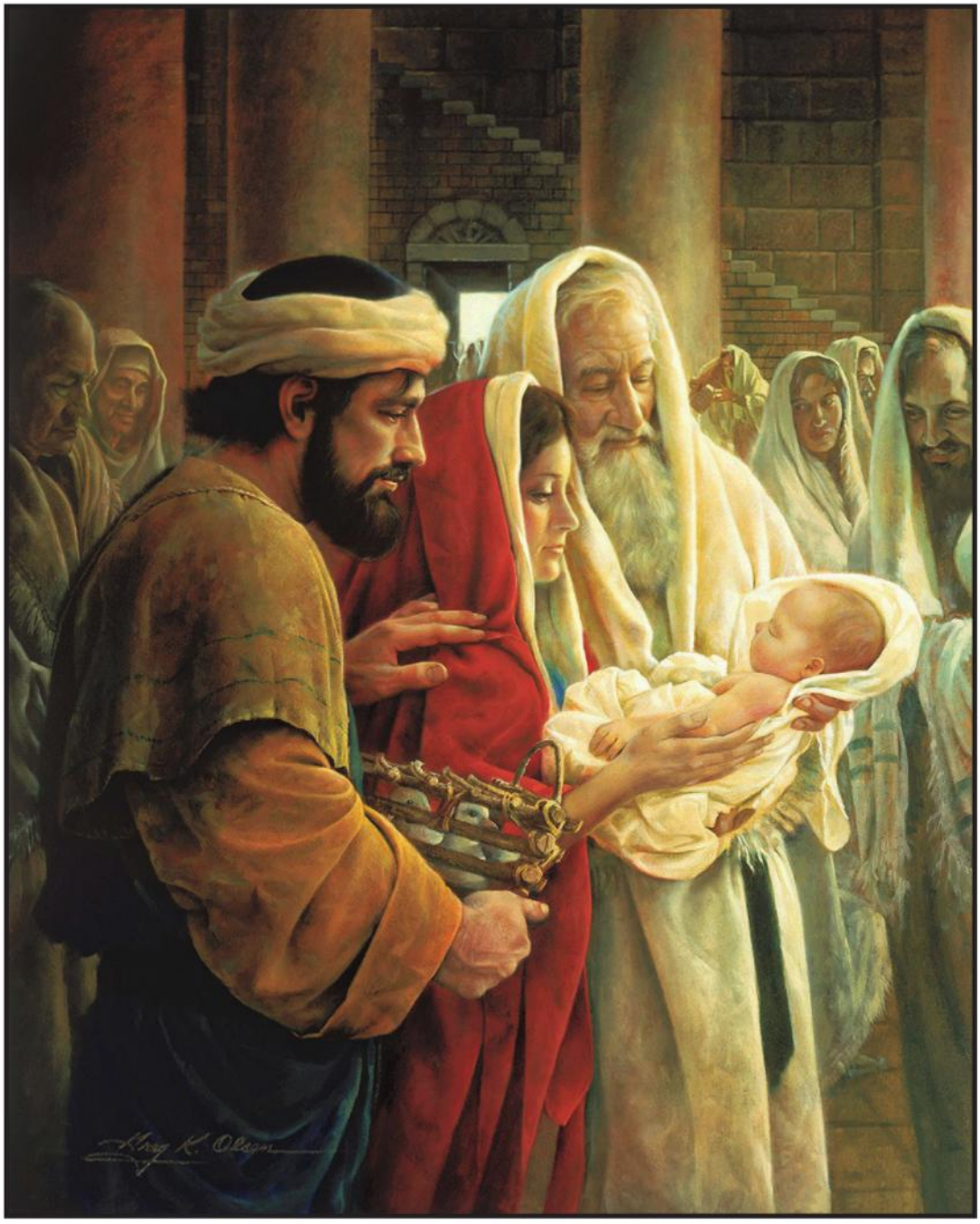
Saint Mary's Catholic Church
Victoria, Texas



