

STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, QUEENSPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT FELIX

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CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 358-2346

The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at www.cansoparishes.org

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD ~ FEBRUARY 2, 2025

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 8 - Port Felix - 6:00 pm - †*Elizabeth Greencorn*

Sunday, February 9 - Star of the Sea- 11:00 am - ♥*For The Faithful*

WELCOME BACK - to Fr. Jonathan, we missed you!

REFLECTION TODAY'S READINGS - *Consecrated to God*

Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus to the Temple of Jerusalem, present him and offer him to the Lord God, as prescribed by the Law. Mary's days of purification were already completed, and now the mother was required to offer a holocaust to God. If she was poor, as in the case of Mary, it was enough that she offered two turtle doves or two pigeons. Thus, the firstborn child was sanctified, that is, consecrated and offered to Yahweh in memory of the great Exodus from Egypt and redeemed by payment of five shekels. Simeon welcomes the Baby and explodes in a hymn of praise and blessing, revealing that the child is sent by God as the redeemer; he is light and salvation to the Gentiles and glory to the people of Israel. Today, we remember the persons and institutions that offer themselves to God and consecrate themselves to him. The Church and society benefit immensely from the silent and sustained work of thousands of religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters all over the world in various fields like education, care of the sick, care of orphans and the aged, and carrying out other forms of social service. Like Jesus and Mary, they consecrate themselves to God and participate in the mission of the Saviour. We thank and praise the Lord for them. These consecrated persons are engaged in different ways in the work of evangelization. Their life of chastity, poverty and obedience are eschatological signs pointing to the life to come and the kingdom of heaven. They are in the world but not of the world. Those who have given up everything for the sake of Jesus will have, as the Lord himself promised, a hundred times as much in this world and eternal happiness in the next. Today, we pray for all the consecrated persons that they may be docile instruments in the hands of God and remain faithful to Him till the end.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (25)	476.00
Fuel (1)	20.00
Initial (1)	10.00
St. Agnes (13)	260.00
Initial (1)	5.00

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, March 4 at 6:15 p.m

Ministries Schedule, February 9

Lector - Martha Rhynold

Cleaners - February 9 - 15 - Theresa & Eileen

Ticket Sale - Heating Certificate, value \$300.00, draw date February 25, tickets available form committee members.

Trivia Night - will be held Saturday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. Pre-register with a committee member. Looking for donations of homemade pizza for this event, participants love homemade pizza!

NOTES

MASS for Shut Ins - airs at 11:30 am on CTV.

It is also available for viewing on our diocesan website and YouTube channel.

Healing Mass - at Our Lady of Grace Monastery with Fr Albert MacPherson.
Saturday, February 22, 1:30 pm

Have you or someone you know had an experience in healthcare where MAiD was offered without a request? - The Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada (CMDA Canada) want you to be heard in a safe and confidential setting. Please contact: Brad MacKinnon bmackinnon@cmdacanada.org or by phone 902-406-2955 or toll free 1-888-256-8653. CMDA Canada is a Christian organization that supports doctors and dentists in integrating their faith into their professional practice.

A Poor Family's Offering

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Messenger of the Covenant - Mal 3:1-4
- ▶ Becoming Like Us to Save Us - Heb 2:14-18
- ▶ The Presentation in the Temple - Luke 2:22-40

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord today marks the trip that Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus made to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill their duty according to Jewish Law. Observant Jews at the time of Jesus' birth followed the tradition spelled out in Leviticus 12:2-8. A mother was considered "unclean" for seven days after giving birth to a son. For 33 days, she was not allowed to enter the sanctuary of the temple. After that, she was required to bring a lamb and a small bird as an offering to the priest. The priest would then sacrifice the animals as an atonement for her sins. Only then was she declared ritually pure again. Those who couldn't afford a lamb and a bird, like Mary and Joseph, could bring two turtle-doves or two pigeons instead.

The language and rituals surrounding uncleanness, impurity, sacrifice, and atonement might seem primitive and archaic to us thousands of years later. Rather than judge them or find fault with such practices, we can focus our attention on the points Luke was trying to make in passing on this story. He is telling us that Jesus was born into a poor family that doesn't have a sheep to spare, nor the money to purchase one. However, this family worked hard to be faithful to their religious practices and to God as they understood him.

Whereas other Gospel writers focus almost all of their attention on male characters, Luke is careful to balance stories of men with stories of women in his life. Elizabeth and Mary were the "stars" of the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel (not Zechariah or Joseph). When



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"They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord."

Sheepish Question:
God dedicated his only son to our salvation— what is the most important thing that I have dedicated to God?

Jesus is presented in public for the first time, Luke makes a point of stating that a man and a woman, Simeon and Anna (whom he calls a "prophetess"), both recognize the baby for the extraordinary person he is—the hope of the Jews and a light to the Gentiles (all of whom were not Jewish).

Questions of the Week

- 1 Think about some of the Gospel stories featuring women. Which ones stand out for you? Why?
- 2 Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus as someone who will be a positive force for people across religious divides. Who in modern history can you say the same of? What was it about them that made them appealing to people of different backgrounds?

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