

Blessing of Candles

Feast of the Presentation



February 2

If you are new to Saint Paul's, visiting, or unfamiliar with our worship, someone will accompany you through our worship service and introduce you to the priest after Mass. Please silence sound-generating devices.

Jesus welcomes little children and urges us to be like them in receiving his Kingdom (Mark 10:13-15). We are fortunate to be allowed to join them in God's presence. We respect the discretion of accompanying adults regarding standards of decorum and conduct for children. Nursing mothers are welcome to remain in church.



Please be seated after the Gospel

During the Sequence hymn, a table with candles for use in church is brought out. Members of the congregation bring candles forward. Anyone bringing a personal candle remains at the altar rail.

Celebrant In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL Amen.

Celebrant Light and peace in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

ALL Thanks be to God.

Celebrant

Dear brothers and sisters, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. On this blessed day, Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit in the house of God, find and recognize the Christ in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again in glory.

The Celebrant then blesses the candles with holy water, using the following five prayers. All respond "Amen" to each prayer.

Celebrant

Holy Lord, almighty Father, eternal God, you created all things from nothing. You have commanded the bees to produce wax, which has been made into these perfect candles. You fulfilled the petitions of the just man, Simeon, and granted the yearning of the prophetess Anna: Through the invocation of your holy name and

through the intercession of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, whose sacrifice we likewise devoutly celebrate today, and through the prayers of Saint Joseph and all your saints: bless ✠ and sanctify these candles for human use, for the welfare of body and soul, both on land and on water. These, O Lord, your servants, desire to carry them as they praise you with hymns: Hear their voices graciously from your holy Heaven and from the throne of your majesty; be merciful to all who cry to you, whom you have redeemed by the precious blood of your Son, who lives and reigns with you, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God: On this day your only-begotten Son was presented in the Temple to be received into the arms of blessed Simeon; we humbly pray you to bless, ✠ hallow, and kindle with the light of your heavenly benediction these candles which your servants desire to carry as light to the world in honor of your holy Name. By offering them to you, our Lord and God, may we be inflamed with the fire of your love, and made worthy to be presented in the heavenly temple of your glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, true light that enlightens everyone who comes into this world, bestow your blessing ✠ upon these candles, and sanctify them with the light of your grace. As they burn with visible fire and dispel the darkness of night, so may our hearts, with the help of your grace, be enlightened by the invisible fire of the splendor of the Holy Spirit, and may we be free from all blindness of sin. Clarify the eyes of our minds that we may see what is pleasing to you and conducive to our salvation. After the dark perils of this life, let us be worthy to reach the eternal light. Through you, Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, who live in perfect Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by your servant Moses you commanded the purest oil to be prepared for the lamps that burned in the Temple. Pour the grace of your blessing ✠ upon these candles that, as they shed their outward light abroad, so by your goodness the inward light of the Holy Spirit may never be lacking in our

souls; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, you appeared among humankind in the substance of our mortal flesh. On this day, you were presented in the Temple. Grant your blessing ✠ to these candles so that, as the venerable Simeon, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, recognized you and took you into his arms, we may, by holding these lights, be enlightened and taught by the same Holy Spirit, that we may truly acknowledge you, and faithfully love you; who with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Deacon lights a candle from the presence lamp and hands it to the celebrant. If there is an acolyte, the Celebrant then lights the Deacon's candle.

The personal candles of those standing at the altar rail are lit, and they descend to the nave to light the people's candles.

If no one is standing at the rail with personal candles, the Celebrant (and Deacon, if there is an acolyte) descend into the nave to light the people's candles.

While the people's candles are being lit, the acolyte (or Deacon) moves the table with the candles to the side.

When the people's candles are lit and the clergy have returned to the chancel, all stand and sing

Hymn № 499 • Lord God, you now have set your servant free

**Lord God, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as promised in your word;
my eyes have seen the Savior, Christ the Lord,
prepared by you for all the world to see,
to shine on nations trapped in darkest night,
the glory of your people, and their light.**

Candles are kept lit through the profession of the Nicene Creed, then extinguished.9
