



ST. JAMES -- SAG

SERVING SAG BRIDGE AND WILLOW SPRINGS, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 2, 1986

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

**"This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people, Israel."**

—Gospel Verse

The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

According to Jewish law, every newborn male child belonged to the Lord, and had to be presented to the Lord 40 days after birth. February 2 is 40 days after Christmas, Christ's birthday. (The Hebrews counted both ends of a series, for example, December 25th as well as February 2nd, for a total of 40 days).

The new-born infant was presented to the Lord and a sacrifice was offered, which, for the poor, consisted of two turtle doves or pigeons. The parents then received their child back from the high priest and returned home.

Today's Gospel tells us of two events which took place when Mary and Joseph presented the Infant Jesus in the temple. The first was Simeon's blessing and prophecy; the second was the thanksgiving and words of the prophetess Anna. Simeon was "just and pious, and awaited the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him." He had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen the Anointed of the Lord. Simeon took the Infant Jesus in his arms and was inspired to bless God in these beautiful words:

"Now, Master, you can dismiss your

servant in peace: you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed displayed for all the people to see: A revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel."

He went on to say that Mary herself would be pierced with a sword! . . . Anna the prophetess gave thanks to God and talked about the Child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

It is not certain when the custom of blessing candles was linked with this Feast. But an application can readily be made, since Christ is the Light of the world, and Christ himself in his Sermon on the Mount told his followers "You are light of the world." Thru our Baptism we were not presented in the temple but we ourselves became living temples because of the Indwelling of the Blessed Trinity in our souls. Our mission as "other Christs" is the manifest the light of Faith throughout our lives, to illuminate our own way and that of others.

Anyone desiring blessed candles for the home may obtain them from the priest after Mass. They cost two dollars.

SEMINARY COLLECTION . . . TODAY!

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Eighty years ago, with foresight and with the support of the Catholic people of the Chicago area, the archdiocese established a minor seminary to provide a high school education and the initial formation for potential candidates for the priesthood. This providential decision was made to ensure sufficient ordained ministers to serve the people of this growing metropolis. The ensuing years have witnessed an expansion into an effective system of four seminaries, offering a comprehensive program from high school through college and graduate theological studies.

Building upon this heritage of the past, we must plan for the future with equal foresight and trust in the Lord. While acknowledging the increasing importance of lay ministry, we must recognize that its growth and development are predicated on the presence of an active, dynamic presbyterate. Since the vitality and growth of this local Church depends, to a large extent, upon the leadership and ministry of well-qualified priests, our seminary system deserves a high priority in our planning process.

The ongoing development of competent faculties, the improvement of academic and spiritual formation programs, and the maintenance of the physical facilities of the four seminary campuses are constant and costly needs. Nevertheless, our investment of effort and re-

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL SEMINARY ENTRANCE TESTS

The High School Entrance Test will be given at St. Vincent De Paul High School Seminary in Lemont, Illinois, on Saturday, February 8, 1986. There is no charge for this testing. For more information, please contact Rev. Robert Gielow, C.M. at (312) 257-2363 or 257-2249. . . . We are hoping and praying for vocations from St. James to the priesthood and the religious life. Maybe this will be the year that one or more of our 8th graders will become interested in this kind of vocation.

sources now will greatly benefit the Catholic community for many years to come.

I ask you to support generously the annual Seminary Collection and to view your contribution as a sound investment in the future of our archdiocese. In the roles of pastoral counselor, liturgist, teacher, administrator and community leader, the priest is ordained for service to you and the entire People of God. Will you help to see that this priestly service continues?

In addition to your gift, please remember to pray for our seminary students as they discern the Lord's call to priesthood and also for more young men to consider seriously a vocation to ordained service in the Church.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(signed) Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
Archbishop of Chicago

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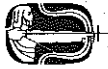
TABERNACLE GUILD MEETING

On Tuesday of this week, February 4th, at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall, the ladies of the Tabernacle Guild will start the second half of their 1985-86 programs.

This Tuesday meeting will be open to **ALL MEMBERS** of St. James (men, women and children) and their friends. The program for the evening, "**Citizens Against Crime,**" concerns all of us, and accordingly we are looking for a large attendance. The presentation will be made by Laura Wittkamper, and we are hoping for a "full house." **Won't you plan to attend? It promises to be a most worthwhile evening.**

GOOD EXAMPLE OF FIRST GRADERS . . .

