

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

February 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord. In years past today was also called the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today's Feast reminds us of the great joys of being a parent and it also acknowledges the responsibilities involved in parenting. Parents have high hopes and dreams for their children. But parents also know too well that at times life can be cruel and their hopes and dreams for their children can easily be shattered. Parents want the best for their children. They are willing to try and remove any obstacles or difficulties that may prevent this from happening. However, parents do realize at times their life will be **pierced** with heartache, turmoil, fear and disappointment as they deal with their children's various life situations.

Today's Gospel passage from St. Luke describes both the Jewish purification and presentation rituals. As faithful and dutiful parents, Mary and Joseph took their newborn son Jesus to the temple forty days after His birth. According to the Mosaic Law, a mother was to undergo a ritual of purification (Leviticus 12:2-8). After that her newborn child was to be consecrated to the Lord (Exodus 13:2) and a sacrifice was to be offered. Mary and Joseph understood their privilege and the responsibility that accompanied these rituals. Part of this responsibility would incur future turmoil, suffering and pain for them. The righteous and devout prophet Simeon tells them directly that their son Jesus would be destined for the fall and rise of many and that a sword would proverbially pierce Mary's heart. Of course Mary and Joseph have no idea what Simeon is saying or what he means. Only later will Mary understand what Simeon predicted and how it is an outline of what is to come for both Jesus' and her lives. The prophetess Anna then reaffirms what Simeon had said earlier and Anna speaks about how the promises of God would be eventually fulfilled in Jesus.

As Simeon and Anna were blessed and privileged to encounter Jesus, so are we in so many ways. We are blessed and honored to be members of Jesus's family through our baptism Our Catholic Church provides us with the Word of God, the Eucharist and other sacraments, community, and other opportunities which help us to grow in our faith. We have many opportunities to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus and achieve our goal of obtaining eternal life with God. Such great privileges incur significant responsibilities. Our responsibilities are many: daily prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments especially the Eucharist, and leading lives that are consistent with the teachings of our Church, *continued...*

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 1	4:00 p.m	In Thanksgiving
Sun Feb 2	10:00 a.m.	Special Intention
Sat Feb 8	4:00 p.m	Cassie Kiene
Sun Feb 9	10:00 a.m.	For our parishioners

Communion Service

Fri Feb 7 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,185.00	Loose \$619.00
Children	\$16.65	Total \$3,820.65
76 envelopes returned = 36%		



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for February 8 & 9, 2020

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer and Deb Buck

4:00 p.m. – *please sign the sheet in the main entrance*

Greeters: The Kaufman Family

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Chuck Niese and Dave Siefker

Lector: _____

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jen Swartzlander, _____

Servers: Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers:

Lectors: Jane Bowerman

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Noralu Kahle, Ron Bowerman,
Jim Tabler, Mark Zwiebel

Servers: Lovett Boys

Readings for February 9, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7 – 10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1 – 5

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13 – 16

