



EUCHALETTE

2 February 2025

Presentation of the Lord

Year C

World Day for Consecrated Life
Pro-Life Sunday
Day of Prayer & Awareness Against
Human Trafficking

A Life Vowed to God

By a series of happy coincidences, today, the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, is replaced by the **Feast of the Presentation of the Baby Jesus in the Temple**, which is also the **“World Day for Consecrated Life.”** We also keep the observance of **“Pro-Life Sunday and the Day of Prayer & Awareness Against Human Trafficking.”**

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple invites us to focus on Jesus, the source of our life and the Light of all Nations. This feast reminds us of our own consecration to the Lord on the day of our baptism. Like Jesus, we too, are expected to live in an attitude of constant self-offering in the service of the Kingdom. Like Jesus, we too are expected to appreciate life, do our best to promote it in all its potential, and protect it from whatever endangers or destroys it.

In this Eucharist, as we observe Pro-Life Sunday, let us renew our commitment to love life and make amends for all the profanations and attacks it constantly suffers. Let us pray for an end to human trafficking all over the world.



LITURGICAL NOTE

In this liturgy the Eucharistic celebration is preceded by the blessing of candles. This takes the place of the Penitential Rite.

THE BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THE PROCESSION

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, our Lord will come with power, to enlighten the eyes of his servants, alleluia!

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!
All – Amen!

P – The Lord be with you!
All – **And with your spirit!**

Introduction

P – Dear brothers and sisters, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord.

Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation.

So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed to the house of God to en-

counter Christ. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

Blessing of Candles

P – Let us pray!

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people’s prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing (+) these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails.

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Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen!

Procession

P –Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.

All—In the name of Christ. Amen!

Antiphon

All—A light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

L –Lord, now let your servant go in peace, in accordance with your word. *(All)*

L –For my eyes have seen your salvation. *(All)*

L –Which you have prepared in the sight of all peoples. *(All)*



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice. (Cf. Psalm 48[47]:10-11)

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right

hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **All—Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Mal 3:1-4

The prophet Malachi spoke of a “Messenger of the Covenant” who would come to the Temple to purify the Levites so that their worship might be acceptable to the Lord. The Church sees this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus, the Messenger and Author of the New Covenant.

R –A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi

Thus says the Lord God:

Lo, I am sending my Messenger to prepare the way before me. And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek, and the Messenger of the Covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner’s fire, or like the fuller’s lye. He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord.

Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem will please the Lord, as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

The Word of the Lord!

All— Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24

R –*Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!*

R. M. Velez



* **Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in!** **R.**

* **Who is this king of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. R.**

* **Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in!** **R.**

* **Who is this king of glory? The Lord of hosts; he is the king of glory. R.**

2nd Reading Heb 2:14-18

In order to effectively intercede for all human beings and become their compassionate High Priest, God’s Son needed to become a human being, totally similar to us in every aspect, except sin. This is what Jesus was and did, as the author of the Letter to the Hebrews states in today’s passage.

R –A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is: the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life.

Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested through what he suf-

ferred, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:32

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:22-32

The basic purpose of God's Son coming into the world was to offer himself in atonement for the sins of all mankind. His sacrificial offering, which culminated on Calvary, was foreshadowed in his presentation in the Temple, forty days after his birth, as we read in today's Gospel account.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

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, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. He 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 would not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

He came, led by 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, Simeon 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 the sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation

to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow*)* **and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —The presentation of the Baby Jesus in the Temple reminds us of our own consecration to the Lord at our baptism, and our vocation to be a light through an authentic Christian life. Aware of our need to be empowered by God's grace to fulfill this duty, let us pray:

All—Lord, graciously hear us!

C —That the entire community of believers may be, for the rest of humankind, a source of inspiration and encouragement to pursue what is good and right, let us pray! **R.**

C —That the Holy Father and all other spiritual leaders may continue to guide us with their example of faithfulness to the Gospel of Life, let us pray! **R.**

C —That our civil authorities at all levels may guide our nation to days of peace and prosperity with the wisdom of their decision, and the integrity of their life, let us pray! **R.**

C —That as we start the month of Respect and Care for Life, we may remain faithful to our commitment to promote human life in all its aspects and to protect it from all dangers, let us pray! **R.**

C —That the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all those who engage or take part directly or indirectly in human trafficking may recognize the intrinsic dignity of all human persons and that all may refrain from treating persons as commercial commodities, let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord God, strengthen us in our effort to live our baptismal commitments. Enable us to witness to Your saving love. You who live and reign for ever and ever!

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —May the offering made with exultation by your Church be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, for you willed that your Only Be-

gotten Son be offered to you for the life of the world as the Lamb without blemish.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

Preface

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All —It is right and just!

