

Timely Reflections from Jane Flannigan, WPF

A recent trend has been to refer to February 14th as Singles Awareness Day. More traditional folk know it as Valentine's Day when candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from?

The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

During the reign of Emperor Claudius (41-54 A.D.) he determined that married men made poor soldiers. In an effort to strengthen his army he banned his soldiers from marriage and did away with the ritual that often led to the finding of one's life mate. In defiance of the ban on the marriage of soldiers, a priest named Valentine began the practice of secretly marrying soldiers and their sweethearts. When the emperor Claudius discovered what Valentine was doing he was immediately imprisoned. While in prison he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. Shortly before he was beheaded he sent his love a farewell message which he signed, "from your Valentine."

Even to this day, in America and around the world, notes of affection are passed, with the message, "Be my Valentine." Love, romance and marriage are wonderful gifts from God. They should be nurtured, and cherished throughout the year. But especially at this time of romantic ritual, remember the one you love and thank God that you found each other!



The Biggest Fish Fry Ever!

Save the dates — March 18th and April 8th.

We have no doubt that these events will have record-breaking attendance due to our ten year reputation and the stories that have been posted on the internet about people's experiences at our Fish Fry. To accommodate our growing number of followers and our invitation to Our Lady of Grace parishioners, we have extended the Fish Fry for **an additional hour** — 5:00 to 8:00 pm on both dates.

This also means we will need everyone's help to make these events a big success. Watch for details in the mail and bulletin.



Shared Opportunities



Marriage Booster Retreat

Saturday, March 19th, 2011

9:30am – 4:45pm

Our Lady of Grace-Dining Room

Cost: Free will offering

The best gift we can give our children and each other is a strong marriage. The Marriage Booster Retreat, presented by Family Fest Ministries, is an interactive and unique experience designed to give couples a chance to focus on each other and the issues that touch their marriage. Imagine a day where the two of you can laugh, reconnect, and talk deeply about your marriage relationship. This day is a fast-paced, faith-filled, romantic, relevant and fun experience that is focused on the sacrament of marriage. This will be the 3rd year this retreat has come to OLG and past participants found it to be very worthwhile. Sign up today by contacting Mary Hogan at 952-929-3317 or maryhogan@olgparish.

MHT-OLG Mutual Status Policy

Most Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Grace have granted reciprocal parishioner status to all members of OLG and MHT parishes. This means each parish will fully recognize the status and length of membership of all registered parishioners in welcoming and dealing with one another. This granting of "mutual status" does not require anyone to change where they worship, where they contribute or where they call their home parish.

	Greeter	Lector	Extraordinary Minister	Altar Server	Usher
Saturday February 19 5:00 PM	The Chongs Lois Preston	Nancy DeShane	Bonnie Phillippi Joel Phillippi	OPEN	Jeff Calder Jerry Burke (<u>sub req.</u>) Lori Ross Tom Ross
Sunday February 20 8:00 AM	Dave & Kate Dooley Angie Kuehn	Dennis O'Connor	Mike McMonagle Sherrie Schroeder	Mikaela Wolf	John Gannon John Schulte Dale Wenisch Tom Babcock
Sunday February 20 10:30 AM	Alyssa Neu Mike Pangborn	John Curran	Mary Schottenbauer Julie Hart (<u>sub req.</u>)	Ben Chong	Pat O'Brien Phil Grisez John Mittelstaedt OPEN

Offertory Recorders:

Monday, February 14.....Bill Koster, Jim McGie
Tuesday, February 22.....Bill Koster, Dan Manion

Hospitality Volunteers for February 20

8:00 am Jane and Mike Skelly
10:30 am The Smeaton Family