

University of Notre Dame

Tomorrow at 4:45: The
Holy Hour in Sacred Heart
Church. Drop in.

Religious Bulletin
February 1, 1956

Tomorrow's Feast

Lose your Missal ? Look for
it at the Dillon hall pamphlet
room, outside the chapel.

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mother. It recalls her humility in fulfilling the Jewish law by presenting her Child to the priests in the temple, and herself likewise -- making the offering of two turtle doves as was the custom of the very poor, in thanksgiving to God; and also to escape legal defilement.

From this ceremony comes the Christian custom of the "Churching" of women -- where the new mother comes before the altar to give thanks to God for her safe delivery. It is a pious and laudable custom that goes back to the earliest days of Christianity.

Candlemas Day

Tomorrow is also the day set aside by the Church for the public blessing of candles. Thus they become sacramentals -- set aside for the use of religion. In Christian tradition the clean wax of the candle is symbolic of the pure flesh of Christ; the wick an image of the soul of Christ, and the flame a figure of the Divine Personality of the Word made Flesh, "the True Light which enlighteneth every man."

Lighted candles accompany every ceremony of the Church except the one for mixed marriages. There are possibly one or two other exceptions. Even about the dead we have candles burning to symbolize the faith of the Catholic, manifested before men by his good works. The candles that burn before shrines of saints are symbolical of prayer and sacrifice. In the Middle Ages it was a common practice to offer a favorite shrine a number of candles equaling in measurement the height of the person who asked a favor from God.

No Catholic home should be without blessed candles. We need them for the ceremonies of Communion and Extreme Unction. Piety dictates that we light them in time of disaster. On Christmas Eve, a lighted candle in the window is not only a decoration; it is symbolical of our belief in the Incarnation.

Tomorrow morning at 7:00, candles will be solemnly blessed in Sacred Heart Church.

A Real Champion

One of the finest stories that will ever be told about Lou Ambers, the former lightweight champion of the world, has to do with the evening of Sept. 3rd, 1936 when he won the crown. After he had showered and dressed, he moved on to the scene of the victory party. It was a great evening for Lou -- the biggest night of his life; the realization of his greatest dream come true. Well-wishers buzzed about him endlessly, and delayed his progress to an extent that found him arriving at midnight.

Lou sat down, well pleased with himself and the evening's work, and bowed modestly as he accepted the congratulations of family and friends. Surely, he deserved every adjective that clothed their enthusiasm. But he neither ate or drank a thing. And after a little while, he departed, bidding Goodby to a party at its height.

Lou didn't have to explain his departure. Next morning, bright and early, a sports-writer, spotted him at Mass and Communion. It was First Friday! We got this story from the sportswriter -- not from Lou; nor from his younger brother who was attending Notre Dame at the time. Even a champ needs the graces of a Happy Death. And First Friday comes this week for all of us!

Friday is also the Feast of St. Blase, the saint we ask to preserve us from all throat ailments. Throats will be blessed in all hall chapels; and at 12:30 and 7 in Dillon.