



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY February 5 & BEYOND



This coming Sunday we'll be celebrating one of the high feasts of the Church year, the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. The gospel lesson (Luke 2:22-40) recounts the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph taking Jesus to the Temple to make the offering required by the law of Moses. They encounter Simeon and

Anna, two devout Jews who by the power of the Holy Spirit recognize Jesus as the Messiah and prophesy about the work he will do.

The feast is also known as “Candlemass” because of the ritual rooted in the day’s gospel that traditionally accompanies its celebration. This carries special significance for Fr. Tony Noble, our guest celebrant and preacher, who was ordained priest on this feast, and so we also asked him to offer a reflection on it for our upcoming newsletter. In describing the ceremony, Fr. Tony writes, “One of the joys of being an Angloatholic parish is that we get to celebrate traditions that are both unique and beautiful. Candlemass is one of them. Some people think that being Angloatholic means incense, processions, traditional music and statues of Our Lady. It is far more than this. Indeed, these things are common throughout the Episcopal Church & Anglican Communion. For Anglo Catholics it is more than just nice worship – it is what the traditions symbolize and the teachings they impart.”

The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would see Israel’s redeemer before he died, so when the Holy Family enters he exclaims, “Lord now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.” This begins the Nunc Dimittis (Latin for “now dismiss”), which the Church has used as a song of praise in its worship since at least the 4th century. Fr. Tony writes, “The Candlemass ceremonies are based on this canticle - and particularly the line: ‘to be a light to lighten the Gentiles.’ So the congregation receives candles when they enter the church. These candles are lit whilst the choir

sings the Nunc Dimittis. They are the blessed with an appropriate collect. A procession follows, imitating that first procession of Our Lord into the Temple.”

The Nunc Dimittis resonated with the earliest of Christians and has inspired one of the Church’s most beautiful traditions because we all share something of Simeon’s experience. There are times in our lives – instability in our families, sickness, uncertainty at work – that cause us to ache more deeply as we wait for God’s kingdom to come. At other times we’re able to rejoice in seeing the gospel at work in our lives – freedom, reconciliation with Him and our neighbors, an abiding in His love. No matter the circumstances, Simeon’s encounter with Jesus is a sign of hope for us – that the Messiah has come, and that through him, God will make good on all His promises.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday – The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2L22-40

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

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

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)
9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

AA Meetings

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)