

FEBRUARY 2009 FEAST DAYS

Monday, February 2 — Presentation of the Lord



This feast commemorates Mary's purification and the presentation of Jesus in the temple. In the Middle Ages, a tradition began of blessing candles and holding a procession of light on this day. As a result it is also known as "Candlemas": Christ our light has come to us. We mark as well the first members of the Bordeaux Sodality who made their first act of consecration on Feb. 2, 1801.

Tuesday, February 10 — Saint Scholastica



Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict, the founder of Western monasticism, and she is the patroness of Benedictine nuns. She died in 543 and was buried in Benedict's own tomb where he joined her in death soon after.

Wednesday, February 11 — Our Lady of Lourdes



This memorial honors the mystery of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since 1992 this memorial has been observed as the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It is a special time for us to pray for the sick, especially for the members of our Marianist Family in health centers.

Tuesday, February 17— Seven Founders of the Order of Servites



Between 1225 and 1227, seven young men from the city of Florence joined the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin whose members were popularly known as the Praisers. Inspired by visions of Our Lady, they decided to dedicate themselves to lives of prayer and service. Their bishop prevailed upon them to adopt a rule and to accept new members. Their name was changed to Servants of Mary, or Servites. They were fully recognized by the Church in 1304.

Wednesday, February 25 — Ash Wednesday



We begin the season of Lent with ashes on our foreheads. This strong symbol calls us to an inner journey of transformation. The contemporary spiritual writer, Ronald Rolheiser, says:

Lent is a season for each of us to sit in the ashes, waiting while some silent growth takes place within us, and simply being still so that the ashes can do their work in us.