

Dear Padre,

What happened to Candlemas? When I was a child, there was one day when everyone brought candles to church to have them blessed. At the end of Mass, the priest would bless everyone’s throats with the candles.

Candlemas is another name for our celebration of the Presentation of the Lord: the day Mary and Joseph presented their child to God in the Temple at Jerusalem in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:22–38). We remember how the elderly believers Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as their longed-for Messiah and how, addressing God in a canticle, Simeon proclaimed Christ to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (Luke 2:32).

Mass on this day often begins with the blessing and lighting of candles, which the priest and people carry into the church. The name Candlemas springs from this ritual blessing.

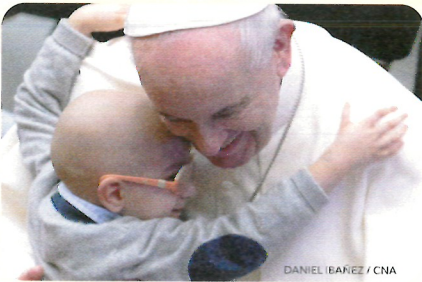
The day after the feast of the Presentation is the memorial celebration of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr. According to tradition, St. Blaise was instrumental in healing a person who was choking. The Church remembers this encounter and celebrates the intervention of the Spirit of God through the blessing of throats, using the blessed candles from the feast of the Presentation. It is a wonderful and very practical spiritual practice that is much appreciated and anticipated each year. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8	February 9
Weekday	Weekday	St. Agatha,	St. Paul Miki and	Weekday	Weekday	Fifth Sunday in
Heb 11:32–40	Heb 12:1–4	Virgin and	Companions,	Heb 13:1–8	Heb 13:15–17,	Ordinary Time
Mk 5:1–20	Mk 5:21–43	Martyr	Martyrs	Mk 6:14–29	20–21	Is 6:1–2a, 3–8
		Heb 12:4–7,	Heb 12:18–19,		Mk 6:30–34	1 Cor 15:1–11
		11–15	21–24			or 15:3–8, 11
		Mk 6:1–6	Mk 6:7–13			Lk 5:1–11



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Like Simeon, let us also pick up this child, the God of newness and surprises.... Let us be restless, let us be moved by the Spirit, like Simeon and Anna.... If, like them, we live in expectation, we will embrace Jesus, who is the light and hope of life.

HOMILY, ROME, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 2, 2025
The Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1–4 / Hebrews 2:14–18 / Luke 2:22–40 or 2:22–32



Blessings of Many Shapes

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is always a blessed and holy occasion when parents bring their child to the parish church for baptism. They gather family and friends and proudly present their child to both God and the faith community. Somewhere in the midst of it all, they will wonder who their child will become, what their child’s gifts and talents will be, and what hopes and dreams their child will have. Yet like Simeon, who blessed the Holy Family in the Temple, they will also realize that life is not always favorable to us. As Simeon foretold, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many...and you yourself a sword will pierce” (Luke 2:34–35).

Although we recognize that suffering is a part of everyone’s life, and we would never wish it upon a child, we might hope that the child does not run from every suffering, for it becomes the path to wisdom and compassion—perhaps the only path. We might also wish on the child a bit of loneliness, for it teaches us to treasure friends. And amid hoping for the blessing of success, losing can also be a gift and a blessing, for it is how we learn to deal with failure and understand the important lesson that we cannot always have our own way. Failure can be the seed of humility. Fortunately, while doing our best as parents, we must allow God to decide how our children will be blessed and what will nurture their growth into the image of Jesus. We simply present them to God from whom they came. ●

Reflect

Call to mind someone you love deeply and remind yourself that God loves him or her even more.



When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] took [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

LUKE 2:22

February 2, 2025 – The Presentation of The Lord



ST. JUDE PARISH

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WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: *Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass* **CELEBRANT:**

Sunday	Feb. 2, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	Feb. 6, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Feb. 9, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	Feb. 13, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Feb. 2, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thurs.	Feb. 6, 2025	Mary Laughlin	By: Bill & Vi Taylor
Sunday	Feb. 9, 2025	Bob & Alice Moore	By: Chuck McKenna
Thursday	Feb. 13, 2025	Frank & Betty Bilkovic	By: Chuck McKenna

TODAY: **SUNDAY, 2-2 -2025** **NEXT SUNDAY:** **SUNDAY, 2-9-2025**

Reader	Brianna Price	Reader	Marcus Secondi
EO Ministers	Tony & Jenny Karsen	EO Ministers	K. Boyer & D. Hanchak
Servers	Rocky, Bo, Hayzel, Bella	Servers	Alexa, Lydia, Elise, Sadie

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Jan. 26, 2025	Target	\$ 1,800	Offered	\$ 2,006.00	\$ 206.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 59,900		\$ 60,845.20	\$ 1,345.20
Attendance		468	Year To Date Attendance			3743

"We Have Encountered the Lord Who Brings Us Salvation"

"The presentation of Jesus in the temple," the feast the Church celebrates today, "shows him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. With Simeon and Anna, all Israel awaits its encounter with the Savior" (CCC 529).