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
February 5, 2023

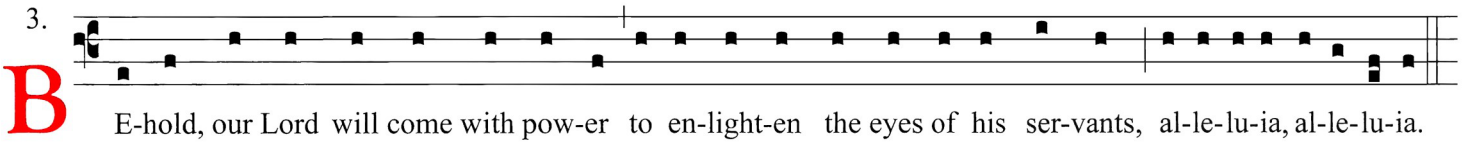
~ PARISH FESTIVAL TODAY ~
AT THE VICTORIA COMMUNITY CENTER
2905 E North Street - Victoria, TX 77901

PRELUDE

THE BLESSING OF CANDLES

STAND

ANTIPHON During the Lighting of Candles



℣. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ℟. **Amen.**
℣. The Lord be with you. ℟. **And with your spirit.**

GREETING

Dear brethren, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

BLESSING OF CANDLES

Let us pray. O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation for the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing + these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

℣. Let us go in peace to meet the Lord. ℟. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads* Hymn 184

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *(10:30 am only)* Pew Missal, page 94

℣. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ℟. **Amen.**
℣. The Lord be with you. ℟. **And with your spirit.**

KYRIE *Sancta Maria Magdalena* Pew Missal, page 30

GLORIA *Heritage* Pew Missal, back page

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

SIT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS Pew Missal, page 95

HOMILY

STAND

NICENE CREED Pew Missal, page 9

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL ℣. Let us pray to the Lord. ℟. **Lord hear our prayer.**

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS Pew Missal, back page

SIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star!*

1 How brightly shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
the light in Judah shining.
Thou David's son of Jacob's race,
The Bridegroom, and the King of grace,
for thee our hearts are pining!
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,
thou victorious Prince of graces,
filling all the heavenly places!

2 Though circled by the hosts on high,
he deigns to cast a pitying eye
upon his helpless creature;
the whole creation's Head and Lord,
by highest seraphim adored,
assumes our very nature.
Jesus, grant us, through thy merit,
to inherit thy salvation:
hear, O hear our supplication.

3 Rejoice, ye heav'ns; thou earth, reply;
with praise, ye sinners, fill the sky
for this his incarnation.
Incarnate God, put forth thy pow'r,
ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,
till all know thy salvation.
Amen, amen! Alleluia,
alleluia! Praise be given
evermore by earth and heaven.

STAND

ORATE FRATRES Pew Missal, page 11

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May the offering made with exultation by your Church be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, for you willed that your Only Begotten Son be offered to you for the life of the world as the Lamb without blemish. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PREFACE DIALOGUE Pew Missal, page 11

SANCTUS *Sancta Maria Magdalena* Pew Missal, page 35

KNEEL

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *Prayer I* - page 11; *II* - page 14; *III* - page 15

MEM. ACCLAMATION *ICEL Chant- Save us...* Pew Missal, page 39

STAND

COMMUNION RITE

OUR FATHER Pew Missal, page 17

THE PEACE Pew Missal, page 18

AGNUS DEI *Sancta Maria Magdalena* Pew Missal, page 36

KNEEL

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD Pew Missal, page 18

Guidelines for the Reception of Holy Communion are inside the front cover of the Pew Missal.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Pew Missal, page 96

COMMUNION HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* Hymn 165

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

STAND

By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord, bring your grace to perfection within us, and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation that he would not see death until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ, so may we, going forth to meet the Lord, obtain the gift of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING & DISMISSAL Pew Missal, page 19

THE LAST GOSPEL page 5 of this bulletin or Pew Missal, page 77

MARIAN ANTIPHON *Alma Redemptoris Mater* Hymn 85

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

The Shape of the Liturgy

Processional Hymn: *Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates*

This hymn, written by Georg Weissel (1590-1635), was originally composed for the first Sunday in Advent sometime during the Thirty-Years' War (1618-1648). This was a time of great struggles between the Protestant princes of Bohemia and the Catholic Emperor, which led to plundering of the land, villages and farms by troops and untold suffering which brought on disease and famine. Lift Up Your Heads, originally written in German, is a reflection on Psalm 24:7. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), rendered the hymn into English.

