**Archbishop’s Dinner**

**FREE ONLINE EVENT ∙**

**Thursday, October 29 ∙ 8:00 PM PST**

**What: Archbishop's Virtual Dinner "The Great Call of the Laity"**

**Date: Thursday, October 29**

**Time: 8:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**

**To Register:**

https://rcavdinner.lpages.co/dinner2020/

**Online or in-person Catechism classes for adults (RCIA)**

Class in English on Wednesday from 7 pm to 8 pm · Class in Cantonese on Saturday from 2:30 pm to 3:30

pm · Class in Mandarin on Thursday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.

**Online or in-person Catechism classes for children (PREP)** on Tuesday from 4:15 pm to 5 pm

Grade 1 to Grade 3 in-person class (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)

Grade 4 to Grade 7 in-person or online (zoom)

**Presentation celebrates encounter and light**

The Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary is the Presentation (Luke 2:22-38). The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “The presentation of Jesus in the temple shows him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. With Simeon and Anna, all Israel awaits its *encounter* with the Savior—the name given to this event in the Byzantine tradition. Jesus is recognized as the long-expected Messiah, the ‘light to the nations’ and the ‘glory of Israel,’ but also ‘a sign that is spoken against.’ The sword of sorrow predicted for Mary announces Christ’s perfect and unique on the cross that will impart the salvation God had ‘prepared in the presence of all peoples.’”

Simeon prophesied both light and darkness, joy and sorrow, regarding the Christ Child.

Simeon declared Christ “light to the nations” and the “glory of Israel”. Venerable Fulton Sheen wrote, “An old man at the sunset of his own life spoke of the sunrise of the world; in the evening of life he told of the promise of a new day. He had seen the Messiah before by faith; now his eyes could close, for there was nothing more beautiful to look upon. Some flowers open only in the evening. What he had seen now was ‘Salvation’—not salvation from poverty, but salvation from sin.”

Simeon also prophesied that Christ would be “a sign that is spoken against” and a sword would pierce through the soul of Mary.

St. Alphonsus Liguori pointed out that as the eternal Father did not wish his divine Word to become Mary’s Son before she accepted him by her express consent, so he did not wish that Jesus should sacrifice his life for the salvation of men without the concurrence of the consent of Mary.

St. Bonaventure said that the blessed Virgin would willingly have taken upon herself the sufferings and death of her Son; but to obey God she made the great offering of the divine life of her beloved Jesus, conquering, but with the greatest grief, all the tenderness of love that she bore him.

St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote, “Mary not only offered her Son to death in the temple, but was offering him up at every moment of her life; for she revealed to St. Bridget, that this grief which St. Simeon announced to her, never left her heart till she was assumed into heaven.”

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2---- 40 days after Christmas. Traditionally, the Feast has been called “Purification” and “Candlemas”, for candles were blessed and used for procession on that day.

Regarding the liturgical celebrations on February 2, Dr. Pius Parsch wrote, “To grasp its significance we must associate it with the great solemnities of the winter cycle. Christmas, Epiphany, Purification----these are the peaks of the current season. It would not be impossible to discover a gradual heightening in the season’s ‘Light’ motif and in man’s response to the divine outpouring of Epiphany. On Christmas ‘the Light shines in the darkness’ and only a few ‘receive it’---Mary and the shepherds at the crib. On Epiphany the Light casts its bright beams upon Jerusalem (the Church), ‘the glory of the Lord rises over Jerusalem,’ and the Gentiles come flocking out of the darkness to the City of Light. Lastly, on Candlemas Day, the Light is placed in our very hands, to hold during the service. Light, therefore, plays a notable role in today’s liturgy.”

The candle the people receive on the Feast of the Presentation indicates the baptismal candle. St. Josemaria Escriva wrote, “We have to learn how to give ourselves, to burn before God like the light placed on a lampstand to give light to those who walk in darkness; like the sanctuary lamps that burn by the altar, giving off light till their last drop is consumed.”