

## The Presentation of the Lord



The commemoration of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and Purification of Mary after his birth in fulfillment of the Law of Moses.

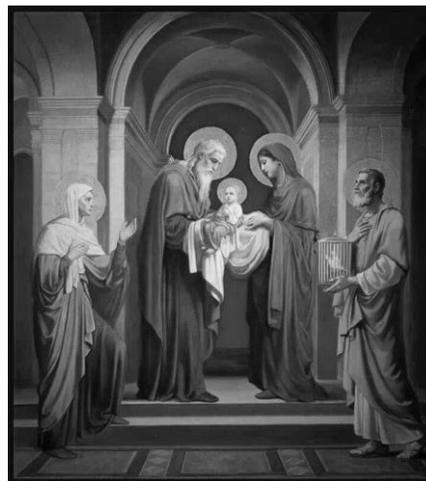
Also known as “The Feast of the Blessing of Candles and the Procession” or “Candlemas” because of the tradition of blessing and lighting candles and procession to the altar on that day.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the One who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with brilliance of His eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true Light in her arms and brought Him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true Light as we hasten to meet Him.

- St. Sophronius; Office of Readings, Liturgy of the Hours

# Beyond the Walls

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*God, source and origin  
of all light, pour into  
our hearts the brilliance  
of perpetual light so we  
may reach that light  
which never fails, the  
light of your glory!*

### Month of February

February 2 – Presentation of the Lord

February 3 – St. Blasé, Bishop & Martyr

February 5 – St. Agatha

February 6 – St. Paul Miki

February 7 – St. Colette

February 8 – St. Jerome Emiliani

February 10 – St. Scholastica

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes

February 13 – St. Catherine de Ricci

February 14 – Ss. Cyril & Methodius

February 14 – Valentine’s Day

February 21 – St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor

February 22 – Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

February 23 – St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

## *A Letter from Your Oldest Brother*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Do you remember the two greatest commandments Jesus gave us (Matt 22: 37-39)? Jesus said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...soul ... and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment... The second...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

The single most important lesson you must learn in life is how to love like God loves you. The whole reason God put you on this earth was not to make money, have a lot of fun, or go to prison. He put you on this earth to learn how to love. I know many of you did not have that opportunity growing up. Some of you had a hard childhood. But you know what, the sun, sooner or later always comes out. And when does that happen? When you learn how to love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

I know jail/prison is not comfortable. But if God is going to make you like Jesus, He is going to put you through everything Jesus went through. Jesus was not spared from difficulty. Jesus many times was lonely, misunderstood, disappointed, and tempted. If God let his Son go through all that, don't you think he is going to let you go through it too? Yes. Why? Because God is more interested in your character than your comfort.

Always remember this. Grapes must be crushed to make wine, diamonds are formed under pressure, olives are pressed to release oil, seeds grow in darkness, whenever you feel crushed, under pressure, pressed, or in darkness because you're in prison, you're being transformed by God. Have faith, trust the process of life, and commit yourself.

Do you know why you keep dreaming about getting out of jail/prison early? Because God is talking to you. He is telling you something he has for you. But you must believe in God. You must make a commitment to learn, to study, to improve yourself so you can be ready.

Remember this, a golf club is just a golf club. It can cost \$50.00 or \$100.00 until you put in the hands of Tiger Woods. Then the value goes up. It's the same golf club, all he added was commitment, swinging from the age of five, six, ten and twenty years old. He had a dream to be the best player in the world. But he couldn't get there unless he was committed. It is the same with the Bible. It's just a book until you read it, word for word, scripture by scripture, then the value goes up. The Bible will teach you wisdom, understanding, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control (Galatians 5). But you need commitment. Start with calling your family on Valentine's Day.

God Bless You,  
Your Oldest Brother