

Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Our Grotto is, as you know, a replica of the Grotto of Lourdes made famous by the appearances of Our Lady to little (now Saint) Bernadette, and by the numerous miracles that have taken place there since 1858.

February 11th is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The annual Novena for the sick to Our Lady of Lourdes will start Sunday. She is the patroness without equal in time of sickness or danger.

How To Make The Novena: go to Mass and to Holy Communion, visit the Grotto of Our Lady each of the 9 days preceding her feast on February 11th.

For Whom To Pray: (1) For all sick relatives and friends who have a right to your prayers, including Van Wallace and other members of Our Lady's family, including N. D. men in service, particularly those in the Philippines.

(2) Yourself, especially those who face military service during the coming year.

And include a thanksgiving for the fact that there has been no death so far among you this year. For several years back there has always been one death at least, during the first semester, usually comparatively sudden.

Monday's Feast Honors Her Also.

Because of an old Mosaic Law any Jewish mother was technically considered "unclean" for forty days after she had given birth to a male child. For her "purification" she visited the Temple and, if she was poor, presented two turtle doves or two young pigeons to the priest who, in a special ceremony, would thereupon formally declare her "cleansed".

Mary's miraculous motherhood was really beyond all laws. Nevertheless, forty days after the birth of her Son, humbly and obediently she and Joseph journeyed from Nazareth to Jerusalem to fulfill the law and, solemnly, to present their Son for the first time in the Temple.

Simeon, the just - who, like all pious men of his race, lived for the coming of the Redeemer - was present in the Temple. As soon as Our Lady arrived Simeon took her Infant into his arms and, in a moment of ecstatic prayer, uttered his famous Nunc Dimittis:

"Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace, because my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel."

Monday is the feast of Our Lady's Purification and of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. Candles will be blessed at a Mass at 8:15 for which reason this day is also known as Candlemas Day.

Blessing of Throats.

St. Blaise, holy bishop of the fourth century, is recognized by the Church as the patron for healing diseases of the throat because he once saved the life of a child who was choking to death. On St. Blaise's feast, Tuesday, throats will be blessed in the various hall chapels at hours to be announced by the rectors. They will also be blessed in Dillon, Howard and Cavanaugh intermittently during the hours of distribution of Communion and at 12:30, immediately after the noon meal.