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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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To Be The Light of Christ

40 days after Christmas, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Over the years, this feast has had many makeovers – different emphases, symbols and even different names. We could look at four major themes today.

First of all, it commemorates Jesus' Presentation in the Temple. The Jewish belief was that every first-born male belonged to the Lord. At the Exodus, all first-born Egyptian males died in the plague and the first-born Israelites were saved. And so, the Jewish practice was that first-born sons had to be 'redeemed' and consecrated with an offering of two turtledoves or pigeons.

Secondly, the mother was "purified" after her period of confinement. One time, this feast was called the Feast of the Purification of Mary. These days, the focus is placed on Jesus' consecration instead.

Third, there is the traditional blessing of candles and so this feast was called the Feast of Candlemas. The tradition began with reference to the canticle of Simeon, known in Latin as the *Nunc Dimittis*. Simeon prophesies that Jesus will be 'a light to enlighten the pagans.' The tradition began to bless all the candles that would be used in the church throughout the year and to have a candlelight procession symbolising how Jesus has come to be the light to the nations.

Finally, this feast is designated by the Church as the Day for Consecrated Life. Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna, are all seen as examples of obedience and chastity and are put forward as examples of how religious are called to consecrate themselves to the Lord.

Luke mentions four times that Mary and Joseph came to the Temple to do what the Law required. For them, this is not just an obligation, they find joy in living their lives according to God's will. Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna, and of course, Jesus himself – are an example not only to religious and consecrated people, they are an example to all Christians. They invite us to present ourselves to the Lord, and to be open to the Holy Spirit.

How? Our Orthodox brothers and sisters call this feast the *hypapante* – the Feast of the Encounter. When Jesus is brought to the Temple, he is revealed as the Christ and Messiah. It is the first encounter between the Redeemer and the people. The candles that we will bless are symbols of how each of us – in our own vocation and state of life – are called to share the light of Christ with others, and to bring people to an encounter with Christ. At our baptism, we were all presented to the Lord. May Christians everywhere bear the light of Christ in the world.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



4th Sunday Of Ordinary Time
 Year A
 2 February 2020

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 2 February	Mal 3:1-4; Hebr 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.
Mon, 3 February	2 Sam 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20 St. Blaise Arise, Lord; save me, my God.
Tue, 4 February	2 Sam 18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43 Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer.
Wed, 5 February	2 Sam 24:2,9-17; Mk 6:1-6 St. Agatha Forgive, Lord, the guilt of my sin.
Thu, 6 February	1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12; Mk 6:7-13 SS. Paul Miki and Companions You, Lord, are the ruler of all.
Fri, 7 February	Sir 47:2-13; Mk 6:14-29 Praised be the God who saves me.
Sat, 8 February	1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34 St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita Lord, teach me your statutes.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before all Masses
 except the morning Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon*, 5.30pm
 *2nd & 4th Sunday – Mass in Tagalog,
 subject to the availability of priests.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY : 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
 Time: 7am

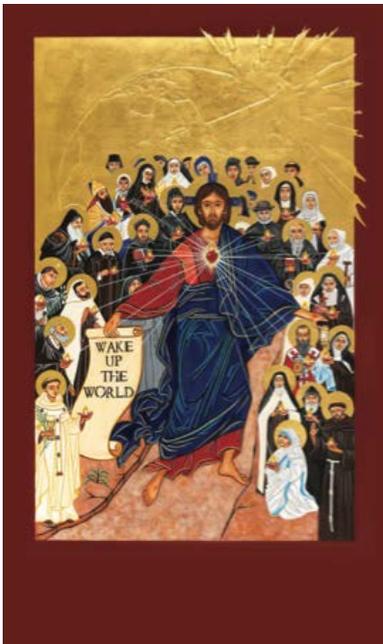
SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm,
 5.30pm
 Mandarin: 2.30pm
 Confession: After every Novena Service
 except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

World Day Of Prayer For Consecrated Life, 2nd February

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February. This feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the Light of the world. Those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.



<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.cfm>

Lenten Novena

Our Lenten Novena to prepare for Easter will begin on Saturday, 8th February 2020. The Theme for this special Novena is: "A New Spring Time." All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

8 Feb: Back to Basics: What Lent Is and Is Not

15 Feb: Stop
Slow Down, Enter the Desert

22 Feb: Listen
Where am I with God?

29 Feb: Receive
Be refreshed by the dewfall of the Spirit

7 Mar: Breathe
May we allow the spirit to breathe forgiveness in our heart.

14 Mar: Change
Be transformed.

21 Mar: Love yourself
Where am I with myself?

28 Mar: Love others
Where am I in my relationship with others?

4 Apr: Hope
Where do I go from here?

Old Palms

As we are preparing for Ash Wednesday on 26th February, please bring your old palms and drop them in the boxes available at the front of the Church.

Novena Family Walk

Come! Join us for the "Novena 70th Anniversary Family Walk" with Love and Gratitude to celebrate Novena 70 years of existence.

Date: 14 March 2020
Time: 8:00am to 11.30am
Duration of the Walk: 2 hours
Distance of the Walk: 3 km
Venue: Gardens by the Bay

Registration Fee: \$10 per person
Registration Form available at the Reception.

Registration will close on 14th February 2020 and comes with a Goodie Bag, Food & Beverage and Lucky Draw.

The Pope's Monthly Intention for February 2020

Listen to the Migrants' Cries
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 9th February at 12 noon.

**70th ANNIVERSARY
PILGRIMAGE SERIES**

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. ALPHONSUS
led by Fr Terence Wee and Bro Albert Khoo

Pilgrimage Series Part I

DATES - 16 to 26 March 2020

All-inclusive tour prices from
S\$4,118/- to S\$5,038/- per person

Available on a first come first served basis upon receipt of downpayment.

For full itinerary, please contact
Anthony Tay - 9144 4400

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST. ALPHONSUS

70th
with LOVE & GRATITUDE

In conjunction with our 70th Anniversary Celebration, we are organising Pilgrimages to Italy to get to know more about the Redemptorists in the footsteps of St. Alphonsus. We would like you to join us. You may pick up the itinerary from the Church Reception and sign up quickly as there are limited places available.