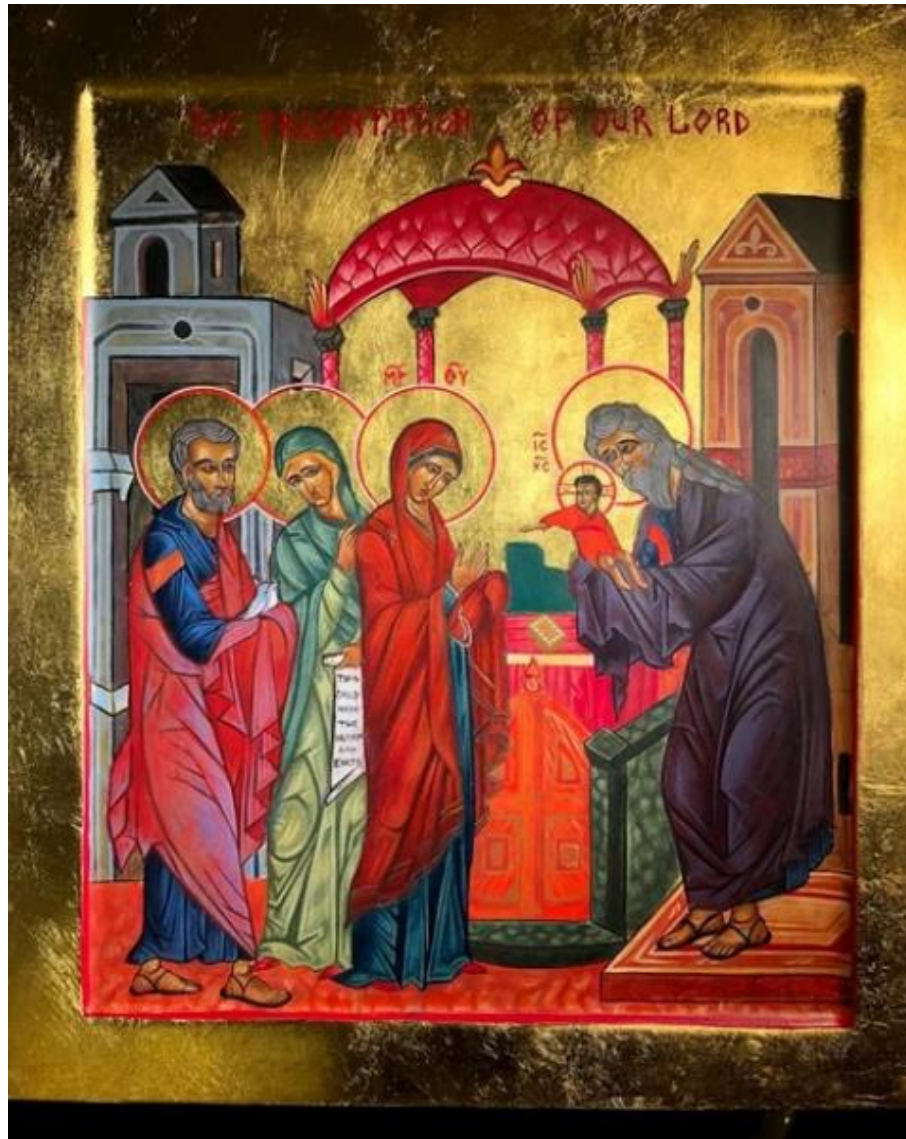


## The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ



**February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Feast Day**

## Overview

May the Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

## Introduction

Let us Pray:

**Almighty and ever living God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was on this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of Christ. Today on this cold winter night, halfway to astronomical spring, we remember the feast day, which the Christ child was presented in the temple. In His presentation, He fulfilled the Jewish law and at the same time met His faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized Christ as Lord, and proclaimed Him with Joy. Today we come united by the Spirit, may we enter the house of God to welcome Christ. We remember Him in the lighting of candles, reading of scripture, and presenting our goals in the coming year. Help all that we do remind us of your sacred mysteries and that you call us to be living tabernacles of Christ.

