



My Dear Parishioners,

Praise Be Jesus Christ! As February begins, we arrive this Sunday to the 40<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, yes GROUNDHOG DAY, but also The Feast of the Lord's Presentation, aka Candlemas Day. Believe it or not, there is a connection between the two days! An Old English Poem reads:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come winter, have another flight.  
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain, Go winter, and come not again.*

In Germany, ground-dwelling animals such as badgers were the traditional harbingers of winter or spring on Candlemas. German immigrants imported the idea to Pennsylvania, adopted the local groundhog as the weatherman, and the rest is history.

But what is Candlemas? The feast of Candlemas is also called the Purification of Our Lady or the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. It commemorates the coming of the Holy Family to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after Our Lord's birth. There Our Lady completed the sacrifices the Mosaic Law required of new mothers. Firstborn sons being traditionally dedicated to God's service, she and St. Joseph presented the infant Jesus to His Father—a beautiful image of Christ taking on His mission in the world.

We read about this event in the second chapter of Luke. The holy elder Simeon, to whom the Holy Spirit revealed that he would see the Christ, recognizes the Child and prophesies about His future. Because Jesus is the Light of the World Who, with His coming to earth, dispelled the darkness of sin, the Church blesses candles on this day for use in the liturgy and for home prayer. A candlelit procession is often included in the liturgy, recalling the entrance of this Light into His Temple.

As we enter the Temple today on the 40<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, we find ourselves 32 days before LENT. As such, we have an opportunity to consider the Temple of our own Bodies – heart, soul, intellect and will. A chance to root those parts of us deeper into the Light of Christ, so that every shadow can be lit up!

Two things to consider in advance of Lent:

**1) Bishop Barron Book on Prayer.** At Christmas, our parish distributed 300 copies of this book. In the coming weeks on Thursdays, beginning next week, our seminarians will be discussing the book. There's a lot there for the mind and heart and I'd encourage you to read and join them.

**2) STUDY.** Right now, there's a lot going on in the temple of our Country, especially Immigration. I encourage you to read the document on Immigration released by the Bishops of Colorado, this past week, IT IS EXCELLENT, FILLED WITH GOD'S LIGHT.

Finally in Lent:

**SCREWTAPE:** A Live performance of CS LEWIS Book will be coming to Philadelphia April 6. The Parish has a limited # of Tix at \$75. Call parish if you'd like one.

Peace, Fr. Rogers



Parishioners from St. Patrick along with our friends from Assumption BVM and Sacred Heart were on the side of LIFE at the 52nd March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, January 24. Thank you for representing our parish community and for your witness to LIFE.

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Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Men's Spirituality Conference 2025

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Becoming Pilgrims of Hope

The men of our parish are invited to join Catholic Men from throughout the Archdiocese for the 17th Annual Man Up Philly Men's Conference on March 8 at Cardinal O'Hara High School. Speakers include Ward Fitzgerald, CNBC Contributor and Papal Knight, Eddie Morris, creator Team Hope, Msgr. Federico Britto, Pastor of St. Cyprian Parish and our keynote speaker, Brian Dawkins, Pro Football HOF Safety. Back by popular demand, Mark Forrest, internationally recognized Irish tenor, who will lead our Eucharistic Adoration. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and the Conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by our archbishop Most Reverend Archbishop Nelson Perez.

For more information and to register go to the website:

[www.manupphilly.com](http://www.manupphilly.com)