



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

THIS SUNDAY February 2 & BEYOND

The Cost of Bearing the Light



Candlemas is the feast of the presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the temple, and is observed on February 2nd, forty days after Christmas, to conform to the tradition as it is narrated in Luke's Gospel. Placed in the midst of the Season after the Epiphany, it has been linked to the manifestation of God's Light to the whole world thanks to the words of Simeon, the old man who took the baby Jesus in his arms and said, referring to Him: "...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." So the church uses blessed candles in procession as part of this day's liturgy, to underscore that we, His followers, are now the bearers of this Light as well.

The encounter between the Holy Family, and both Simeon and Anna the prophetess, was full of joy and blessing. Simeon had been waiting for this glorious moment all his life and even declared that he might now depart from this world in peace after witnessing the Lord's salvation. Anna, an old prophetess that worshiped with fasting and prayer at the temple night and day, gave thanks to God for the Savior that she had been able to see. Both Joseph and Mary were marveled at these auspicious words about Jesus, but there are some other words coming from Simeon that we should never overlook.

After he blessed Jesus' parents he said to Mary:

"Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."

Children grow, and Jesus would be no exception. As full of tenderness and peace Christmas may look, there is always the fact that God's incarnation has a very

definite purpose. This child, the Christ, the Messiah, had a mission to fulfill. He was to show in words and deeds what God's will is for His people, and this would bring about clashes with the religious and civil authorities, and with those in the high positions of society. His unlimited love for the destitute and the despised of society was not well received by those in power. His breach of the tradition in favor of God's mercy and love when it came to healing and giving life was not well received by the scribes and law interpreters either. They hated Him. They were conscious or perhaps unconscious agents of the forces of evil, the dark forces. He was a threat to the status quo. They put Him to death. But death could not restrain Him. He conquered death and all evil forces and opened the way for us to do the same. After all, He is the Light, and as John the Evangelist put it, darkness cannot overcome it.

Even so, Mary was then warned by Simeon how much she would suffer as the mother of the Messiah. "And a sword shall pierce through your own soul also", he said to her.

Our blessed Virgin Mother Mary went through a lot of suffering. She suffered rejection and harsh conditions before Jesus was born and she went through intense suffering when He was rejected by those who opposed His mission and was even crucified for fulfilling it. But there she stood by Him, as the first follower and promoter, and was faithful to His mission to the end of her earthly life. She is definitely worthy of our veneration and deep respect, and she is the most dignified bearer of Christ's Light.

Bearing this Light, as we will do in procession this Sunday, is a privilege and a blessing. But Light bearers, when their light is genuine, will always find opposition from those that belong to the dark side. These may be very real people with powerful positions and they may also be invisible powers siding with the evil forces of darkness. Genuine Light bearers will find suffering and obstacles along the way, but as Jesus said in the Sermon of the Mount, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God". Purity in heart means, above all, singleness of intention, and honest commitment to that intention. When bearing God's Light for the world becomes our intention and commitment, no matter how much we may suffer, we are the most blessed of creatures indeed!

Fr, Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord (Candelmas):
Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candelmas)

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn High Mass (Church)

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary Chapel)

WEDNESDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

6:30pm Contemplative Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

THURSDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

FRIDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)