*Everyone takes a candle*

**Lord, with thankful hearts we bless these candles. Remind us that these candles are a symbol of Christ whose birth illuminated the world's darkness. The beeswax a symbol of His pure body, the wick His soul, and the flame His divinity.**

*Kids turn off all the lights in the house.  
Parent leader lights the first candle and says...*

O God, source of all light, true and eternal light, who on this day revealed to Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we pray that you may pour into our hearts the brilliance of your eternal splendor, so that all who are brightened in this home by the light of these candles may even more find the light of your salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*Parent lights the kids candles. I share that Jesus came to bring light into our darkness and wants us to walk in his light in life.*

*I play the song as we light candles: "May you find a light" by the Brilliance.*

## Reading

Read Presentation Story in Luke 2:22-40

Use any props you like to help kids connect with the story (i.e. Tabernacle, Ark of the Covenant, Religious Art, Icons, Incense)

## Closing Prayer

Eternal God, the beginning and everlasting light, fashioner of all of creation, fountain of mercy, the abyss of goodness, and unsearchable depth of love for man, cause the light of your countenance to shine upon us.

O Lord, shine in our hearts, oh spiritual sons of righteousness, fill our souls with you joy, wisdom & grace. Teach us to ever ponder and proclaim your beauty. Always to give thanks to you. Our master and benefactor, direct the work of our hands to do your will. Guide us to do those things which are pleasing and dear to you. That through us, as unworthy as we are, your all holy name may be glorified, of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Ark of the New Covenant Explanation

Our devotions are meant to be used for all Christian denominations and our household is a mix of different denominations. As a faithful catholic, I do provide the catholic perspective on feast days and I understand Mary can be a stumbling block. It was for me.

There seems to be a misconception that Catholics worship Mary, and this couldn't be farther from the truth. She is only a creature like us and not part of the Holy Uncreated Trinity. However, her "yes/fiat" made a way for God to come into the world in flesh. Because we are brothers and sisters in Jesus, this does make Mary our mother. In David's kingdoms, the Queen of the King (i.e. Solomon) was the mother.

As a former evangelical, I use to be skeptical of Mary. I was afraid that loving her would take me away from Jesus. However, I have found the opposite to be true. As St. Maximilian Kolbe said, "never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much, you can never love her more than Jesus did." The more I get to know Mary, and her role in salvation history, I understand that she is always pointing us towards her son and not herself.

Like the Ark of the Old Covenant, we treat her with reverence not because it was God, but because it contained God. *"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant ... a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth ... she gave birth to a son, a male child, who 'will rule the nations with an iron scepter.'" Revelations 11:19 – 12:2*

I included an infographic of the Ark of the New Covenant, next page. Courtesy of Mark Haas.

# Mary the Ark of the New Covenant

Image by Mark Haas, © 2017

## *Book of Samuel*

- David "arose and went" to take the Ark to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 6:2)
- David: "How can the Ark of the Lord come to me?" (2 Samuel 6:9)
- David "danced for joy" in the presence of the Ark. (2 Samuel 6:14-15)
- Ark remains in the hill country for **3 months**. (2 Samuel 6:11)

## *Gospel of Luke*

- Mary "arose and went" to visit her cousin Elizabeth. (Luke 1:39)
- Elizabeth: "How is it that the mother of the Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43)
- Elizabeth's unborn child (John the Baptist) "leaps for joy" in her womb. (Luke 1:41)
- Mary stays with Elizabeth for **3 months**. (Luke 1:56)

## THE ARK *Contains*



1. The **Word of God** in stone, given to Moses.
2. The Rod of Aaron, the **Ancestral priest**.
3. The **bread** manna from heaven, sent to save the Israelites.

## *Mary* CONTAINS

1. The **Word of God** made flesh, Jesus Christ.
2. The **High Priest**, Jesus Christ.
3. The **Bread of Life**: Jesus Christ.