During Advent our small 1st Grade CCD Class collected \$26.00 for the victims of the volcano in Colombia. We think this is a fine example for older boys and girls to imitate. And we thank their teacher, Barbara Murzyn, for encouraging their Advent sacrifices. Most 1st Graders were thinking about what they would "get" for Christmas, but our six First Graders were thinking about what they could "give."

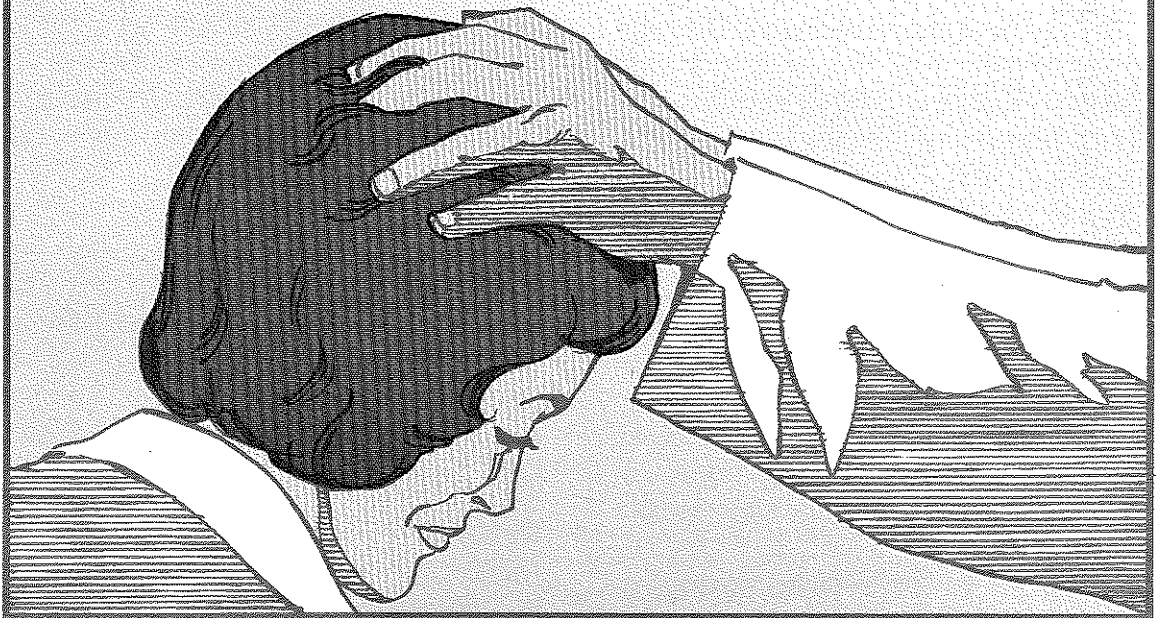


**Why
wasn't my
prayer
for
healing
answered?**

Dear Padre,

I have some friends in the Catholic charismatic renewal. They say this movement has been in the Church for a long time and is approved by the bishops. I prayed for healing and was not granted my request. My charismatic friends told me I was not healed because I did not have faith. But doesn't the Our Father say "thy will be done"? I'm confused. Am I lacking faith or are my friends in some misguided cult?

Evelyn



Dear Evelyn,

The charismatic movement has been in the Church a number of years. In the 1970s, the number of Catholic prayer groups grew from around 100 to more than 2,400. In the 1980s, there has been a decline of membership in the movement, but it is still a strong expression of faith life for many Catholics.

The charismatic renewal began, basically, as a grass-roots movement in the Catholic Church; but the early leaders were very concerned that it be "legitimized" and approved by the hierarchy. Their efforts were successful. Pope Paul VI, for instance, stated: "We rejoice with you, dear friends, at the renewal of spiritual life manifested in the church today." The Pope then listed the credits of the charismatic renewal. Most dioceses have established an office in the chancery to help guide the prayer groups of the local area in the renewal.

In the charismatic renewal, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are emphasized. These include the gifts of tongues, the interpretation of tongues, prophecy, healing, spirit discernment and deliverance from evil spirits. Your question deals with an experience surrounding one of these gifts, healing.

