

**NO CCE classes** this week (Feb. 2, 4, 5) due to an Humble ISD break. We'll continue Big Idea 3 next week, February 9, 11, 12.



## **Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

By Ginger Herrington

**Reading 1: *The Lord will come suddenly to the Temple.*** The prophet Malachi speaks of the Lord coming to the Temple to refine His people as metal is refined – by fire. He will purify people with “fuller’s lye” – highly caustic material that burns away impurities. And why will He refine His people? That they may offer proper sacrifice. For none of us is pure enough to stand in His Presence unless He helps us. God sent Jesus, the Lord, to the Temple; He will baptize us with the fire of the Holy Spirit. If we are not purified enough in this life, God in His mercy allows the refining process to be completed after our death in Purgatory. This is truly a mercy. We cannot stand to be in His holy Presence unless we have been purified. Thank God for His mercy in providing for us the Way, the Truth, and the Light: Jesus Christ. Follow Him.

**Reading 2: *Because Jesus suffered, He can help us when we suffer.*** In this letter to the Hebrews, we have the comforting news that our Savior has become one of us in all things but sin. He, while remaining fully Divine, was also fully Human. He experienced all of the things that you and I experience. There is nothing we cannot bring to our merciful Savior. He Himself has tasted how weak we can be, how sorely we can be tested. Bring all of your joys and sorrows, all of your challenges and successes, all of your faith and doubt to the Lord. His merciful gaze will heal you.

**Gospel: *Simeon saw the Lord come suddenly to the Temple.*** Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Savior. Of all of the babies brought into the Temple that day, Simeon perceived that Jesus, the babe in the arms of Joseph and Mary, a poor couple, was the long-awaited Savior. May we, too, have the eyes to see Jesus! See Him in the Blessed Sacrament, where He is truly Present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. See Him in His hand-picked friends, the priests. See Him in the gathered assembly at Mass. Hear Him in the Words of Sacred Scripture. See Him in the lonely, the old, those in pain, those who are excluded. See Him in the kindness of others; see Him when you are loved.



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