



## Friends of Jesus and Mary

### Cycle B - I Sunday of Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family

*Sirach 3, 3-7. 14-17a; Psalm 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5; Colossians 3, 12-21; Luke 2, 22-40x*

#### The Presentation of the Lord

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "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 sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

#### Reflection

**Why did Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem?** (The Law of Moses required mothers who gave birth to a boy to be purified during 40 days, and after to offer to God two turtle doves as a sacrifice for their sins. (Lev. 12, 1-8) The Law also required that all first-born sons be consecrated to God. (Ex. 13,1-2) Joseph and Mary were always obedient to the law; also, they knew Jesus belonged to God and had a special mission.) **Did the Virgin Mary need to be purified from sin?** (No, Mary was born without Original Sin and she was always obedient to God; but she was always obedient to the Law.) **What happened when they entered the Temple?**



(Simeon, a just man, full of the Holy Spirit, who awaited the coming of the Messiah, recognized Jesus as the Savior. He took him into his arms and blessed God.) **How does Simeon describe Jesus?** (God's salvation which He prepared for all people; a light for revelation to the Gentiles; and glory for God's people Israel.) **From what does Jesus save us?** (He saves us from our sins that separate us from God, thus uniting us with Him again.) **How is Jesus light for all nations?** (Jesus' words and life show us the way to Heaven, teaching us how to love God and our neighbor.) **How can we shine that light with others?** (Share)

#### Activity

On the following page, follow the instructions to see the message. Write a prayer to Jesus. On the other page, make the candle and glue the prayer onto the candle.

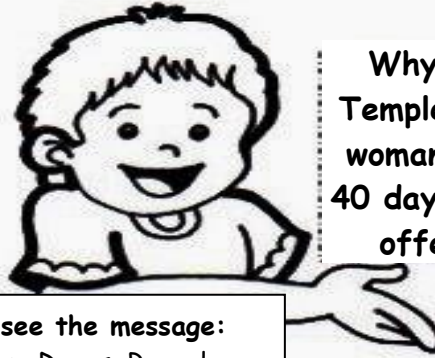
#### Prayer

Jesus, my savior, light of the world, help me to be light in this world. Help me to be obedient like Joseph and Mary. Teach me to love like you love. I want to Shine for You. Amen.

Song: I want to Shine, TJ McCloud, <https://youtu.be/LOqRghukqs0>



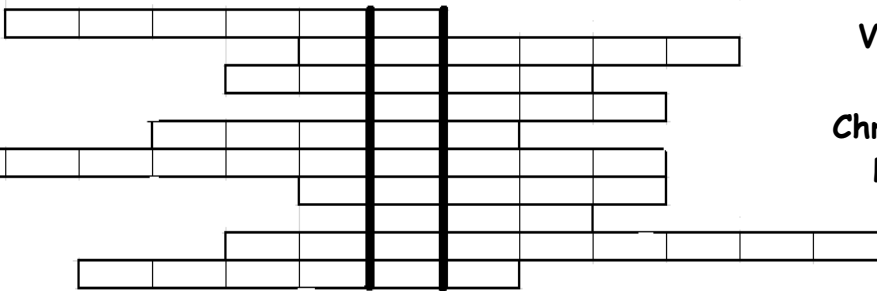
The Presentation  
of the Lord  
Luke 2, 22-40



Why did they present Jesus in the Temple? The law of Moses required all woman who gave birth to a son, after 40 days, be purified at the Temple and offer to God their firstborn Son.

Put the following words in the boxes to see the message:  
Temple, Simeon, Ana, Salvation, Purification, Doves, Reveal,  
Reveal, Piety, Purification

**JESUS IS...**



History of the Feast

In the middle of the 5th century, this feast was known as the "Feast of Lights". The Virgin Mary gave birth to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. In this feast, He reveals Himself to Simeon and Ana.

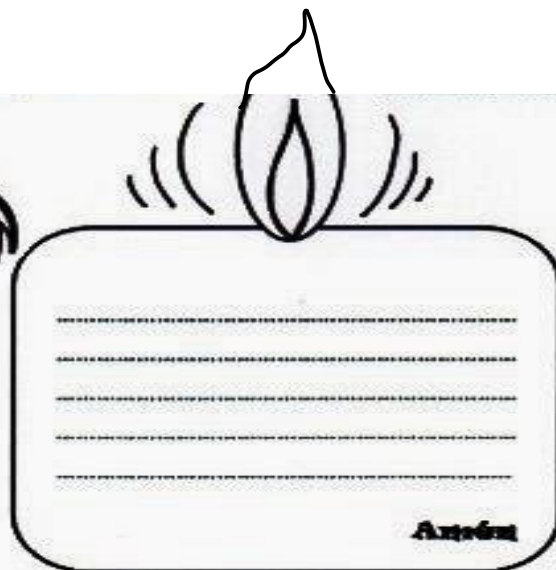


Feast of Lights

On this day, historically, the priest would bless the candles needed throughout the year to light houses, asking God for enough physical and spiritual light for families. After the mass, they had a short procession with the lighted candles. This feast was very important when houses were lit solely with candles.



Write a prayer in  
the candle to  
Jesus, the light of  
the world.



Solution: Light to all



### Jesus is the Light-Cardboard candles

- Decorate, wrap, or paint rolls of toilet paper with Christmas colors.
- Cut a circle, 2" in diameter, on yellow paper.
- Cut  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on opposite sides of top of roll and insert the yellow circle.
- Glue to each side of the circle colored tissue paper in the form of a flame.
- Cut the prayer on the former page, color the flame and glue to the top of the candle.

