

February 2

Sts. Simeon and Anna

Feast of the Presentation in the Temple

Soon after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. They went to offer Jesus to God the Father and to sacrifice two turtle doves because they were too poor to sacrifice a lamb.

That same day, the Holy Spirit brought a man named Simeon to the Temple. Simeon was an old man who had lived a holy life. More than anything, he wanted to see the Messiah, the promised one who was to save Israel. In fact, the Holy Spirit had promised him that he would see the Messiah before he died. The moment that Simeon's eyes fell on baby Jesus, his heart skipped a beat. He knew that this baby was the Messiah that God and all the prophets had promised.

Simeon took the baby in his arms and said, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:29–32). Mary and Joseph were amazed at the things that Simeon said. Simeon blessed Mary. He told her that Jesus would reveal many people's hearts. He also warned her that a sword would pierce her soul. When he said that, Simeon was warning Mary that she would feel great sorrow over the many things that would happen to Jesus.

At the same time, a prophetess named Anna also approached the Holy Family. She was eighty-four years old and had been a widow for seven years. She lived in the temple both day and night, constantly praying to God. She rejoiced at everything she had just seen and heard. Her heart was full of thanks that she, too, could see the Messiah. She told every person that she met all about the baby Jesus. Sts. Simeon and Anna, help me always to hold Jesus thankfully in my heart!

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