

# February

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family.  
"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul."

"Jesus, who hast made Thyself obedient to Thy parents,  
to Thee be ever glory,  
with the supreme Father and with the Spirit."



Though the shortest month of the year, February is rich in Liturgical activity. February contains a feast (Presentation of our Lord) that bridges two other seasons (Christmas and Easter.) In addition, the faithful may receive in February two of the four major public sacramentals that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles and the blessing of throats.

The month of February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family. Between the events which marked Christmas and the beginning of Christ's public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family.

This year the first 25 days of February fall during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical colour green. Green, the symbol of hope, is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of February are the beginning of Lent. The liturgical colour changes to purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.



The Intentions of the Pope for February 2020

Listen to the Migrants' Cries: We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

February 2nd

Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas

This feast is a festival of light. The procession, in which the blessed candles are carried by clergy and faithful, recalls by its symbolism the manifestation of Christ, the Light of the World, received in the temple.

*"A light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel."*

The Feast forms a fitting transition from Christmas to Easter. The small Christ-Child is still in His Mother's arms, but already she is offering Him in sacrifice.

The Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd harkens back to the Christmas mystery of Light except that now, Christ, the helpless babe, is "the Light of Revelation to the Gentiles who will save his people from their sins." Candles, symbolizing Christ our Light, will be carried in procession this day, as will be the Paschal candle during the Easter Vigil Liturgy.

"The Light of Revelation" shines more brightly with each successive Sunday of Ordinary Time, until its magnificence – exposing our sinfulness and need for conversion – propels us into the penitential Season of Lent. We prepare to accept the cross of blessed ashes on Ash Wednesday and plunge ourselves into anticipating the major exercises of Lent – fasting, prayer, almsgiving – laying our thoughts and prayers on the heart of our Mother Mary. She, who offered her Son in the temple and on the Cross, will teach us how to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow after her Son.



This month the main liturgical feasts are:

The Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd)

St. Blaise (February 3rd)

St. Agatha (February 5th)

St. Paul Miki & Companions - St. Dorothy (February 6th)

St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhita (February 8th)

St. Scholastica (February 10th)

World Day of Prayer for the Sick / Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11th)

Sts. Valentine, Cyril and Methodius (February 14th)

Seven Founders of the Orders of Servites (February 17th)

St. Peter Damian (February 21st)

The Chair of St. Peter (February 22nd)

St. Polycarp (February 23rd)