The basic theological argument to support the gift of healing is that God is a loving Father and would not wish his children to suffer. God wants to heal his people, and we should cooperate with his gifts. A problem does arise when the prayer for healing seemingly is not answered. When the healing is not immediate, members are urged to con-

tinue praying. For some cures, intensive prayer is required. At other times, the group praying or the patient being prayed for is told that enough faith is not present for God to act. This was the explanation given in your case. A final answer, when all others fail, is that God has some reason not to cure the individual. He has a higher purpose in allowing the suffering.

We Christians must always be careful in using God's gifts for our own purposes. When definite reasons are given for the absence of a miracle, we are entering dangerous territory. Who can read the heart or know the mind of God? I'm reminded of Job who suffered great loss. His friends tried to explain the evil in his life with every theological reason possible; but none of them was satisfactory. The Book of Job never did explain evil, but it did eliminate some of the explanations people offered.

We need to keep things straight. God is God. We cannot control him by a magic formula; we only cooperate with his grace. Evelyn, the gifts of the Spirit are real. God does love us and does want to deliver us from suffering, but how this all works will forever be beyond our comprehension. Pray for healing and have faith, but realize you are in an area of mystery that no one will be able to understand fully. As Paul said: "Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then [in heaven] we shall see face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

The Padre

Father Rich Boever, C.S.S.R.

TODAY'S OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful Father,
Christ your Son became man for us
and was presented in the temple.
May he free our hearts from sin
and bring us into your presence.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

TABERNACLE GUILD

The following Guild members have promised to do the Church cleaning on Saturday, February 8th, at 10:00 A.M.

Ruth Gerke
Julie Fessett
Frances Peters
Cheryl Peters

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APPOINTMENTS

Saturday, February 8th

5:30 P.M.—Father George
Gregory Beach
Leon Pieprzyca, Sr.
Joseph Guido

Sunday, February 9th

8:30 A.M.—Father George
Mark Dring
Carolyn Dring
Joseph Guido
10:00 A.M.—Fr. Tony Dosen, C.M.
Leon Pieprzyca, Jr.
Walter Toldness
Joseph Guido
11:30 A.M.—Fr. Tony Dosen, C.M.
James Pieprzyca
Thomas Pieprzyca
Martin Fleckenstein
Joseph Guido

MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Sat., February 1st—Presentation of the Lord
5:30 P.M.—(Anticipated Sunday Mass) For all
members of our Parish Family.

Sun., Feb. 2nd—Presentation of the Lord
8:30—Adolph J. Waitkus, requested by Leo
and Bernice Martin.
10:00—Mass of Thanksgiving, requested by
Del Lukomski.
11:30—John Ludwig, requested by his wife,
Gladys.

Mon., Feb. 3rd—St. Blase
8:15—Marie Munch, requested by Catherine
Lucas.

Tues., Feb. 4th—Weekday Mass
8:15—Adam E. Marszalek, First Anniversary,
requested by Mr. and Mrs. M. Zwolen
and Family.

Wed., Feb. 5th—St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
7:00 P.M.—Josephine Dembeck, requested by
Lori Stauber.

**Thurs., Feb. 6th—St. Paul Miki and
Companions, martyrs**
8:15—Leona McLeod, requested by her sister,
Betty K. Farrell.

Fri., Feb. 7th—Weekday Mass
8:15—For all members of our Parish Family.

Sat., Feb. 8th—Fifth Ordinary Sunday
5:30 P.M.—(Anticipated Sunday Mass) William
Sever, requested by relatives and
friends.

Sun., Feb. 9th—Fifth Ordinary Sunday
8:30—Ernest Kaminski, requested by Ray-
mond Hynes.
10:00—Helen Wojcik, requested by her son,
Robert.
11:30—Henry Graf, 3rd Anniversary, requested
by his wife, Mary.

ST. JAMES AT SAG BRIDGE

106th Street and Archer Road
Rev. George F. Aschenbrenner, Pastor

Lemont, Illinois 60439
Phone: (312) 257-7000

SUNDAY MASSES: 5:30 P.M. (Saturday), 8:30 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 11:30 A.M.

Also Hall Mass at 10:00 A.M. on CCD Sundays

WEEKDAY MASS: 8:15 A.M.

CONFESSIONS: Before Any Mass

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