

Feast of the Presentation 2020 Homily Outline

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

This a celebration of light – as Jesus Christ the Light of the world enters the Temple and the aged Simeon, who has been waiting all of his life for this moment, declares:

NOW, MASTER, YOU MAY LET YOUR SERVANT GO
IN PEACE, ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD,
FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION,
WHICH YOU PREPARED IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THE PEOPLES:
A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES,
AND GLORY FOR YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL.

We see the fulfillment here of the words of St. John:

John 1:9

THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH ENLIGHTENS EVERYONE, WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD.

St. Sophronius:

Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

1. What exactly do we mean when we say that Jesus is the “TRUE LIGHT” the one who, “ENLIGHTENS EVERYONE”, and a “LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES”?

It means that this world is dark, and we don't always see so well, and we stumble around trying to figure out what should I do? How should I live? Who should I be?

2. You need the bigger light

A quick elk hunting story to illustrate the Gospel!

You can have a lot of faith or just get by with a little bit.

Here's the thing, having a lot of faith, in some ways, can be a bit of a burden – there's an added weight to every step of your life.

And having a little faith seems to work just fine most of the time. I don't steal, I don't cheat on my wife, I'm relatively present to my kids, we go to Mass as a family most Sundays – and life works pretty well...most of the time.

When life is simple and easy, when things go well, it doesn't take too much faith to get by – but when things get difficult, when life seems to be falling apart around us, when situations get serious – we realize we need the little bit of faith isn't enough (and frankly sometimes it's too late to just pick up the thread and the interior spiritual resources and capacity just aren't there and cannot be summoned and a moment's notice). You are out in the wilderness and you realize you needed the big headlamp.

3. How do I make sure I have enough light for the dark times?

a. *Notice the times of compromise, where you take the easier path and the lighter burden:*

- Rather than daily serious prayer...I choose
- Rather than the sacrifice of my time for Sunday Mass...I choose
- Rather than the path of compassion and forgiveness...I choose
- Rather than the path of self-denial...I choose
- Rather than humbly hoping in God...I choose

b. *Look for serious answers to the difficult and perplexing questions about our religion and about life.*

c. *Imitate Simeon and Anna from the Gospel who are the first to receive the Light in the temple*

- Righteous, devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, filled with the Holy Spirit, he was in the temple
- She never left the temple, worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer

Their example of prayer and deep longing for the Light is a beautiful example for us.

Announcements Feb 1/2

- ❖ **Sunday (today)**— Teen Confirmation @ 9:30am in Center rooms 1 & 2. Sparks for Middle Schoolers @ 12:30pm in JPPI Youth Center. Ignite for High Schoolers @ 12:30pm in upper Parish Center. Young Adults Volleyball @ 3pm in Gym. Roots Young Adults @ 6:15pm in Camerman Hall.
- ❖ **Monday**—Legion of Mary @ 9am in Center room 1. YLI meeting @ 11:30am in Center room 1.
- ❖ **Tuesday**—Bible Study @ 9am in Center rooms 1 & 2.
- ❖ **Wednesday**—Rosary Makers @ 10am in Center room 1. NO Evening Confession. Youth/Adult programs begin @ 6pm in Church.
- ❖ **Thursday**—"That Man is You" @ 6am in Camerman Hall. Altar Society mtg @ 11:30am in Center rooms 1 & 2. Gospel Study @ 6pm in upper JPPI Center. RCIA @ 6:30pm in Center rooms 1 & 2. **Vianney Cenacle @ 7pm** in Church – *come pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood!*
- ❖ **Friday**—Mom's group @ 10am in Center rooms 1 & 2. NO Evening Confession.
- ❖ **Saturday**—San Lorenzo Guild @ 10am in Center room 1.
- ❖ **Faith Works volunteers needed!** Contact Sr. Amata Christi at sachristi@starofthesea.net.
- ❖ **After morning Masses in Camerman Hall**—enjoy Hospitality with your Parish

Family!