



From The Pastor's Desk

Today we hear in the Gospel the beautiful Beatitudes which are our blueprint for living given to us by Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I had the opportunity to stay at the mountain or hills where Jesus proclaimed these beautiful words; at the Mount of Beatitudes. How do you feel when you hear these words proclaimed? Does it stir up within you feelings of what can be? Why not take a moment this week to meditate on Jesus' words: Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are the pure of heart, etc. Choose one and make it your own.

Also this week, on February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The Gospel from the Feast from St. Luke we hear:

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, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. LUKE 2:22-24

Simeon, a righteous and devout man, was awaiting the Messiah. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Christ. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple he took the Christ child into his arms as he exclaimed:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." LUKE 2:29-32

The Presentation of the Lord is the fulfillment of the prescriptions of the Jewish law by Mary and Joseph. The beautiful Canticle of Simeon, as it is called, sums up the completion of the promise of the covenant between God and his people. How beautifully the prophets such as Isaiah had foretold the coming of the Messiah. Here Simeon brings to life the fulfillment of these prophecies.

March for Life, January 27

There were hundreds of thousands of people including many young people and families from other geographies such as the South, the Northeast the Midwest and the West. Let us commit ourselves to the sanctity of all life!

Our New Bishop

Congratulations are in order for our new Bishop, Bishop John O. Barres, the fifth Bishop of Rockville Centre, who was installed this Tuesday Jan 31. I sent him our Spiritual Bouquet from our parish offering our thoughts prayers and works for his new ministry and for our Diocese and all the faithful.

Thank you Bishop Murphy for your 15 years of service. We wish you a happy retirement.

Winter wishes for Peace and Health this year!

Father Ed