

Informing Faith

Building connections for the sake of the children
between the parish of Saint Peter the Apostle
our schools and our homes

February 10, 2017



Dear brothers and sisters,

Celebrating our faith

Last week, there were a couple of liturgical feasts that were celebrated, and I want to take a moment to tell you about them.

Each year, on February 2, the Church celebrates the Presentation of the Lord. This special feast day (which we refer to as a Solemnity) commemorates the day – forty days after his birth – when Jesus was presented in the temple by his parents, Mary and Joseph.

Saint Luke's gospel account of the Presentation (Lk 2:22-38) presents four figures who embrace the new life of Jesus – the elderly and faithful Simeon, the old and wise prophetess Anna, and the young couple: Joseph and Mary who present their child to the Lord in faithful obedience. The Holy Spirit was at work in the lives of both Simeon and Anna: both of them knew that they would one day see the salvation of the Lord.

Simeon, Anna, Joseph and Mary all teach us by their example that there is great value in waiting for the Lord to appear in our midst. The encounter that took place in the temple also shows us that when the Lord appears, there is great reason for celebration. Let us pray for the grace to wait in faithfulness for the Lord to make himself known, and for the willingness to greet him joyfully and to celebrate him when he appears.

One day after the Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord, the Church celebrates the Memorial of Saint Blaise: a physician who according to tradition was born in Sebastea (Armenia) in the fourth century A.D. The Church commemorates the Memorial of Saint Blaise by blessing the throats of all the faithful and praying that through his intercession, we may be freed from every ailment of the throat and from other diseases.

Earlier this week – on February 8 – the Church celebrated the liturgical memorial of Saint Josephine

Bakhita (1869-1947): a Sudanese woman who was sold into slavery and suffered at the hands of her masters for many years until she was brought to the Italian port city of Genoa. There, she was introduced to the Canossian Sisters who catechized her and introduced her to the Catholic faith.

On 7 December 1893, Josephine entered the novitiate of the Canossian Sisters and three years later, she took final vows. She spent the next 42 years employed as a cook, sacristan and portress (door keeper) for her Religious Congregation. She was best known for her gentleness, her calming voice and her ever-present smile.

Today (February 10) is the liturgical Memorial of Saint Scholastica: the sister of Saint Benedict of Nursia (Italy). While Benedict established the first of his monasteries at Monte Cassino (south of Rome), Scholastica lived in a nearby convent at Plumbariola. Once a year, she would visit with her brother. They would spend the day together at a place not far from the monastery at Monte Cassino praying together and discussing sacred texts and issues of faith.

This week, let us ask Saint Blaise, Saint Josephine Bakhita and Saint Scholastica to pray for us and for our families. Like Simeon, Anna, Joseph and Mary, may we always be ready to welcome Jesus and to share the good news of our faith with those we meet.

Sacraments to be celebrated

[Information and registration forms](#) for the Sacrament of Confirmation were sent to you two weeks ago. Please remember to share this information with students in grades 7 or higher. The completed registration forms should be returned to their parish offices as soon as possible.

We invite parents of children who have not yet had an opportunity to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation or Eucharist to contact our parish office. We would be happy to help you to share these wonderful gifts of faith with your children.