

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A 2019-2020

A Message from Fr. Mark

Since today is the 2nd of February, which is the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus, and since this year February 2nd falls on a Sunday, and since I have been sent to this parish which is the Parish of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple, that is why I think I should write today about the temple.



The temple in Jerusalem was the largest building in the world at the time of Jesus. It was a place of sacrifice. It was a place of offering pure innocent lambs in mysterious rituals in a pious effort to take away the sins of the world. Every Jewish family offered a lamb whenever a baby boy was born unless the family was too poor to afford a lamb, they would offer instead two pigeons (Leviticus 5:11). This is what happened in the case of the Holy Family. They were poor and so they could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24). Ironically and providentially, however, they were actually presenting the one lamb whose sacrifice would truly take away the sins of the world and put an end to all the animal sacrifices.

I think I'm supposed to talk about the temple. As I come here to spend the best years of my priesthood, I think the Lord is asking me and all of us to reflect as a parish on this important Biblical theme. Since the name of our parish refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary being presented in the temple, we can think of being a church built of living stones (1Pt. 2:5). We can think of being like Mary, temples in which the Lord can dwell (1Cor. 3:16). In Lent, we can think of our parish as being a place of sacrifice (Rm. 12:1). We can think of going to heavenly Jerusalem, where there will be no temple: "I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb." (Rev. 21:22)

Sincerely,  
Fr. Mark

