, the “Immaculate Conception,” she was believed. Having never heard this title spoken aloud in an educational environment, St. Bernadette would not have known it, save for it being spoken by Our Lady to her personally. Through her persistence in relaying the messages communicated to her by Our Lady, St. Bernadette helped to ensure that Our Lady’s requests were granted. In a barren area of Lourdes, France, where Our Lady revealed a spring would flow, a chapel was built. Sure enough, water sprang forth from the rocky terrain. Recalling the holy presence of Our Lady, St. Bernadette noted that Our Lady held rosary beads in her hands. Yellow roses matching the hue of the rosary beads graced Our Lady’s feet. After St. Bernadette finished praying the Rosary in Our Lady’s presence, Our Lady disappeared. Wherever Our Lady goes, she brings forth goodness. She infuses her love into all things, the sacred beauty of her soul permeating what she touches. Our Lady helps all things to grow, and guides us to Jesus, the living water. We invite Our Lady’s loving presence into our own hearts when we pray in her honor, especially through the Rosary devotion, which gladdens her Immaculate Heart so greatly. Today, many pilgrims visit Lourdes, immersing themselves in the springs to be healed by the holy water. Many healings have been reported, though St. Bernadette was not fully healed from her various ailments. Like Our Lady, St. Bernadette embraced her cross, accepting God’s will. She offered up her suffering for the glory of God, welcoming the inward healing that comes from knowing the love of Jesus and Mary, and choosing to express this same love in word and deed. A pure soul, St. Bernadette trusted Our Lady, which led her closer to Jesus, and allowed her to gracefully carry the Cross, like He did. The Immaculate Conception helped breathe new life into St. Bernadette, so that her soul could be born anew in Heaven. St. Bernadette remains a strong example of faith to us.