

OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

3570 KING WILLIAM AVENUE, WEST POINT VA 23181

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS: SATURDAY 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.

11:30 A.M. (SPANISH MASS)

WEEKDAYS: 8:30 A.M. Tuesday - Friday

HOLIDAYS: 8:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.



PARISH OFFICES at the MERCY CENTER

207 W. Euclid Blvd., West Point, VA 23181

Phone: 843-3125

Fax: 843-9158

Office Hours: T W Th 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Parish e-mail : olbs@olbs-catholic.org

Parish Web address: www.olbs-catholic.org

PASTOR

Rev. Oscar Paraiso

757-778-5118

Rectory

843-4231

Office

843-3125 ext 102

Email: oparaiso@richmonddiocese.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pam Watkins

843-3125 ext 101

Hours: T-W-Th 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Email: adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org

BUSINESS MANAGER

843-3125 ext 104

Bob Ryalls

757 207-0125

E-mail: businessmgr@olbs-catholic.org

COORDINATOR of CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Erin Hayden

843-3125 ext 103

Email: DRE@olbs-catholic.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Leda Zaginaylo

757 870-2516

Email: music@olbs-catholic.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/DIRECTOR

Vangy Lawson

843-4177

Email: preschool@olbs-catholic.org

GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER

Frances Thornton

843-4339

Hours: M 10 am - 2 pm

W 12:30 pm - 2:30 p.m.

van den BOOGAARD HALL RENTALS

Janice McGowan

843-2870

Email: hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Also by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday and Tuesday

Mercy Center Chapel

First Friday Adoration in the church

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

RECITATION of the MOST HOLY ROSARY

6:30 p.m. Every Friday in the church

OUTREACH

A food basket and donation box are in the church entry. Your donations provide the means to give direct help to the needy. We collect food on the first weekend of the month.

INFANT BAPTISM

Parent preparation classes are required for each couple planning to have their baby baptized. To schedule a preparation session, please call the church office.

MARRIAGE

OLBS sponsors a preparation program for couples who intend to marry. The Pastor must be contacted at least six months prior to the date of the wedding.

RECEPTION into the CHURCH

Those inquiring into the Catholic Faith or seeking communion with the Church are invited to contact the Parish Office. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is offered.

The mission of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, centered in the Eucharist, is to love God and His people and to extend His love to others through service and prayer.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 29th & 30th, 2022**



Sat	1/29 – Mary Klisiewicz (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Requested by Philip & Karen Liberato	
Sun	1/30 – Mildred & Donnie Hite (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Requested by Jim & Anne Duke	
Mon	1/31 – No Mass	
Tue	2/1 – Genevieve Racioppi (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Requested by Linda & Joe Drexler	
Wed	2/2 – Mildred Hite (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Requested by Linda & Joe Drexler	
Thurs	2/3 – Mary Klisiewicz (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Requested by Linda & Joe Drexler	
Fri	2/4 – Mildred Hite (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Requested by Linda & Joe Drexler	
Sat	2/5 – Tommy Sturtz, Jr. (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Anniversary of Death Requested by Marguerite Sturtz	
Sun	2/6 – Genevieve Beatrix Racioppi (RIP)	Fr. Oscar
	Requested by Mary & Jim Horton	

Collections for January 22nd & 23rd, 2022

Parish Operations	\$2,067.00
Supplemental Collection	35.00
Online Giving as of 1/11/2022	50.00
Total	\$2,152.00
Amount needed weekly for Parish Operations is \$3,940	
Restricted, Special Use or Sent out of Parish	
Capital Campaign	\$791.00
Respect Life	\$305.00

Thank you for supporting our parish!

***Did you know that if you are 72 or older, you can make your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA straight to our parish and most times it is excluded from your gross taxable income. To find out more, contact your financial advisor or Maggie Keenan at the Catholic Community Foundation - 804-622-5221 or mkeen@richmonddiocese.org.

Parish Directories are available at the Parish Office. Please come by Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays between 10:00am and 4:30pm or call Pam at 804-843-3125 to get your directory.

