

February 2nd: The Presentation of the Lord

Gospel text (Lk 2,22-40): When the day came for the purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought the baby up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (...).

There lived in Jerusalem at this time a very upright and devout man named Simeon; the Holy Spirit was in him. He looked forward to the time when the Lord would comfort Israel (...). Simeon (...) blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, «See him; he will be for the rise or fall of the multitudes of Israel. He shall stand as a sign of contradiction, while a sword will pierce your own soul (...)».

There was also a prophetess named Anna (...). Coming up at that time, she gave praise to God and spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem (...).

The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

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Today, forty days after Christmas, Mary and Joseph take the Child Jesus to the Temple, to present him to the Lord. Inspired by God, Simeon and Anna recognize in Jesus the Messiah awaited by Israel and prophesy about him. In this mystery—simple and solemn—the Church celebrates Christ, the Anointed by the Father, the firstborn of the new mankind.

The Holy Family accomplishes the prescriptions of the Law: the mother's purification, the firstborn's consecration to the Lord and his rescue through a sacrifice. The "Messenger of the Covenant" enters into his own house and submits

himself to the Law; He goes to Jerusalem to enter—in obedience— into the Lord's house; He comes as the new High Priest—compassionate and faithful— to atone for the sins of mankind. Being still a child He starts to follow the obedience path, which He will go through to its ultimate consequences.

—Mary hears that a “sword” of pain will pierce her soul; her mission was not completed with the Incarnation, will rather be concluded with her loving participation in the death of the Son.