Psalm 24 has traditionally been associated with the Advent season. The first stanza places our verse in the context of waiting for the "King of glory" who is the "Savior of the world."

Stanza two reflects the pietistic* origins of the hymn writer and the time. The gates are not literally openings to a walled city, but a metaphor for the "portals of [our] heart." Our hearts become a "temple set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ."

In stanza three the "King" becomes a "Redeemer" who will "abide" within our wide-open hearts. Once again, the focus is not on an external being, but on one whose "inner presence [we] feel" and whose "grace and love in us [are] reveal[ed]."

The concluding stanza is an eschatological** petition to the Holy Spirit to lead us on "until the glorious crown is won," in other words to lead us in to eternal joys of heaven.

The essential theme in this hymn: waiting for a Savior who will not only change our hearts now, but will come in glory in the fulfillment of time. It is said that every decision we make in this life turn us a little more toward God or a little more away from Him. As the Feast of the Presentation marks the transition from the Advent/Christmas season to the approaching Holy Penitential Season of Lent this year, perhaps we might grow in our lives of faith by paying closer attention to the choices we make to help us better understand the overall direction one is taking.

-Fr. James Ramsey

* Pietistic – or Pietism - is a movement within Lutheranism which combines an emphasis on biblical doctrine touching on an individual living a life of piety, or to put it another way, living a holy Christian life, including a social concern for the needy and disadvantaged.

** Eschatological or eschatology - comes from the Greek word *éschatos*, meaning "last", and *logos*, meaning "the study of". Thus, eschatology as the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, heaven, and hell, and the final destiny of the soul and of mankind.

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St. Mary's Parish Festival
- TODAY -
Sunday, February 5, 2023

Prayer for a Successful Festival

God our Father, we give thanks for all the blessings You have bestowed on our parish. We ask You to give us the grace needed to work together as a parish family for the success of our festival. Keep everyone safe from all harm and illness, and give all in attendance generous hearts. May everything we do contribute to building the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Mary, Our Mother & Patroness, pray for us.

St. Mary's Parish-Wide Survey

Now Through February 12th

Please help us by participating in a survey conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute. The survey will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. You may access the survey now at **portal.catholicleaders.org/d/yt8ck3** or through our parish website **www.stmvictora.org**.

If you prefer a paper copy, you may pick one up at the back the back church, in the parish office, or by contacting Cathy or Andy in the parish office at (361) 573-4328.

We only have 38 surveys turned in and we want your feedback. Thank you for your participation!

The Last Gospel

Since the Christmas Season at St. Mary's, there have been times at Mass when the priest read the beginning, or prologue, to St. John's Gospel after the conclusion of Mass. This is known as the Last Gospel. This custom originated in the Middle Ages when the faithful would sometimes ask the Priest to read a Gospel over them as a form of blessing, because the Gospel is the Word of God Himself. The beginning of John's Gospel was a natural favorite, being a poetic summation of our creation and salvation, all brought about by God's immanent love for us.

Over time, it became customary for the Priest to begin reciting it at the altar at the end of Mass, and to continue from memory as he processed out of the Sanctuary. This eventually extended to reading the entire prologue at the altar, and in 1570, Pope Pius V officially added it as part of the Mass.

Although the Last Gospel was removed from the Mass after the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, we have occasionally used it as a devotional practice after Mass in place of the common devotional prayer to St. Michael. We use it once again today, on the Feast of the Presentation, as a reminder that after receiving Jesus Himself in Holy Communion, the true light, which enlightens everyone, is truly living inside us.

