



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

**Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053**

February 02, 2025

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The **First Reading** from the prophet *Malachi 3:1-4* gives us an important insight to understand profoundly the mystery of the Lord's Presentation in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, in accordance with the canons of Mosaic Law. The text, taken from the Prophet Malachi says, "*I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord who you seek*" (Mal 3:1). From all the Gospels, we know that it is the Precursor, St. John the Baptist who was born 6 months before Jesus, that God sent to prepare His way. Putting these evangelical facts together, we can comprehend the words of the Prophet Malachi. The Lord God promised that He would send a Precursor to prepare His way. Since there is only 6 months between the birth of St John the Baptist and Jesus it is clear that the prophecy meant that *suddenly* after the Precursor, the Lord Himself will come. So, soon after the Baptist's birth, God entered His temple. Jesus' presentation signifies God's entrance to His temple. God made man entered His temple, presenting Himself to those who were really searching for Him.

The **Gospel** from *Luke 2:22-40* introduces us to different people and events that in themselves provide numerous lessons and themes for further reflection. First of all, Mary and Joseph respect the Mosaic Law by offering the sacrifice prescribed for the poor: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah. In this sense we can see in the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

an extension of the '*Pro Orantibus Day*' (For those who pray) that is celebrated on the feast of the Presentation of Mary (21 November). On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus' presentation in the temple, also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not just a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer as true Christian charity is a consequence of a solid interior life. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with the heart of the One whose very name is Charity.

At the end of the Gospel Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings is emphasized. Pope John Paul II taught that, '*Simeon's words seem like a second Annunciation to Mary, for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow.*' (*Redemptoris Mater*, n16) The archangel's announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus' messianic royalty and the supernatural character of His virginal conception. The announcement of the elderly in the temple instead spoke of the Lord's work of redemption that He would complete associating Himself through suffering to His Mother. Therefore, there is a strong Marian dimension to this feast and so in the previous Liturgical Calendar it is called

the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. This refers to the other aspect of the presentation that consists of the ritual purification of Jewish women after they had given birth. In Mary's case this purification was not necessary, but it indicates the renewal of her total offering of herself to God for the accomplishment of His Divine Plan.

Simeon's prophecy also announces that Christ will be '*a sign of contradiction*'. St Cyril of Alexandria, in one of his homilies, interpreted the words '*sign of contradiction*' like a noble cross, as St Paul wrote to the Corinthians '*a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*' (*1 Cor 1:23*) [...] *It is a sign of contradiction in the sense that those who loose appear as foolish while in those who recognize its power [the cross] reveals salvation and life*' (cf. PG 77, 1044-1049).

—Excerpted from [Congregation for the Clergy](#)

**Collection
January 26, 2025**

Envelopes	\$235.00
Loose	\$5.00
Initial Offering	\$35.00
Jan 1st	\$5.00
Cemetery Fund I/M of Margie Gardiner	\$100.00
	\$380.00

Notices:

1: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet again starting on Thursday January 9th, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

2: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers will resume on Wednesday January 8th, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the District 10, Red Islands Fire Hall. Drop in and visit with your friends and neighbours. Cards, games and puzzles are available. Everyone is welcome.

3: On this World Day for Consecrated Life I offer the following description of the Voluntas Dei Institute, the institute to which Fr. Yake belongs, as an example of the role that religious life plays within the Church and the world. Please see this link for the information.

<http://www.eastrichmondcatholic.com/backissu/2025/02feb2025.pdf>

4: February 2, 2025 29th World Day for Consecrated Life:

Mass 10:30 am to be celebrated by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick at St. Ninian Cathedral.

World Day for Consecrated Life, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is a day of prayer and celebration for people who have consecrated their lives to God through vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Celebration of this day of prayer allows parishes to highlight the gift of religious life and pray for those discerning a religious vocation. The following prayer, written for the World Day for Consecrated Life, is provided courtesy U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life And Vocations.

"God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."