

BULLETIN 02-02-2025
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Pastor's Message

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday we celebrate a feast that seems to bring us back to Christmas time. It is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. The presentation of Jesus is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he wrote for Gentile Christians who were not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel was to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extended to Gentiles.

As the firstborn, Jesus belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth. So the feast we celebrate today shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. And Mary who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it.

Here we can see that the drama surrounding Jesus' conception and birth began in the Temple—when the Archangel visited Mary's kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus' infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple. All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading, from the Prophet Malachi, foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood. Christ has arrived as the long-awaited priest and redeemer. He is also the sacrifice. In the New Law of the

Kingdom of God, Jesus' own body has become the New Temple itself.

Like Jesus, we all were presented to the Lord as infants for our baptism. The Church has become holy and special because every one of us, presented to the Lord, carries within himself or herself a unique image of the Holy of Holies. It is the presence of God's intimate life, dwells within the newly baptized.

On this Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we ask God to transform us into the image we have received at Baptism. May the Lord give us the courage to renew our Baptism commitments, to live as children of light and of hope.

May God bless us all!

— Fr. Joe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Welcome to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord! The light of the candles blessed in this liturgy is a symbol of Christ—the light of the world. These blessed candles should be kept in your home as a sign of Christ 'the light of the world' and an expression of faith. The burning candle symbolizes the abiding presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of your family.**
- 2. *The Knights of Columbus will meet this Wednesday, February 5 at 6:30PM in the meeting room. We encourage men in our parish to join this special organization.***
- 3. This Tuesday, February 04, as we honor St. Blaise, we continue the tradition of the blessing of throats after the 7:00am Mass and all day long. Please come to church for blessing if you wish.**

4. The Knights of Columbus are selling tickets for the North Carolina State Raffle! Tickets are \$5.00 each. The top prize will be \$5,000.00. The drawing will be May 17th, 2025. Please see a Knight for tickets.

5. If you need a financial statement regarding your contributions of 2024 to our church for tax purposes, please call the church office. We are glad to do it for you.

MASS INTENTIONS

02/01 Saturday 9:30 am + Isave Phan
5:00 pm + Eugene Rosensky
02/02 Sunday 7:00 am + Susan Ravan
9:30 am + Martha Montalvo
12:00 pm + Elvira Flores Sanchez &
+Tomas Ibarra Olvera
02/03 Monday NO MASS
02/04 Tuesday 7:00 am + Giuse Khanh
02/05 Wednesday 7:00 am + Maria Then Vu
02/06 Thursday 7:00 am + Lonnie Angel
02/07 Friday 7:00 am + Daminh Maria Giuse

NEXT WEEKEND

02/08 Saturday 5:00 pm + Jesus Mena Lopez
02/09 Sunday 7:00 am + Lonnie Angel
9:30 am + Pablo Chicana Rengifo
12:00 pm + Tomas Ibarra Olvera

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 02

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Blessing of the Candles & Procession

7:00 am English
8:00 am Vietnamese
9:30 am English
12:00 pm Spanish

UPCOMING

Feb 17 Presidents' Day
Feb 28 Room at the Inn – Rose Gala fundraiser
March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY
March 9 Daylight Savings time begins

Mar 16-18 St. Dymphna Shrine Pilgrimage (OH)
Mar 21-23 Marriage Encounter. Emerald Isle, NC
March 25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Mar 29 Health Care Ethics Conference, Charlotte
April 13 HOLY WEEK BEGINS
April 20 EASTER SUNDAY
Apr 26-30 Spring Furniture Market
April 27 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Let Us Pray For Our Parishioners...

Johnny Apodaca
Tracy Barber
Joseph Carter
Angel M. Cuellas
Marie Forbert
Theresa French-R.
Amanda Garcia
Mario Garcia
Willa Graham
Myles Harris
Maria Hdz.
Aber Johnson
Jorge Laguere
Deacon Larry Lisk
Daysi Martinez
Rosario Martinez
Michael Messengler
Linda McKinney
Felicia Murphy
Nancy Nkwokolo
Gladys Ozor
Rosemary Peterson
Hector Sanchez Maria G. Sanchez A.
Gricelda Sanchez
Paula Rodriguez
Andrew Royster
Mariane Smith
Venuste Tuyikunde

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular Offertory: \$ 4,544.00
Combined Mission: \$ 80.00
Restricted Donation: \$ 68.00

Total: \$ 4,692.00

THANK YOU!

To Will What You Command The modern view of the human person sees freedom as personal acts of the will, evident in debates over biological realities. This problem isn't new! Explore St. Augustine's teaching on Free Will and his debate with Pelagius over grace and what our souls, our families and our society need to be truly free. February 20 & 27, 7:30pm (pre-class) 8-9pm (lecture). InstituteOfCatholicCulture.org. No charge. Register for live discussion and Q&A.

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February 7-14th

National Marriage Week - This year's theme from the USCCB is Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Check out the variety of resources for those discerning marriage and those already living out their vocation, including an at-home, week-long retreat and a marriage-centered Lectio Divina. Visit www.foryourmarriage.org.

Quem Servis?: Who Do You Serve?

Feb. 8 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.

The speakers are Bishop Fabre-Jeune, John Frankman, Rick Barrett, Anthony Abbate and Rob Blyton. For Information/ Registration for the 15th Annual Catholic Men's Conference: catholicmenofthecarolinas.org.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
St. Josephine Bakhita,
Pray for us
CC.doc.org for resources

The Future of Human Dignity

Health-care professionals are invited to the eighth annual **Converging Roads** health-care ethics conference on March 29 from 8 am to 5:45 pm at the Cathedral of St. Patrick. Registration is \$75 to \$159 based on CME/ CNE inclusion. For more information, including registration link, please visit <https://forlifeandfamily.org/events/cr25-cnc/>

PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED!

- Mac n Cheese - Saltine Crackers
- Peanut Butter (regular size)
- Pork & Beans canned - Canned Fruit
- Canned Corn or Green Beans - Pasta 1lb
- Cereal - Boxes or bags (regular size, not large)
- Pasta Sauce (regular size, not large)
- Instant Oatmeal (boxes with individual pouches)

No glass containers,

No fresh food or outdated food, please.

As always, we are grateful for monetary donations.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!