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For your co-eternal Son was presented on this day in the Temple and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel and Light of the nations.

And so, we, too, go forth, rejoicing to encounter your Salvation, and with the Angels and Saints praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P —This is the Lord Jesus, the light of all nations. He is the Lamb of God who takes upon himself the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his Supper.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

(Lk 2:30-31)

Prayer after Communion

P —By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord, bring your grace to perfection within us, and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation that he would not see death until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ, so may we, going forth to meet the

Lord, obtain the gift of eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow down for the blessing. *(Pause)*

—May the Lord Jesus make you more appreciative of the unique value of human life and be grateful for it.

All—Amen!

P —May he always support you in your effort to be faithful to your consecration and to remain true to your baptismal commitments.

All—Amen!

P —May he enable you to overcome all difficulties and draw you ever closer to him.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All—Thanks be to God!

WALANG BAWIAN; WALANG IWANAN!

Kalakbay at Katoto

The liturgy today is rich enough. But it is made even richer and more meaningful on account of the other three ecclesial and civil commemorations scheduled for today: a) the World Day for Consecrated Life, b) Pro-Life Sunday, and c) a day set aside for prayer and awareness against human trafficking.

Just as well, one might right-

fully say! Happening 40 days after the celebration of Christ's birth, we celebrate the feast of the presentation of the Child Jesus. Life of itself and of anyone is precious for the giver of life — God. But more than that, firstborns are more than just precious. They belong to God. As such, the firstborn needs to be "bought back" from God (redeemed in the Latin sense!)



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(cf Ex 13:2). Today's feast, is therefore, primarily about Christ, the Son of God and the son of Mary. But where Christ is, the mother who bore Him and gave birth to Him is never far behind. The consecration of the Son carries with it the corresponding duty of the earthly mother to do as the Law prescribed. It was also her day of purification.

The Gospel of Luke clearly mentions both aspects of today's feast: presentation and purification. But the same gospel passage is silent about what every self-respecting and observant Jewish family does on the same day – the payment of 5 shekels to the temple.

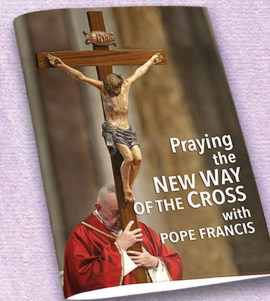
Luke wisely thought the detail was not neces-

sary. Pope Benedict XVI suggests the possible meaning behind the glaring omission. It was to heighten one egregious fact . . . The Child Jesus belonged to God, and the Savior, Incarnate Word, Son of God, the Anointed One, could not be bought back for any amount. Definitely not with 5 shekels, or any sum imaginable.

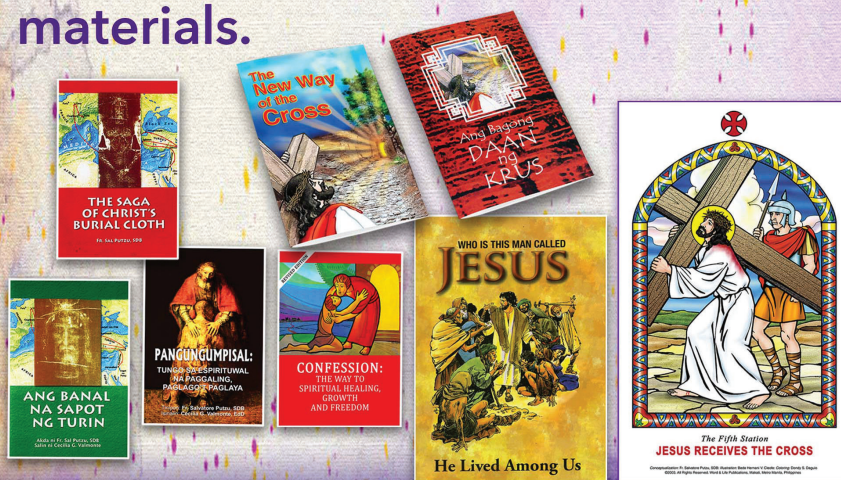
Nice lesson for all of us puny, selfish and reluctant givers. Sa Diyos, walang bawian. Sa Diyos, walang iwanan. We need to give God what is His due. And no amount can replace the value of His grace, presence, and love for all of us. Today, Candlemas, God gave His all, His light. Simeon recognized it and proclaimed it with gratitude and glee. Do we?

LENTEN SEASON 2025

"Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God, For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment."
(Joel 2: 13)



Spend these forty days of Lent more meaningfully with the help of these devotional materials.



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