



Blessings of Many Shapes

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is always a blessed and holy occasion when parents bring their child to the parish church for baptism. They gather family and friends and proudly present their child to both God and the faith community. Somewhere in the midst of it all, they will wonder who their child will become, what their child's gifts and talents will be, and what hopes and dreams their child will have. Yet like Simeon, who blessed the Holy Family in the Temple, they will also realize that life is not always favorable to us. As Simeon foretold, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many...and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:34-35).

Although we recognize that suffering is a part of everyone's life, and we would never wish it upon a child, we might hope that the child does not run from every suffering, for it becomes the path to wisdom and compassion—perhaps the only path. We might also wish on the child a bit of loneliness, for it teaches us to treasure friends. And amid hoping for the blessing of success, losing can also be a gift and a blessing, for it is how we learn to deal with failure and understand the important lesson that we cannot always have our own way. Failure can be the seed of humility. Fortunately, while doing our best as parents, we must allow God to decide how our children will be blessed and what will nurture their growth into the image of Jesus. We simply present them to God from whom they came. ●

Reflect

Call to mind someone you love deeply and remind yourself that God loves him or her even more.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] took [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

LUKE 2:22





St. Thomas More

302 Chestnut Street

Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-663-6201

Email: thomasmore32@gmail.com

Adoration Room at STM

Open Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

212 S Main Street

PO Box 159

Cherry IL 61317

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com



Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Confession Info

Confessions: Saturday morning, alternating between STM & HT 10:30 am-11:15 am

Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag

CCD Classes

Sunday, February 2nd - 6th & 7th Grade

Children's Mass - HT at 8:30 am

Sunday, February 9th - K thru 5th Grade



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 3, 2025

Monday	2/3			+ No Mass
Tuesday	2/4	9:00 am	STM	+ Rita Sobkowiak
Wednesday	2/5	5:30 pm	HT	+ Bob Lehn
Thursday	2/6	9:00 am	HT	+ Gladys & Ivan Hassler
Friday	2/7	9:00 am	STM	+ Dec. Mem. Goodrick & Wiese Fam.

Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 8 - 9, 2025

Saturday	2/8	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For the Parishioners
Sunday	2/9	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Laurence "Nuco" Fonderoli

Christ Child Presented In The Temple

Today's feast is celebrated in our Church forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus' divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

As we celebrate Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' ritual redemption, we should see them as acts in which we are called to participate. First, each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven. Yet we are invited to enter that Temple in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to the will of God that opened the door of God's grace to us all. With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

In offering Christ Jesus to the priest to offer Him to the Father, Saint Joseph also presents all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us.

Ponder, today, our souls being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge our need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter into the temple of our souls, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within us. *(excerpted: mycatholic.life)*

Church Announcements

Diocese of Peoria 150th Anniversary

On February 12, 2025, we will launch the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Diocese of Peoria (150th Anniversary). Please join us in praying a Novena starting on Tuesday, February 4th. You can pick up a copy of the Novena prayer sheet in the back of the church.

Arlington Update: In accordance with the Bishop Decree's regarding all the upcoming changes, we are asking Arlington parishioners to please start writing checks payable to Holy Trinity.



Hollowayville- United Church of Christ is having a pancake and sausage brunch
Sunday, February 2nd

Serving from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Cost: \$10 Adults, \$4 children up to age 12, & under age 3 is free

Latest Offering's: January 26th Weekend

STM - \$931.00

New Year's Day \$558

HT - \$935.25

SP - \$276.00

Groundhog Day is based on a Catholic Candlemas tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages: "If Candlemas Day is clear and bright, winter will have another bite. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter is gone and will not come again."



Confessions:

Sat. February 8th

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Holy Trinity Church

Dear Padre,

What happened to Candlemas? When I was a child, there was one day when everyone brought candles to church to have them blessed. At the end of Mass, the priest would bless everyone's throats with the candles.

Candlemas is another name for our celebration of the Presentation of the Lord: the day Mary and Joseph presented their child to God in the Temple at Jerusalem in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:22–38). We remember how the elderly believers Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as their longed-for Messiah and how, addressing God in a canticle, Simeon proclaimed Christ to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (Luke 2:32).

Mass on this day often begins with the blessing and lighting of candles, which the priest and people carry into the church. The name Candlemas springs from this ritual blessing.

The day after the feast of the Presentation is the memorial celebration of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr. According to tradition, St. Blaise was instrumental in healing a person who was choking. The Church remembers this encounter and celebrates the intervention of the Spirit of God through the blessing of throats, using the blessed candles from the feast of the Presentation. It is a wonderful and very practical spiritual practice that is much appreciated and anticipated each year. ●



ESAWINOV / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8	February 9
Weekday	Weekday	St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday	Weekday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Heb 11:32–40 Mk 5:1–20	Heb 12:1–4 Mk 5:21–43	Heb 12:4–7, 11–15 Mk 6:1–6	Heb 12:18–19, 21–24 Mk 6:7–13	Heb 13:1–8 Mk 6:14–29	Heb 13:15–17, 20–21 Mk 6:30–34	Is 6:1–2a, 3–8 1 Cor 15:1–11 or 15:3–8, 11 Lk 5:1–11



DANIEL IGAJIC / CNA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Like Simeon, let us also pick up this child, the God of newness and surprises.... Let us be restless, let us be moved by the Spirit, like Simeon and Anna.... If, like them, we live in expectation, we will embrace Jesus, who is the light and hope of life.

HOMILY, ROME, FEBRUARY 2, 2024