

February 2nd 2020 - The Presentation of the Lord



For my eyes
have seen your
salvation.
Luke 2:35

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 1

9:00am † *Maria Luisa Gomez*

4:30pm *Philomen Primacio*
(bday)

Sunday, February 2

8:00am † *Maria Purificacion*
Baguio

10:00am *Sean Elsbernd* (bday)

12:00pm *Manuel Escoto* (bday)

Monday, February 3

9:00am *Philomen Primacio*

Tuesday, February 4

9:00am *Carlos Ernesto Aguiar*

Wednesday, February 5

9:00am † *Elisa Gonzalez*

Thursday, February 6

9:00am † *Alejandro & Elvira*
Meyer

Friday, February 7

9:00am † *Crisanto O. de la Torre*

Saturday, February 8

9:00am † *Eduardo Genoves*

4:30pm † *Luis & Tranquilina*
Baron



SECOND COLLECTION

Today's Second Collection is for the **Reserve Fund** of St. John the Evangelist. This account was established to help fund the on-going major maintenance and needs of the Parish of St. John. Thank you for your continued generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

January 20th 2020 - January 26th, 2020

Tuesday's Spec coll.\$ 173.00

Tues. On-line giving\$ 5.00

Weekend Offering.....\$ 2,470.83

Weekend On-line giving...\$ 280.00

Church of Latin America...\$ 348.00

Church of LA On-line giving\$ 0.00

From the Desk of the Pastor ...

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus. It is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy. The first reading gives us an important insight into the mystery of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple.

The Gospel introduces us to different people and events that in themselves provide numerous lessons and themes for further reflection.

First, Mary and Joseph respect the Mosaic Law. The Blessed Mother and the foster father in accordance with and in obedience to the canons of Mosaic Law present their first born to God the Father in His Temple. They offer the sacrifice prescribed for the poor: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Jesus' presentation signifies God's entrance to His temple. Jesus, the second person of the Holy Trinity, who become human entered His temple, presenting Himself to those who were really searching for Him. This is seen as the second Epiphany of the Lord.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to wait on the Lord and to recognize the Messiah.

The Gospel picks its own sense of direction underscoring Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings. Saint Pope John Paul II taught that, '*Simeon's words seem like a second Annunciation to Mary, for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow.*' (*Redemptoris Mater*, n16) The archangel's announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus' messianic royalty and the supernatural character of His virginal conception.

However, the announcement of the elderly Simeon in the temple instead spoke of the Lord's work of redemption that He would complete associating Himself through suffering to His Mother. Therefore, there is a strong Marian dimension to this feast and so in the Liturgical Calendar of the Extraordinary Form it is called the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. This refers to the other aspect of the presentation indicating the renewal of her total offering of herself to God for the accomplishment of His Divine Plan.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL (AAA) 2020

Excerpt from Archbishop, Salvatore Cordileone's letter in regards to the AAA:

Your Parish assessment this year is \$40,216.31

The theme for this year's Archdiocesan Annual Appeal is "*Use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace.*" By responding to God's call to stewardship and grace and participating in the Annual Appeal, we are collectively able to support such varied and critical needs as parish ministries, youth and young adult, our schools, priestly formation, ministering to the poor, social ministries, and the greater Church, among others.

As the result of your generosity and that of thousands of your fellow members of our Archdiocese, we provide critical assistance and resources to people in need - and do so in a way that our individual parishes would not be able to on their own.

Our mission as a Church and people of the Catholic faith continue, and the needs are ongoing, so I ask you to participate in this year's Annual Appeal. Your contribution reinforces the vital nature of our greater mission, enhances our ability to teach, spread, and celebrate the faith, and makes a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals. *All gifts to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, regardless of amount, are greatly appreciated and will be very beneficial.* God bless you.

The Presentation of the Lord

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles. "In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day.

On **Candlemas** we bless candles; the candlelight is an outward and visible sign of Christ who illumines our heart.