



# Meeting the Lord

Have you ever gone on a great trip to see someone special? You may prepare by packing your things, preparing a plan and finding a map. You may also practice how you will act when you see that wonderful person. Will you give them a hug or kiss? What will you say? How do we prepare when our goal is to meet the Lord?

## Home Discussion

Forty days after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the Jerusalem Temple where he was received and prayed for by Simeon the Elder. This Feast is called the Feast of Meeting: when Christ was brought to the Temple, presented and dedicated according to the custom. Today a newborn child is first brought to the church by his mother and father and prayed for by the priest. This is called a “churching” which occurs before or at the time of a baby's baptism.

The season of Great Lent, soon to begin, gives us a roadmap and prepares us to meet our Lord Jesus Christ in a special way. Great Lent is the church's “school” of forty days, when we learn about forgiveness, practice prayers, doing good works, and what it means to fast. Doing this helps us to discover what it means to serve Christ in knowing and helping others. We meet Christ by learning what His Sacrifice on the Cross means to us and how it prepares us to celebrate and share in His triumphant and glorious Resurrection.

Each week, we hear Gospel readings that prepare us for Great Lent, and then the Great Fast will begin on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mark these dates on your family calendar and talk about the Gospel lessons at home.

- Feb 1 – Publican & Pharisee – It is the spirit behind your prayers that matters
- Feb 8 – Prodigal Son – We can change our minds and return to God any time
- Feb 15 – Last Judgment (Meatfare) – When we serve others, we are serving God
- Feb 22 – Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) – If we want to be with God in Heaven, we must forgive others
- Feb 23 – Great Lent Fast Begins

## Bible Verse

I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

*Matthew 25:43-45*

## Activities at Home

- Plan a time to meet with Father Timothy to learn about the Sacrament of Confession (8 years and above)
- Review the first half of “Journey Through Great Lent” zine in your family binder.
- Plan a time to help someone or participate in a group by doing a charitable job during the month.
- Use the Food for the Hungry People Calendar (handed out on February 15) to learn about making sacrifices
- Create a Lenten Chart to track fasting & behavior during the month.

## Feast Days and Saints

Feb 2 – Meeting of Jesus Christ in the Temple  
Feb 3 – Saints Simeon and Anna

## Special Event

**Sunday, Feb 15th**

**Learn to Make Holy Bread & Youth Basketball Game**  
After Coffee Hour