February 2nd is The Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day. You can bring your candles from home to the Daily Mass at 8:30am to be Blessed. Throats will be Blessed after all Masses the Weekend of February 5th & 6th in Memorial of St. Blaise, whose Feast Day is February 3rd.

Mass Updates

*** Mass is being live streamed for use on various Diocesan digital media accounts of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, including, but not limited to, the websites of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond and the Catholic Virginian, and social media platforms of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Photography and/or screenshot images from the livestream may be used for the Catholic Virginian print edition. If you do not wish to be captured by live streaming, please refrain from attending the 9am Sunday Mass.

Per the Virginia Department of Health:

1. Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated individuals should wear masks in public indoor settings.
2. Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask; however, masks should be worn in indoor settings in areas of substantial and high transmission.
3. Any person not wearing a mask shall not be required to produce documentation that they are vaccinated or that they have an underlying medical condition.

Week of January 31st – February 6th

Monday, January 31st – No Daily Mass

Adoration Mercy Center Chapel 12pm - 10pm

Tuesday, February 1st – 8:30am Mass (Livestreamed)

Adoration Mercy Center Chapel 12pm - 10pm

Adult Faith Formation – 4:30pm – Mercy Center

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd – Candlemas Day

Presentation of the Lord 8:30am Mass (Livestreamed)

***Bring Candles From Home to be Blessed

Thursday, February 3rd - 8:30am Mass (Livestreamed)

Feast of St. Blaise – Blessing of the Throats

Friday, February 4th – 8:30am Mass (Livestreamed)

Most Holy Rosary – 6:30pm in Church (Livestreamed)

Saturday, February 5th – 5:30pm Vigil Mass

The Blessing of the Throats

Sunday, February 6th

9:00am Mass (Livestreamed)

***The Blessing of the Throats

10:15am – Children's Faith Formation in Hall

10:15am – Adult Faith Formation in Mercy Center

11:30am Spanish Mass

***The Blessing of the Throats

6:30pm – Youth Group

Attendance January 22nd & 23rd, 2022

Saturday, January 22nd 5:30pm = 48

Sunday, January 23rd 9:00am = 92

No Spanish Mass, January 23rd 11:30am



To our couples with anniversaries in January:
Quan & Sandy Dinh – 1/18/2020 and Bill & Edwina Madigan – 1/28/1967

***If you are having difficulty hearing the Mass in Church, please arrive a few minutes early and speak with one of the ushers, as the parish has purchased hearing assistance devices for our parishioners. Just ask one of our ushers how it works. You can even use your own earphones to plug into the device.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND GOOD HEALTH

Emily Adams	Elizabeth Alley	Camb Ashley
Candace Barefoot	Virginia Becker	Paulette Berberich
Tom Berberich	Linda Blevins	Ron Blevins
Linda Burch	William Bush	Kathryn Carson
Kevin Carson	Lucy Carson	Tim Collier
Meredith Crowe	Eric Crump	Vincent D'elia
Denise DePompeo	Dale Dippre	Dexter Dix
Larry Dzula, Jr.	Michelle Eshelman	Amanda Fincher
Cris Gay	Kelli Gaeta	Margaret Geron
Jim Gregory	Pat Hinkle	Kelly Hipple
Laurie Hite	Ellen Horseman	John Jones
Gail Justin	Bob Kay	Bill Kessler
Gloria Kojcsich	Bonnie Kopacki	Joyce Kostrzewa
Gordon Langston	Patricia Lanuza	Ashley Larson
Melissa Leger	Philip Liberato	Denise Mason
Matt Matula	Lanci McCloud	Mary Leigh McDonald
Kenny McGinley	Beverly McGowan	Patrick McGowan
William Madigan III	Ron Martz	Jackie Mierle
Clara Morrow	Randy Morrow	Specialist Mullins
Larry Newtzie	Andrea Payton	Ka'varus Penticolas
Brett Pickens	Patricia Pilog	Pam Rigsby
Mark A. Roane	Vickie Roane	Leonard Romano
Debbie Royals	Jack Scaife	Barbara Schafer
Kay Shaw	James Simmons	The Solak Family
Levi Sturtz	Jim Tokarz	Mae Touray
Taylor Trimbath	Gloria Wajciechowski	Francis Watkins
Emmett White	James Wills	Andrea Berberich Wilson
Mary Wilson	Lois Wilson	Robert 'Bobby' Wilson
	Jody Zogran	

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Major Jonathan Culberson

Church Cleaning Schedule

- 1/24 thru 1/30 – Gary & Jackie Silvia
- 1/31 thru 2/6 – Our Hispanic Community
- 2/7 thru 2/13 – Teresa Nguyen & Nguyen Sisters



- 1/29 – Shawn Lazar & Bob Ryalls
- 1/30 – Jim Milby & Philip Henley
- 2/5 – Bob Ryalls & Joe Drexler
- 2/6 – Jim Milby & Tuan Nguyen



- 1/29 – Lorraine Ryalls & Pattie Vadas
- 1/30 – Danielle Smith & Tiffany Smith
- 2/5 – Jackie Silvia & Tom Fauber
- 2/6 – Joe Pincus & Pat Barron



- 1/29 – Erin Lazar
- 2/5 – Gary Silvia
- 1/30 – Jim Pyne
- 2/6 – Susan Thompson

Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Each Time we say "Jesus" it is an act of perfect love, for we offer to God the infinite love of Jesus. The Holy Name of Jesus saves us from innumerable evils and delivers us especially from the power of the devil, who is constantly seeking to do us harm. The Holy Name of Jesus gradually fills our souls with a peace and joy we never had before. The Holy Name of Jesus gives us strength so that our sufferings become light and easy to bear. Son of Mary, may our same tongues that receive Your Holy Body and Blood prepare ourselves for your visit by saying Your Holy Name with great reverence. And may we not refrain from invoking that same Holy Name in our daily conversations with all whom we meet.

Saint of the Week

February 3rd - St. Blaise

St. Blaise was a physician before being consecrated a bishop at a young age. At that time the local community usually nominated a man to be bishop based on his outstanding holiness and leadership qualities; he in turn was then examined and consecrated by other bishops with the approval of the Holy Father. During the persecution of Licinius, St. Blaise, receiving some divine command, moved from the town and lived as a hermit in a cave, healing many sick that came. St. Blaise was seized by hunters and taken to the governor Agricolaus, the governor of Cappadocia. While in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Eventually, Agricolaus condemned St. Blaise for upholding his Christian faith rather than apostatizing. He was tortured with the iron comb (An instrument designed for combing wool which was used here for shedding the skin) and finally beheaded in 3165 A. D.

The Year of Grace with St. Joseph

St. Joseph, Pillar of Families

Modern man has distanced himself from God and attempted to redefine what it means to be a family. As a result, divorce rates are at an all-time high; the majority of married couples use contraception; abortion is legal; and it is socially acceptable for children to be raised by two dads and/or two moms. The family stands on the edge of a great precipice. St. Joseph wants to be a pillar of your family. A pillar is a foundation. In order for your home to stand on a firm foundation and be unshakeable, your family needs St. Joseph. He will teach your family the importance of prayer, mutual respect, purity, honesty, forgiveness, love, and most importantly, placing God above all things. St. Joseph, the pillar of the family, teaches us the importance of motherhood, fatherhood, and children. He is the saint of the childhood and hidden years of Jesus. He teaches modern man that the only true definition of family is that it consists of a mother, a father and children. The notion of a "modern family" is a deception from the devil. The redefinition of marriage and the family causes the breakdown of society, culture, morals and true family values.

(Pray the Litany of St. Joseph)

Our Hope, Our Home, Our Lady OLBS Capital Campaign Our Capital Campaign has been approved by Bishop Knestout for 5 years and any funds received designated for our "Capital Campaign" is not subject to the Diocesan Cathedralium "tax" - all of those funds stay with our parish. If you have any questions about the Capital Campaign or the repairs needed on the parish grounds, please contact Bob Ryalls at businessmgr@olbs-catholic.org or call him at 757-207-0125. You can also contact Jim Pyne at facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org.



The Pope on Life: Every child who is born brings us God's smile and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love and preserved with care, always and at every moment. God entrusts every child who is born to his parents: so how important is the family founded on marriage, the cradle of life and love! The House of Nazareth where the Holy Family lived is the model and school of simplicity, patience and harmony for all Christian families. I pray the Lord that your families too may be welcoming places where these little ones can not only grow in good health but also in faith and love for God. -- Pope Benedict XVI, January 7, 2007 (Priests for Life)

***Help is available: Call 1-800-712-HELP.**

*Heavenly Father, thank you
for the precious gift of life.
Help us to cherish and protect
this gift, even in the midst of fear,
pain, and suffering.*

*Give us love for all people,
especially the most vulnerable,
and help us bear witness to the
truth that every life is worth living.*

*Grant us the humility to accept
help when we are in need,
and teach us to be merciful to all.*

*Through our words and actions,
may others encounter the
outstretched hands
of Your mercy.*

*We ask this through
Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.

The Prayer Chain

Please consider joining the prayer chain. It involves no physical activity and has been known to help many people along the way. Prayer is the most powerful tool given to us by Jesus. If you are interested in helping others through prayer, please call Pam Watkins at 919-820-1986 to learn more about the prayer chain.

Mass Readings: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13

Alleluia Acclamation: Lk 4:18

Gospel Reading: Lk 4:21-30

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Pray for Vocations

“Before you were born, I consecrated you.” Do you think that you may be called by the Lord to serve Him as a priest? Call the Vocations Office at 804-359-5661 to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano, or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Adult Bible Study

Looking for Faith Formation? Join us every Sunday after the 9:00am Mass at the Mercy Center Office, in the front room. We are learning about the book of ACTS (The Spread of the Kingdom) with Jeff Cavins.

Does a week day formation work better for you? You can join us on Tuesdays in the Mercy Center conference room at 4:30pm.



There will be a Special Mass for the Sick on Friday, February 11th at 11:00am. (There will be no Daily Mass at 8:30am.) Father Oscar will be Anointing the Sick at this Mass. If you are physically ill or spiritually ill, please plan to attend for God's Healing Love.

***If you have any old palms at home, please bring them to the Church and place in the basket at the back of the Church so they can be properly disposed of by being burned for the ashes we will use on Ash Wednesday.

Would you like to register in the Parish?

Registration forms can be found in the Welcome Center of the Church located in the Narthex, next to the Little Religious Shop. You may fill out the form and hand it to an usher, place it in the collection basket, or mail the registration form to the Parish Office at 207 West Euclid Blvd, West Point, VA 23181. You may also visit our parish office and fill out the registration while you are there. The parish offices are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00am until 4:30pm. No matter how you choose to register, we welcome you to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and look forward to getting to know you!

***If you would like to put something in the bulletin, please email to olbs@olbs-catholic.org no later than noon each Wednesday or call the parish office at 804-843-3125.

***Diocesan Bicentennial Books are still available and can be purchased for a donation amount of your choice. Please call the Parish Office at 804-843-3125 to reserve one, today or pick one up at the back of the Church and leave your donation! These are beautiful books with the stories of our parishes in the Richmond Diocese.



*Our sincerest condolences to Eric Ellingson and his family at the loss of his beloved Mother Louisa Ellingson who will be buried in Arlington. May she rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon her.

*Please keep Richard Fredericks and family in your thoughts and prayers as his Mother, Maria Fredericks passed away on Monday. Her Funeral Mass will be on Monday, February 7th at 9:00am here at OLBS. She will be buried in Quantico National Cemetery with full honors. The family would like to invite everyone to attend. May she rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon her.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

New members are asked to register at the Parish Office in the Mercy Center.

We invite all parishioners to join a ministry.
Contact the Chairperson of the ministry or call the Parish Office at
804.843.3125

ALTAR LINENS Linda Drexler vintagenotes@verizon.net	843-2541
ALTAR SERVERS Joe Drexler liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org	843-2541
ARTS & ENVIRONMENT Rowena & Tom Fauber artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org	725-6110
BELL CHOIR	
CANTORS/CHOIR Leda Zaginaylo music@olbs-catholic.org	757 870-2516
CEMETERY COMMITTEE Gary Silvia cemeterychair@olbs-catholic.org	757-303-8576
CHURCH HISTORIAN Linda Drexler historian@olbs-catholic.org	843-2541

CLEANING COORDINATOR	
FACILITIES COMMITTEE Jim Pyne facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org	
FINANCE COMMITTEE Richard Duke financechair@olbs-catholic.org	843-3125
HISPANIC MINISTRY Nanci Hernandez Jose Velasquez hispanicministry@olbs-catholic.org	
HOSPITALITY Glenn & Kay Shaw	843-3476
JUSTICE & PEACE	
KNIT, PURL & PRAY	
LAWN MOWING COMMITTEE Eric Ellingson ericellingson@verizon.net	843-2184

LIBRARY Linda Drexler vintagenotes@verizon.net	843-2541
LITURGY COMMITTEE Joe Drexler liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org	843-2541
MINISTRY SCHEDULING Pattie Vadas pbv0806@yahoo.com	843-4082
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS Margaret Varboncoeur	843-2867
PARISH COUNCIL Phil Liberato parishchair@olbs-catholic.org	512-9701
SACRISTAN Joe Drexler David Seckora Marguerite Sturtz, Sacristan Emeritus	843-2541 843-2969
YOUTH MINISTRY	

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(804)966-1600

Father Jakubowski Council #8116



*New Members Welcomed


*Hall Rental Available

Contact
Janice McGowan
(804) 366-4124

February 2022



*Daily Masses, Rosary, and 9am Sunday Masses Livestreamed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Mass 8:30am Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm Adult FF – 4:30pm	2 Candlemas Day Mass 8:30am *Bring Candles to Be Blessed Presentation of the Lord	3 Mass 8:30am The Blessing of the Throats Feast of St. Blaise	4 Mass 8:30am Most Holy Rosary 6:30pm in Church	5 Mass 5:30pm The Blessing of the Throats
6 Mass 9:00am The Blessing of the Throats 10:15am Children's FF 10:15am Adult FF – MC 11:30am Spanish Mass 6:30pm – Youth Group	7 No Daily Mass Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm <i>Knights of Columbus 7pm</i>	8 Mass 8:30am Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm Adult FF – 4:30pm	9 Mass 8:30am	10 Mass 8:30am Deanery 5 Plenary Meeting at St. Therese in Gloucester 11:00am *Parish Office Closed	11 Special Mass for the Sick 11:00am *Anointing of the Sick Rosary 6:30pm in Church	12 Mass 5:30pm
13 Mass 9:00am 10:15am Children's FF 10:15am Adult FF – MC 11:30am Spanish Mass 6:30pm – Confirmation	14 No Daily Mass Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm St. Valentine's Day 	15 Mass 8:30am Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm Adult FF – 4:30pm	16 Mass 8:30am	17 Mass 11:00am Senior Luncheon to Follow at Anna's	18 Mass 8:30am Most Holy Rosary 6:30pm in Church	19 Mass 5:30pm
20 Mass 9:00am No Classes 11:30am Spanish Mass	21 No Daily Mass Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm <i>Knights of Columbus 7pm</i> Presidents Day	22 Mass 8:30am Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm Adult FF – 4:30pm <i>Finance Council 6:30pm</i>	23 Mass 8:30am	24 Mass 8:30am	25 Mass 8:30am Most Holy Rosary 6:30pm in Church	26 Mass 5:30pm
27 Mass 9:00am 10:15am Children's FF 10:15am Adult FF – MC 10:15am Parish Council 6:30pm – Confirmation	28 No Daily Mass Adoration in Chapel 12noon – 10:00pm					

What is Candlemas Day?

Candlemas Day, or the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is celebrated each year on February 2nd, exactly forty days after Christmas. This was prescribed in the Old Testament (see reverse side).

- ◆ One of the earliest accounts of this feast was in 350 AD when it was celebrated in Jerusalem. It was observed on February 14, since the birth of Jesus was celebrated on Epiphany. The celebration had no official name at this time.
- ◆ By the middle of the 5th century, the custom of observing the festival with lighted candles had been introduced. The lighted candles referred to Simeon's words at Jesus's presentation at the temple as he called Jesus "a light for the revelation to the Gentiles."
- ◆ In 542, the Emperor Justinian ordered that it be observed at Constantinople as an act of thanksgiving for the ending of the plague in that city. This celebration was introduced to the entire Eastern Roman empire. This may be when Pope Gregory I introduced the feast to Rome. It was found in the *Gelasianum Sacramentary* by the 7th century.
- ◆ In the Western church, Pope Sergius I (687-701) developed the festival in Rome. In the East, it is primarily a festival of Christ. In the West, it was primarily a celebration of the Virgin Mary (Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary) until the calendar reform of 1969. Pope Sergius I started a procession for this feast, and it took on a penitential tone. Until 1960, black or violet vestments were worn for this feast.
- ◆ In 1974, Pope Paul VI once again deemed this feast as the Presentation of the Lord. He also said this feast should jointly commemorate the presentation of the Son and purification of His mother.
- ◆ The name *Candlemas* came to us from the feast's activities. The original form of the word was *Candle Mass* before it was shortened.
- ◆ People are now encouraged to bring candles on this day to be blessed. The candles may be tapers, votives, pillars, etc. These candles can be burned during family celebrations, during storms asking for protection from the storm, for calming fears, etc. They do not have to be 51% beeswax as do liturgical candles.

Light was the inspiration for the celebration with candles. It remains a celebration of the purification of Mary and the first appearance of Jesus in the Temple. During the early days of this celebration, candles would be blessed outside the church and carried into the church in procession. This would replicate the presentation of Jesus ("a light for revelation to the Gentiles") in the Temple.

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight,
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again."

from an old English song

Some cultures observe this day as a prediction of future weather. Farmers believed the remaining winter weather would be the opposite of the weather on this day. This led to the folklore behind our observance of Groundhog Day on February 2nd.



The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

Jesus's presentation in the Temple reflects how he fulfilled the Old Covenant. According to Old Testament law, a sacrifice had to be offered in the Temple when a child was consecrated to the Lord. Mary and Joseph honored this tradition, as Luke 2:22-24 describes:

Luke 2:22-33 ²² And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

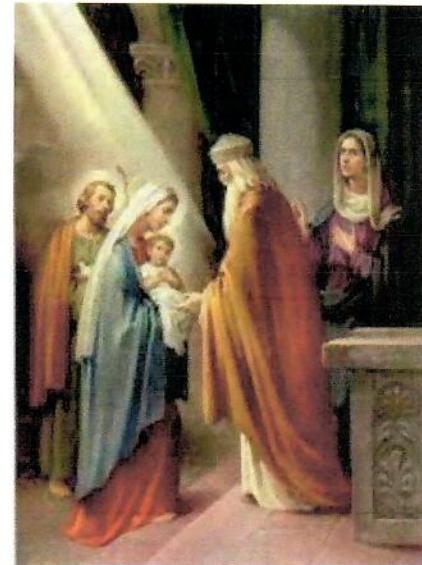
³⁰ for mine eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

Simeon said the Messiah would fulfill his mission by suffering and His Mother would be associated with her Son's sorrows; a sword would pierce her heart.

Anna, a prophetess well over 80 years old, when she saw the child Jesus, began to tell everyone that he would be responsible for the redemption of the world. This made her the first person to evangelize.



³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him

This is the first of Our Lady's Seven Sorrows. It foreshadows the cross.