

NOVEMBER 21, PRESENTATION OF THE BVM

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Just as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the feast of His Holy Name, and His presentation in the Temple, so too the Church solemnizes the nativity of the Blessed Virgin, the feast of her holy name, and her presentation in the Temple. The tradition that Mary, when three years old, was presented by her parents in the Temple in order to be brought up in the shadow of the tabernacle is first found in the apocryphal Gospels. It agrees, however, so completely with the sentiment of Catholic devotion concerning that part of the immaculate life of Mary not mentioned in the Gospel, that it found favor with Catholics too. It was celebrated in the East as early as the Sixth Century. It was introduced in the West by the agency of Philippe de Maizeres, envoy of the King of Cyprus to the papal Court of Avignon. He described the festival as celebrated in the East in such glowing colors that Gregory XI introduced it into the Calendar of the Curia.

Mary was brought by her parents to the Temple at Jerusalem in order that the Rod of Jesse, from whence the Flower of Nazareth would blossom, should be preserved from all danger in the shadow of the sanctuary. This should be a lesson to all, but especially to parents who cannot guard the innocence of their children more surely than by accustoming them from an early age to prayer and to frequent reception of the sacraments.

INTROIT Sedulius; Psalms 44: 2

Salve, sancta Parens, enixa puérpera Regem: qui cælum terrámque regit in sæcula sæculórum. (Ps 44: 2) Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Salve, sancta Parens, enixa puérpera Regem: qui cælum terrámque regit in sæcula sæculórum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui beátam Mariám semper Vírginem, Spíritus Sancti habitáculum, hodiérna die in templo præsentári voluísti: præsta, quæsumus; ut, ejus intercessióne, in templo glóriæ tuæ præsentári mereámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte ejúsdem Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Ecclesiasticus 24: 14-16

Ab inítio et ante sæcula creáta sum, et usque ad futúrum sæculum non désinam, et in habitatióne sancta coram ipso ministrávi. Et sic in Sion firmáta sum, et in civitate sanctificáta simíliter requiévi, et in Jerúsalem potéstas mea. Et radicávi in pópulo honorificáto, et in parte Dei mei heréditas illíus, et in plenitúdine sanctórum deténtio mea.

GRADUAL

Benedícta et venerábilis es, Virgo María: quæ sine tactu pudóris invénta es Mater Salvatóris. Virgo, Dei Génatrix, quem totus non capit orbis, in tua se clausit víscera factus homo.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Post partum, Virgo, invioláta permansísti: Dei Génatrix, intercéde pro nobis. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 11: 27-28

In illo témpore: Loquente Jesu ad turbas, extóllens vocem quædam múlier de turba, dixit illi: Beátus venter, qui te portávit, et úbera, quæ suxísti. At ille dixit: Quinímmodó beáti, qui áudiunt verbum Dei, et custódiunt illud.

OFFERTORY Luke 1: 28, 42

Ave, María, grátia plena; Dóminus tecum: benedícta tu in muliéribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui.

SECRET

Tua, Dómine, propitiatióne, et beátæ Mariæ semper Vírginis intercessióne, ad perpétuam atque præsentem hæc oblátio nobis proficiat prosperitátem et pacem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE BVM

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: Et te in Præsentatióne beátæ Mariæ semper Vírginis collaudáre, benedícere et prædicáre. Quæ et Unigénitum tuum Sancti Spíritus obumbratióne concépit: et, virginitátis glória permanénte, lumen ætérnum mundo effúdit, Jesum Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Per quem maiestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súplici confessióne dicéntes:

COMMUNION

Beáta víscera Mariæ Vírginis, quæ portáverunt ætérni Patris Fílium.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sumptis, Dómine, salutis nostræ subsidiis: da, quæsumus, beátæ Mariæ semper Vírginis patrocíniis nos ubique prótegi; in cujus veneratióne hæc tuæ obtúlimus majestáti. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Hail, holy Mother, thou who didst bring forth the King who rules heaven and earth for ever and ever. (Ps. 44: 2) My heart hath uttered a good word : I speak my works to the King. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Hail, holy Mother, thou who didst bring forth the King who rules heaven and earth for ever and ever.

O God, Who was pleased that on this day the Blessed Virgin, the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit, should be presented in the Temple, grant, we beseech Thee, that, by her intercession, we may deserve to be presented in the temple of Thy glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

From the beginning, and before the world, was I created, and unto the world to come I shall not cease to be, and in the holy dwelling place I have ministered before him. And so I was established in Sion, and in the holy city likewise I rested, and my power was in Jerusalem. And I took root in an honorable people, and in the portion of my God his inheritance, and my abode is in the full assembly of saints.

Thou art blessed and venerable, O Virgin Mary, who with purity unstained was found to be the Mother of our Savior. Virgin Mother of God, He whom the whole world was unable to contain enclosed Himself in thy womb, being made man.

Alleluia, alleluia. After childbirth thou didst still remain an inviolate virgin: Mother of God, intercede for us. Alleluia.

At that time, as Jesus was speaking to the multitudes, a certain woman from the crowd, lifting up her voice, said to Him: Blessed is the womb that bore Thee and the paps that gave Thee suck. But He said: Yea, rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

By Thy gracious mercy, O Lord, and the intercession of blessed Mary ever Virgin, may this offering be of avail to us for welfare and peace now and for evermore. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation that we always and everywhere give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God: and that we should praise and bless, and proclaim Thee, in the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ever Virgin: Who also conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the everlasting Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the Eternal Father.

Having received, O Lord, these helps to our salvation, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be ever protected by the patronage of blessed Mary ever Virgin, in whose honor we have made these offerings to Thy majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.