



OldSt. Patrick Catholic Church

5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9277
734.662.8141 • Since 1831

I arise today through a mighty strength; the invocation of the Trinity,
through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness, of the Creator of creation.
--- from St. Patrick's Breastplate

2 February, 2016 The Presentation of the Lord

February 11 is the 158th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes! The universal Church celebrates that as also World Day of the Sick. Pope Saint John Paul named this day the World Day of the Sick because of the miraculous healings that occurred at Lourdes as a result of the Blessed Mother's appearance to St. Bernadette in 1858. *More than physical healing, however, the message of Our Lady of Lourdes is one of spiritual consolation.* This life is hard for us in many ways, but God wants to communicate His love to us so that we can place our confidence in His invitation to live for the Kingdom of heaven.

We try to make the World Day of the Sick a special day for those who are suffering. We would like for this to be an opportunity to come to Mass again even for those who are normally homebound so that we can all be together and even receive the Sacrament of Anointing. **We will have our celebration of the World Day of the Sick on Saturday, February 13th at the 4pm Mass.** What a great chance to pray together again and to be in Church in Eucharistic worship!

Alternatively, I would be happy to come out to your place and anoint you with this great sacrament. We take Holy Communion a couple times a month to those who want it. If you would like to be put on our list for that, again, simply call the office. If you **ever** want to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I would be happy to come to you if you need that. The confession of sin and **sacramental forgiveness is a necessary grace** that God himself has instituted. Having this forgiveness is part of what helps us unite our sufferings with Christ and make them bear fruit. Sin is a daily occurrence in all of us **in some degree**, but many people have become callous to the dangers of sin. Confession has always been a part of the Church's ministry to the sick. Christ himself, in healing people, also addresses their sins (one of many instances is Mark 2: 1-12).

I pray for you who are sick, who have difficult family life, who struggle materially, who are discouraged. I know it is hard. I especially pray for you on my day off. **You need sacramental grace if you are going to make it through your challenges.** Come eagerly, frequently, and with intense love and faith to the sacraments which are fountains of grace. I hope whatever you need, spiritually or otherwise, you know that we —these people of God here in this parish — are here to help. Let me know if there is something you need. And let us all pray for each other!

Under the mercy,

Rev. Gerald Gawronski