

The Presentation of the Lord

Candlemas

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
9:00 AM MASS



Dear Friends,

On February 2nd the Church celebrates the feast of The Presentation of the Lord. This feast is celebrated forty days after Christmas. In obedience with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. What appears to be a simple family ritual becomes a profound revelation of who Jesus truly is.

In the Temple, Simeon and Anna - two faithful elders who have waited their whole lives for God's promise - recognize the child for who He is. Simeon proclaims Jesus as ***"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."*** This is why this feast is also known as **Candlemas**. The blessing of candles reminds us that Christ is the Light who enters the darkness of our world and of our hearts.

The Presentation is also a moment of offering. Mary and Joseph offer their Son completely to God, trusting in His plan even when it will lead to the Cross. Their example invites us to reflect on our own willingness to offer our lives to the Lord - our time, our families, our struggles, and our hopes.

As we celebrate this feast, we are reminded that Christ still comes to meet us today - in the Eucharist, in the Holy Scripture, in prayer and in one another. Like Simeon and Anna, may we recognize Him, welcome His light, and carry that light into the world.

In Christ,
Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis