



# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On Friday, February 2, 2018, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when Mary and Joseph brought their son Jesus to the temple. The feast day used to mark the end of the Christmas Season, making the season 40 days.

While that is no longer the case, Catholics still honor the day and remember the wise elders Simeon and Anna who recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

“This Gospel scene reveals the mystery of Jesus, the One consecrated by the Father, come into the

world to carry out his will faithfully (cf. Heb 10:5-7). Simeon points to Jesus as ‘a light for revelation to the Gentiles’ (Lk 2:32) and by a prophetic word foretells the supreme offering of Jesus to the Father and his final victory” (St. John Paul II, Message on World Day of Consecrated Life, 1997).

This feast is often called “Candlemas” and is the day that the Church blesses the candles that will be used in the coming year, a recognition that Christ is light to all the world.

## Collection for the Church in Latin America

This weekend, February 3-4, 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office of National Collections invites Catholics across the country to give in support of the Church in Latin America. Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to church programs and ministries because of rural terrain and a lack of ministers. Your generosity makes it possible for them to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. For more information about the collection, visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm).

## World Day for Consecrated Life

On February 2, 2018, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the Church also celebrates the World Day for Consecrated Life.

### *Prayer for Consecrated Persons*

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son’s Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



**“[Mary] brings him to the Temple; she presents him to the people; she brings him to meet his people.” (Pope Francis, Homily, Feb. 2, 2015)**