

Presenting the Present: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of the Presentation

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Malachi 3:1–4 | Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14–18 | Gospel: Luke 2:22–40



Today's feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth.

So the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it.

However, the Gospel story nowhere mentions Jesus' "redemption," but seems to describe instead a religious consecration—such as a priest might undergo. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus is "presented" in the Temple, using the same verb that Saint Paul uses to describe the offering of a sacrifice (see Romans 12:1). Another parallel is the Old Testament dedication of Samuel (1 Sam 1:24-27) to the Temple as a priest.

The drama surrounding Jesus' conception and birth began in the Temple—when the Archangel visited Mary's kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus' infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple.

All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading comes from the Prophet Malachi, who called the priests to return to faithful service—and foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood.

Likewise, the Psalm announces to Jerusalem that Jerusalem is about to receive a great visitor. The Psalmist identifies him as "The LORD of hosts . . . the king of glory."

Christ now arrives as the long-awaited priest and redeemer. He is also the sacrifice. Indeed, as his life will show, He is the Temple itself (see John 2:19-21).

ANNOUNCED MASSES
February 1st – February 9th, 2019

Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Feb. 1st	Weekday Bruna Alesi – RIP – by her parents
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 1st	Sunday Vigil Helen Mikus – RIP – by the husband and family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Feb. 2nd	Presentation of the Lord Thanksgiving by the Sasana family <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday	Feb. 3rd	NO MASS
Tuesday 7 p.m.	Feb. 4th	Weekday Constantino Lopez – RIP – by the family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 5th	Saint Agatha Marc Hebert – RIP – by Helene Grou
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 6th	Saint Paul Miki and companions Lydia and Vincent Fernandes – RIP – by Anne Marie
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 7th	Weekday Marc Hebert – RIP – by Valerie Matte
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 8th	Sunday Vigil Charles Patrick Sampson – RIP – by the Wojciechowski family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Feb. 9th	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Bruna Alesi – RIP – by her parents <i>Pro Populo</i>

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

Collection:
January 26, 2020 - **\$2,528.00**
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PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: February 2

According to Mosaic law, a new mother was considered unclean for 40 days after she had given birth. At the end of that period, she would enter the temple with her child, bringing an offering of either a lamb and a dove or pigeon, or two doves or pigeons, to be cleansed by prayers. Today's feast commemorates Mary's symbolic submission to that process, and also to the presentation of Jesus in the temple. The presentation stands as the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.

The observance of this feast began in 4th-century Jerusalem, and was celebrated in Rome by the 5th century. It is a feast of both Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin. In the Eastern Church, it was called The Meeting of Jesus and Mary with Simeon and Anna, representatives of the Old Covenant.

In the middle Ages, a tradition began of blessing candles and holding a procession of light on this day. As a result, this feast is also known as Candlemas: Christ our light has come to us.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Our annual diocesan celebration of World Day of the Sick will take place on **Saturday, February 8** from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. at St-Isaac-Jogues Parish (1335 Chabanel St. East, Montreal, H2M 2N8). It is a wonderful opportunity to come together to pray together with and for those who are sick. Opportunities to receive the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation will be available. Eucharist will take place at noon followed by a simple meal. Mass at 12 p.m. will be presided by Archbishop Christian Lépine of Montreal. All are welcome.

Contact SASMAD Pastoral Home Care Co-ordinator for the English sector, Cathie Macaulay, at cmacaulay@diocesemontreal.org.

-*The Grapevine, Issue 2, Vol. 15*

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." -St.Alphonsus Ligouri

THE FOOD BANK "OASIS"



Please remember to bring non-perishable food and leave them in the bins at the doors of the church...Thank you.