

**February 1-2, 2020**

**The Presentation of the Lord**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

**Hebrews 2:14-18**

**Luke 2:22-32**

Sometimes a single CALENDAR YEAR is not sufficiently long enough in order to adequately space out the historical, spiritual and accustomed Church celebrations! Barely one month ago we were still lingering on the celebration of Christmas with the INFANT Jesus secure in his crib. With just the passage of a few weeks, the infant Jesus had morphed into a 30-year old man who was selecting his disciples...and now this week, with the PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, we are back to honoring the CHILD Jesus as he received the appropriate blessings and rituals attendant to being Jewish. Of importance is the presence of a prayerful man in the Temple named Simeon, who is able to perceive the holiness of Jesus. This is not unlike our own capacity to note the athletic, academic or mechanical skills this or that child may display, a particular aptitude or ability that is worthy of commendation. By our own BAPTISMS, each of us were initiated into a life-long journey of opening our lives more and more to the presence of Jesus. As we, with each year of growth, come to better understand Jesus' presence within our lives, we grow in our appreciation of the 'world of grace' into which Jesus invites us. GRACE is a mysterious power and requires time to adequately understand. GRACE is not something we command or control, rather, it is both a living invitation and a powerful presence by which we are changed. As we honor the Presentation of the Lord, what have been significant moments of GRACE in your life? When have circumstances invited you most fully into the presence of GRACE and what was your response to it? How has it changed your perception of the world or of your place within it? Is it easier to see it working within someone else's life rather than your own? Why? (GRACE frequently gives rise to more questions than answers....because answers can change as we age.)

Thank you for celebrating a portion of this particular SUPER SUNDAY with our Santa Clara community. As you prep your appetizers and break out your paraphernalia for whichever team you support, please consider breaking out the material you received pertaining to our PERMANENT CHURCH and rereading and re-envisioning what it will look like on our land. NEXT WEEKEND, at all our Masses, will be our Development Campaign Pledge Commitment Weekend. Please bring your envelope with you so I may personally accept each one from you. WE HAVE THE ABILITY and the WHEREWITHALL to FUND our CONSTRUCTION...if each one of our 1200 REGISTERED Participants pledged AND redeemed \$25 per week, we would generate \$1,560,000.00 this year!!!! Farmers & Merchants Bank is prepared to loan us our construction monies...we just need to demonstrate to the Diocese of Orange our Financial DETERMINATION and ABILITY to pay back our loans. YOUR 2020 DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN PLEDGE will help us move closer to getting a YES from the Diocese of Orange. As you moan and cheer the day away, please remember, whomever wins this weekend's game...you are loved. FKB