February 2024 Edition Now Available — Preview HERE

February 2, 2024
Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Candlemas)

Dear Friends in Christ,

"And after the days of her purification, according to the law of Moses, were accomplished, they carried Him to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22). Thus begins the Gospel for today's Feast, the last of the Christmas season, in which Holy Mother Church commemorates the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of the Infant Jesus in the Temple forty days after His Nativity.

When the Holy Family entered the Temple in Jerusalem, they were greeted by Simeon, a "just and devout" man who "had received an answer from the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord" (Luke 2:26).

Because of his great piety, Simeon was granted the privilege of holding the Divine Infant in his arms, during which he "blessed God, and said: Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace; because mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). It is in honor of this last verse that today's Feast is called Candlemas and features the blessing of candles and a procession.

Our Lord is "a light to the revelation of the Gentiles," according to the prophecy given by God to Isaias concerning the mission of the Messias: "Behold, I have given thee to be the light of the Gentiles, that thou mayest be My salvation even to the farthest part of the earth" (Isa. 49:6). As members of His Mystical Body, the Church, we are called to "shine as lights in the world" (Philip. 2:15) and to lead souls to Christ, Who is "the light of the world" (John 8:12) and the only means of salvation. This mission will require us to imitate Our Lord and be signs of contradiction in a fallen world that is hostile to the truth. As Simeon told Our Lady, "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted" (Luke 2:34).

Even within the Church and among her leaders, we find those who prefer darkness to light (cf. John 3:19) and who attempt to present that which is evil as something good and capable of receiving a blessing, such as "couples in irregular situations" and "couples of the same sex" (DDF Declaration *Fiducia Supplicans* — covered in this month's issue). The truth, of course, is that God blesses "the just" (Ps. 5:13), those who sincerely repent of their sins and

Copyright © catholicfamilynews.com. All rights reserved.

strive, with the help of His grace, to keep His commandments and live a holy life. Those who try to convince us otherwise must certainly be contradicted and corrected.

For over 30 years, now, *Catholic Family News* has been a light of revelation (revealing the glory of Catholic Tradition) and a sign of contradiction (opposing errors within and outside the Church). By the grace of God, and with your generous support, we will continue to fulfill our mission of "Promoting Catholic Truth in a Pluralistic Society". **To help us "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12), please subscribe or renew your subscription today and consider purchasing gift subscriptions for family and friends.** We also ask for your help to share our online content, including web articles, videos, and audio podcasts, in order to reach as many souls as possible (be sure to follow CFN on Facebook and Twitter and subscribe to our YouTube and Rumble channels).

Sincerely in the Holy Family,

Matt Gaspers
Managing Editor

Copyright © catholicfamilynews.com. All rights reserved.