

Feast of the Presentation - 2025

Overview:

The Feast of the Presentation, also known as Candlemas, celebrates Jesus being presented in the Temple and recognized by St. Simeon as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.” This feast has long been associated with the blessing of candles, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world. We are called to receive His light and reflect it to others.

Main Points:

- **Jesus is the Light of the World** – As St. Simeon proclaims in today’s Gospel, Christ came to bring salvation to all people.
- **Symbolism of Candles** – The wax represents Christ’s body, the wick His soul, and the flame His divinity. Candles give light by being consumed, just as we are called to self-giving love.
- **Mary’s Example** – Like the moon reflects the sun’s light, Mary reflects Christ’s light, and we are called to do the same.
- **Living as the Light of Christ** – Through prayer, the Eucharist, and acts of love, we allow Christ’s light to shine through us.

Bible References (NRSVCE):

- **Luke 2:22-32** – Jesus is presented in the Temple; St. Simeon calls Him “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.”
- **John 8:12** – “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”
- **Matthew 5:14-16** – “You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others.”

Catechism References:

- **CCC 529** – The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, fulfilling the Law of Moses.
- **CCC 1216** – Baptism as enlightenment; the baptized become “children of light.”
- **CCC 618** – We participate in Christ’s self-giving love.

Action Items:

1. **Use Blessed Candles in Prayer** – Light a blessed candle during prayer at home as a reminder of Christ’s presence.
2. **Spend Time with Jesus in the Eucharist** – Receive His light through Mass and Adoration.
3. **Be a Light to Others** – Show Christ’s love through acts of charity and kindness.
4. **Reflect on Your Own Presentation to God** – Offer yourself anew to the Lord, asking Him to shine through you.

Rhyme Summary:

Christ is the light, so shining and bright,
Guiding our hearts through the darkest of night.
St. Simeon saw Him, the child so true,
A bright burning flame of love for me and you.

Like candles, we burn with our love to give,
By Christ’s own light, we’re called to live.
Reflecting His glow in all that we do,
So others can see Christ’s radiance too.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>