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

V. The Beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. [genuflect] And the Word became flesh [rise] and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

The people respond: Thanks be to God.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

This Week at St. Mary's

Saturday, Feb. 4 — Sat. of the 4th Week in Ordinary Time
10:00 am Boyd Baptism
11:00 am DeLeon Baptism
4:30 pm Vigil Mass — Mass Intention: Louise Orsak †
5:30 pm Confession — Wayne Dierlam †

Sunday, Feb. 5 — The Presentation of the Lord (Observed)

Parish Festival at the Community Center

8:00 am Sunday Mass — Mass Intention: Bernice Kurtz †
9:15—10:00 am Confession — Hannah Immenhauser
9:30 am Holy Face Devotions—Chapel
10:30 am Sunday Mass — Mass Intention: People of the Parish

Monday, Feb. 6 — Memorial of Saint Paul Miki
7:00 am—7:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel
12:05 pm Daily Mass — Mass Intention: James & Lillian Knippa &
12:35 pm Confession and Communal Rosary — Jimmy †
6:00 pm Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann meeting at the KC Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 7 — Tues. 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 am—7:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel
12:05 pm Daily Mass — Mass Intention: Daniel Jalufka †
12:35 pm Confession and Communal Rosary
3:00—4:30 pm Divine Mercy Cenacle in the Chapel
6:30 pm Choir Practice in the Church
7:00 pm RCIA (Classes to become Catholic) in the Activity Center
7:15 pm KC Council #1329 meeting at the KC Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 8 — Wed. of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time
7:00 am—7:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel
11:00 am—3:30 pm St. Mary's Homeschool Co-op
11:45 am Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Church
12:05 pm Daily Mass — Mass Intention: Lorene Kubicek †
12:35 pm Confession and Communal Rosary
6:00—7:15 pm CCD Classes (Religious Education for the Youth)

Thursday, Feb. 9 — Thurs. of the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 am—7:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel
8:10 am Nazareth Academy Mass Intention: Katie Pagel †
9:00—2:00 pm Quilt and Craft Corner in the Activity Center
12:05 pm Daily Mass — Mass Intention: Dorothy Tyng †
12:35 pm Confession and Communal Rosary
1:30 pm Altar Society Board Meeting

Friday, Feb. 10 — Memorial of Saint Scholastica
7:00 am—7:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel
12:05 pm Daily Mass — Mass Intention: John Potts †
12:35 pm Confession and Communal Rosary

Saturday, Feb. 11 — Sat. of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time
4:30 pm Vigil Mass — Mass Intention: Ernest Innocenti †
5:30 pm Confession — Donna Hauboldt †

Sunday, Feb. 12 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am Sunday Mass — Mass Intention: Jimmie Culak †
9:15—10:00 am Confession — Nikkie Halepeska
9:30 am Holy Face Devotions—Chapel
10:30 am Sunday Mass — Mass Intention: People of the Parish

† *symbol indicates the deceased*

Offertory Gifts

January 23-29

Sunday Collection	$4,217.29
On-line giving	$1,115.00
Total	**$5,332.29**

Amount needed weekly to meet budget: $9,019

Mass Attendance

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat., Jan. 28th at 4:30 pm	132
Sun., Jan. 29th at 8:00 am	92
Sun., Jan. 29th at 10:30 am	135
Total	**359**

The following dates open for flower sponsorships for a donation of $100:
June 18, 25
July 2, 30
August 6, 20, 27
September 3, 10, 24, 30
October 1, 8, 15
November 19
December 8th, 12th.
Contact Georgia West at 361 935-6701 to make your reservation.

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the Deceased
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Vrana & Janacek Families
by
Paul & Mary Ann Janacek

The Candle
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Rachel Driver

The Candle
at Mary's Altar
burns this week in memory of
Daniel Jalufka
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