



Blessings of Many Shapes

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is always a blessed and holy occasion when parents bring their child to the parish church for baptism. They gather family and friends and proudly present their child to both God and the faith community. Somewhere in the midst of it all, they will wonder who their child will become, what their child's gifts and talents will be, and what hopes and dreams their child will have. Yet like Simeon, who blessed the Holy Family in the Temple, they will also realize that life is not always favorable to us. As Simeon foretold, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many...and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:34-35).

Although we recognize that suffering is a part of everyone's life, and we would never wish it upon a child, we might hope that the child does not run from every suffering, for it becomes the path to wisdom and compassion—perhaps the only path. We might also wish on the child a bit of loneliness, for it teaches us to treasure friends. And amid hoping for the blessing of success, losing can also be a gift and a blessing, for it is how we learn to deal with failure and understand the important lesson that we cannot always have our own way. Failure can be the seed of humility. Fortunately, while doing our best as parents, we must allow God to decide how our children will be blessed and what will nurture their growth into the image of Jesus. We simply present them to God from whom they came. ●

Reflect

Call to mind someone you love deeply and remind yourself that God loves him or her even more.



When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] took [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

LUKE 2:22

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Michael Pampara Pastor email: pamparasdb@gmail.com

P O Box 309, Stapleton, NE 69163, email: abj Catholics@gmail.com

Parish Office 308-636-2421 ; Secretary—Kristie Walz Cell 308-636-8399 ; Father Michael Cell 308-660-5730

Website: www.abj Catholic.org - Facebook Page: St Agnes, St Boniface & St John the Evangelist

Presentation of the Lord (C) Feb. 2, 2025

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles.

Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel.

Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of Feb 3, 2025

Mon.	Feb	03	7:00	AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Feb	04	7:00	AM	SJ	Josie Walz
Wed.	Feb	05	5:30	PM	SA	Michelle Neal
Thurs.	Feb	06	5:30	PM	SB	Conrad & Theresa Wildhagen†
Fri.	Feb	07	8:30	AM	SJ	Kevin Allison †
Sun.	Feb	09	8:00	AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	Feb	09	9:30	AM	SA	Cyd Miller †
Sun.	Feb	09	11:00	AM	SB	Kenneth Stallbaumer†

A decorative logo for a birthday anniversary. It features the words "HAPPY Birthday" in a stylized, colorful font with a heart symbol, and "Happy Anniversary" written in a green cursive script to the right.

Brad Atkins Feb 4th
Delanie Weinman Feb 4th
Hadley Brogan Feb 5th
Carol Kennedy Feb 6th
Steve Pandorf Feb 6th
Jaden Baker Feb 7th
Emily Kimball Feb 8th

Mr. & Mrs. Chancy Boeser Feb 2nd

Ministry Schedule

Date: Feb 9	<i>St. Agnes</i>	<i>St. Boniface</i>	<i>St. John's</i>
<i>Time</i>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
<i>Hospitality</i>	Julie B.	Dan & Jo T.	Cody & Charli S.
<i>Lector</i>	Mary A.	Verla B.	Tara B.
<i>Server</i>		Olivia D. & Katie P.	Leo W. & Wyatt D.
<i>EMHC</i>	Charles F. & Conrad P	John R. & Rod B.	Jason & Jenny J.
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		Mike P.	Music: Robin

<p><u>St. Agnes</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church Jan 26, 2025</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$476.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$2345 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 5 of 16</p> <p>Thrift Store Open Feb 7th from 9AM to 4PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCD Class Feb 5th <p>Parish Council Meeting Wednesday Feb 5th at 6 PM</p>	<p><u>St. Boniface</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church Jan 26, 2025</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1172.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$6720 of \$7306 Donor Goal: 14 of 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCD Class Feb 5th <p>OCIA: February 4th at 6 PM Topic: The Last Things</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting Thursday Feb 6th at 6 PM</p>	<p><u>St. John's</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church Jan 26, 2025</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$566.87</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal=\$5500 of \$5001 Donor Goal: 11 of 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCD Class Feb 5th <p>Supper : Johnston</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting Monday Feb 3rd at 7 PM</p> <p>Breakfast Potluck Feb 16</p>
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Join us for a three-day weekend where you will experience how God's grace works within you and how you can share this grace with others. Talks presented by clergy and laity, fellowship with others, and prayer through song and word, will inspire, educate, and motivate. Held at Comeca Camp & Retreat Center in Cozad, this Friday evening through Sunday evening experience is sure to be a memorable one full of insight, growth, and perhaps a few laughs along the way! Contact Emily Pandorf for information.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND:

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

MEN'S WEEKEND:

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

Quotes for Today
Saint Agatha of Sicily (d. 250)
Feast Day Feb 5th

"Jesus Christ, Lord of all things! You see my heart; you know my desires. Possess all that I am."



Dear Padre,

What happened to Candlemas? When I was a child, there was one day when everyone brought candles to church to have them blessed. At the end of Mass, the priest would bless everyone's throats with the candles.

Candlemas is another name for our celebration of the Presentation of the Lord: the day Mary and Joseph presented their child to God in the Temple at Jerusalem in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:22-38). We remember how the elderly believers Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as their longed-for Messiah and how, addressing God in a canticle, Simeon proclaimed Christ to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Mass on this day often begins with the blessing and lighting of candles, which the priest and people carry into the church. The name Candlemas springs from this ritual blessing.

The day after the feast of the Presentation is the memorial celebration of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr. According to tradition, St. Blaise was instrumental in healing a person who was choking. The Church remembers this encounter and celebrates the intervention of the Spirit of God through the blessing of throats, using the blessed candles from the feast of the Presentation. It is a wonderful and very practical spiritual practice that is much appreciated and anticipated each year. ●



EVANRHOY / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 3 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 11:32-40 Mk 5:1-20	February 4 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 12:1-4 Mk 5:21-43	February 5 <i>St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i> Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Mk 6:1-6	February 6 <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Mk 6:7-13	February 7 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 13:1-8 Mk 6:14-29	February 8 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Mk 6:30-34	February 9 <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11 Lk 5:1-11



DANIEL BANEZ / CNA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Like Simeon, let us also pick up this child, the God of newness and surprises.... Let us be restless, let us be moved by the Spirit, like Simeon and Anna.... If, like them, we live in expectation, we will embrace Jesus, who is the light and hope of life.

HOMILY, ROME, FEBRUARY 2, 2024