And what an encounter it is, rich in history and context: faithful Mary and Joseph, adhering to Mosaic Law and bringing the child Jesus to Jerusalem to present and consecrate him to the Lord; and bringing for sacrifice what they could afford – two turtledoves or pigeons rather than a lamb.

Simeon and Anna are described as righteous and devout (Simeon) and widowed, advanced in years, and living at the temple (Anna). Steadfast in faith and hope, they are waiting for the consolation of Israel: the coming of the Messiah and God's redemption of his people.

By the prompting of the Holy Spirit, Simeon knows immediately that the child is the Messiah for whom he has long waited. Luke tells us that Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God. Simeon, who has waited and watched for the Lord, feels the joy of sentry duty completed. **He has been vigilant** and assured that he should not see death before seeing the Christ of the Lord. **Now, he beholds his salvation. Now, he may depart from this life; he may die in the peace that Christ brings.**

Anna too, recognized Christ in her presence and coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. She too, **discovered joy in waiting on God's promises and seeing them fulfilled.** How can we imitate Simeon and Anna, so as to recognize God's action in our lives?

How can we learn to respond with the same promptness, adoration, and gratitude? Like them, a good deal of our lives is spent in this silence of waiting. But, like Simeon and Anna, we must remain steadfast – praying, fasting, and hoping in God. If we do this faithfully, we will learn to recognize the Lord when he comes.

Earlier, we said that Joseph and Mary would have brought two turtledoves or pigeons for sacrifice rather than a lamb. **In truth, however, they brought both. Presenting Jesus in the temple, they brought the perfect, spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He is likewise present to us today in the Holy Eucharist. Happy are we if, like Simeon and Anna, we prepare our hearts to encounter him, who is our salvation.**

FROM THE DRE:

This week was our student Mass. Thank you to Carlena and Noah Secondi for reading, Daisy Karsen for reading the intercessions, Sadie and Emma Klein Alanah Secondi for bringing up the gifts, and Jonah Secondi and Cleo Marillier for helping to usher.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Brian Laughlin, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, David Vana, Sonny Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Brett Middleton, and those on our prayer chain.

ROSARY – Just a reminder that we recite the Rosary on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9 a.m. All are welcome!

THIS WEEK, OUR SPECIAL COLLECTION supports the churches in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Your donation helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule and now grappling with the war in Ukraine. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Thank you for your generosity to the collection today. For more info., please visit www.usccb.org/ccee

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY - Jell-O, pudding, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

MID-LIFE SINGLES (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on February 21-23, 2025. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$230 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: Due to the significant cost of a brand-new building, I have decided to charge our committee to investigate finishing the annex, including storage. The goal is to find a happy medium, a cost-effective solution to our space shortage while ensuring that we, as a parish, won't deplete our parish savings.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **MARIETTA BAILEY**
By request of Darlene Hollar*

CONSECRATION TO THE EUCHARIST – At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Sessions are on Wednesdays, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 15, Feb. 19, and ending on March 5, Ash Wednesday—time: 6:00 p.m. with light supper at 5:30 p.m. The books and dinner are free of charge. Using the book “33 Days to Eucharistic Glory” as a guide, we will deepen and recommit ourselves to the most precious gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. Join us!

FROM THE DIOCESE

FROM BISHOP LOHSE: Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord (a.k.a Candlemas Day), acknowledging and worshiping Jesus as the Light of the World and the long-awaited Messiah. This mass will replace the Sunday Mass of Ordinary Time. The bishop also informed us that there are two special intentions that we all should include in our prayers:

- 1- Also, today the Church will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. We are blessed here by the ministry of many brothers and sisters who have answered God's call to religious life. **Let us all pray for those in consecrated life and for new vocations to the consecrated life.**
- 2- Additionally, today is the 20th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination and consecration of Bishop Emeritus Paul J. Bradley. He was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Pittsburgh on February 2, 2005. Let us offer our prayers in thanksgiving for Bishop Bradley's ministry, particularly his 14 years as bishop of Kalamazoo. He will be celebrating a special Mass on February 2 in Pittsburgh. He has assured us of his prayers for us and asks, in return, our prayers for him.

On another note, from the Bishop, The World Day of Prayer for the Sick will be coming soon on February 11th. He asks that we pray for all the sick in our families, parish, and community.

Anyone aware of child sexual abuse should report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency and make a report to the Michigan Department of Attorney General at 844-324-3374.