November 21st: Memorial of The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gospel text (*Mt* 12,46-50): While Jesus was still talking to the people (...) said, «Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister, or mother».

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Today we consider an endearing and little known mystery of redemption. Tradition maintains - and so the liturgy celebrates - that little Mary was offered to the Lord by her parents, Joaquin and Ana. That was done through the Presentation, that is, by taking Mary to the Temple.

This was an extraordinary and normal fact simultaneously. "Extraordinary" because Jewish parents had a religious duty to present the first child to the Lord, not if he was a girl, but a boy (as Mary and Joseph did with Jesus at his 40 days). "Normal" if we consider that between the lives of Mary and Jesus there is a clear theological parallelism: it is "normal" that little Mary was offered to God because from her very conception (immaculate) she was all of the Lord (and so she lived her adolescence). She was not aware of her Immaculate Conception (she did not know until Archangel Gabriel told her), but she was consistent ...

—On that day of the Presentation, the Temple received God for the first time (even if no one noticed): Mary carried the Holy Spirit.