



Anointing of the sick

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Oil of the Sick, usually labeled OI (for *Oleum Infirmarum*), is often reserved with chrism and the oil of catechumens in an ambry. An ambry is a cabinet, often beautifully ornamented and kept near the baptistery in the church. Olive oil, with no fragrance added, is blessed at the Chrism Mass in Holy Week by the bishop, although there is now a provision for a priest to bless oil if none is available. This restores to our Latin Rite practice a tradition never lost in the Eastern tradition, in which priests consecrate the oil of the sick, even at the sick person's home. Any vegetable oil may be used now, since olive oil is difficult to obtain in some places. Many priests keep a small supply of oil close at hand in a small metal tube called a "stock."

In the former rite, every sense of the body was anointed, accompanied by a prayer for forgiveness of sin. So, the eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, hands, and feet were all touched. Today, this is simplified to an anointing of the forehead and the hands, but generally today the oil is used more lavishly, and the symbolism of touch so central to the rite is enhanced.

Mon. 02/02 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**
Feast The Presentation of the Lord
8:00 AM Mass For the Poor Souls in Purgatory, *Carol Smith*

Tues. 02/03 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**
Feast Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr
8:00 AM Mass David, Daniel and Jerome Fox, *M/M Gerald Grimme*

Wed. 02/04 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**
Feast Weekday
8:00 AM Mass Mildred Maucieri, *Gerri Rose and Family*

Thur. 02/05 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**
Feast Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
8:00 AM Mass Joe Milliron, *C. Smith*

Fri. 02/06 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**
Feast Saint Paul Mikki and Companions, Martyrs
8:00 AM Mass Paul Rose, *Dr. and Mrs Pete Starr*

Sat. 02/07 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**
Feast Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 PM Mass Our Lady of Fatima Parish Family

Sun. 02/08 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**
Feast Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM Mass Aus Hallinan, *Frieda Conrad*
11:00 AM Mass Tom Byrne, *Ann Flick and Sarah Shaw*

*Lord
Jesus
Christ
Son
Of
God
Have
Mercy
On
Me
A
Sinner*

Happy Birthday:

02/03 Joe Robuck
David Smith

02/05 Adam Kasun

02/08 Ashley Kelly

*Nocturnal Adoration will be
held @ St. Mary's Church
1405 Fifth Avenue
Altoona, Pa 16602
On February 6, 2015 from
8-11PM*

Wedding Anniversaries :

*Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we
pray the Holy Rosary
Daily
At O.L.F. before each
Mass and privately from
8:30am to 7:00pm*



MONEY MATTERS
(Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 25 , 2015)
148 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 1,953.20 of which \$ 104.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	182	# Used	76	# Unused	106
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Collection One Year Ago = \$ 2,043.00 Retirement for Religious = \$70.00 Mildred Maucieri Memorials = \$340.00

Bishop and Martyr.

The ninth-century martyrologies of Europe in their lists, which are accompanied by historical notices, give on 15 February the name of St. Blasius, Bishop of Sebaste and martyr. The Greek synaxaria mention him under 11 February. In the oldest known recension of the so-called martyrology of St. Jerome the name of St. Blasius does not appear; it is only in the later, enlarged catalogues that he is mentioned. The historical notices concerning him in the above-mentioned martyrologies and synaxaria rest on the legendary Acts. All the statements agree that St. Blasius was Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia and most of the accounts place his martyrdom in the reign of Licinius (about 316). As these reports may rest on old traditions which are bound up with the veneration of the saint in the Church liturgy, they are not to be absolutely rejected.

It can perhaps be assumed that St. Blasius was a bishop and that he suffered martyrdom at the beginning of the fourth century. All the particulars concerning his life and martyrdom which are found in the Acts are purely legendary and have no claim to historical worth. There are besides various recensions of the text of the Acts. According to the legend Blasius was a physician at Sebaste before he was raised to the Episcopal see. At the time of the persecution under Licentius he was taken prisoner at the command of the governor, Agricolaus. The hunters of the governor found him in the wilderness in a cave to which he had retired and while in prison he performed a wonderful cure of a boy who had a fishbone in his throat and who was in danger of choking to death. After suffering various forms of torture St. Blasius was beheaded; the Acts relate also the martyrdom of seven women.

The veneration of the Oriental saint was brought at an early date into Europe, as is shown by the recitals in the historical martyrologies of the ninth century, and the Latin recension of the legend of St. Blasius; so that Blasius became one of the most popular saints of the middle Ages. The actual reason for the unusual veneration has not yet been made clear. Most probably one ground was that according to the legend he was a physician and wonderful cures were ascribed to him; for this reason the faithful sought his help and intercession when ill. Numberless churches and altars were dedicated to him and many localities (Taranto, Ragusa, the Abbey of St. Blasius in the Black Forest, etc.) claimed to possess some of his relics. He was also one of the Fourteen Holy Martyrs.

In many places on the day of his feast the blessing of St. Blasius is given: two candles are consecrated, generally by a prayer, these are then held in a crossed position by a priest over the heads of the faithful or the people are touched on the throat with them. In other places oil is consecrated in which the wick of a small candle is dipped and the throats of those present are touched with the wick. At the same time the following blessing is given: "Per intercessionem S. Blasii liberet te Deus a malo gutteris et a quovis alio malo" (May God at the intercession of St. Blasius preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil). In some dioceses is added: "in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus" and the priest makes the sign of the cross over the faithful. In the Latin Church his feast falls on 3 February, in the Oriental Churches on 11 February. He is represented holding two crossed candles in his hand (the Blessing of St. Blasius), or in a cave surrounded by wild beasts, as he was found by the hunters of the governor.