

This morning in group prayer and reflection we took some time together to learn about the **4th Joyful Mystery, The Presentation of the Lord**. Today February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We first noted that this does NOT always fall on a Sunday.

We learned that Simeon - a Prophet had been waiting for the day he might see the Lord. When he sees Jesus he proclaims that he will be the Light for the Gentiles (pagans). We learned that this feast dates back 1,000 of years ago and was sometimes called the **Candlemas**. This was a day when candles were presented and blessed.

The students knew today was not only the Super Bowl Sunday but also GroundHogs day. We learned that Groundhogs day came from the Candlemas. Candlemas became linked to weather predictions about the end of winter because of an old English poem:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,

Come winter, have another flight.

If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,

Go winter, and come not again.

It makes sense that early February (halfway point between winter and spring) was a good time to make predictions on how much more winter weather is expected for the year. And the English poem follows the same pattern as the GroundHog. If it is sunny he will see his shadow and go back to hiding for winter is still upon us; and if it is cloudy, the Groundhog will not see his shadow and spring will be arriving soon.

We then prayed the 4th Joyful Mystery with our 3rd and 4th grade students leading our prayer.

Our Father

Leader: Observing the Law of Moses, they took Jesus up to Jerusalem

All: to present him to the Lord

Hail Mary

Leader: Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon.

All: He was an upright and devout man.

Hail Mary

Leader: It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death

All: Until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord.

Hail Mary

Leader: And when the parents brought in the child Jesus, he took him into his arms

All: And blessed God

Hail Mary

Leader: Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,

All: just as you promised.

Hail Mary

Leader: Because my eyes have seen the salvation

All: which you have prepared for all the nations to see

Leader: A light to enlighten the pagans

All: and the glory of your people Israel.

Hail Mary

Leader: And he said to Mary his mother, You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel,

All: destined to be the sign that is rejected.

Hail Mary

Leader: And a sword will pierce your own soul too

All: so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare

Hail Mary

Leader: And they went back to Nazareth, and the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom

All: and God's favor was with him

Glory Be

Next GroundHogs, February 2nd we will hopefully not only remember how it originated - but ALSO remember to reflect/pray the 4th Joyful Mystery - The Presentation of the Lord.



“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.”