



# NEWSLETTER



DEACON DON SIMS  
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR  
PO BOX 34  
LYONS, TX 77863  
PHONE: 281-794-0299

## Knights of Columbus

MARTIN ELMAN  
FAITHFUL COMPTRROLLER  
3098 SOUTH HGY. 77  
ROCKDALE, TX. 76567  
(512-446-6699)

**Msgr. Francis D. Urbanovsky #2587**  
Somerville, Caldwell, and Rockdale

### NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 ALL SAINTS DAY	2 ALL SOULS DAY	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 VETERANS DAY	12 MEETING ROCKDALE 7:00 PM	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	22 THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24
25 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY	26	27	28	29	30	

### NEWS

Our annual Thanksgiving meeting will be in Rockdale on Monday, November 12, 2018. A scrumptious meal of turkey, ham, and all the trimmings will be served promptly at 7:00 PM, assuming that turkeys and pigs are available. There is a vast shortage of these animals right now, due to the booming economy, so you need to be prepared for some kind of substitution in the menu. No matter what it is, you know it will be good, and the price is right.

Our Diocesan Capital Campaign "Encountering Christ" is coming to an end shortly. With the explosive growth in our Diocese, there is a tremendous need for churches, schools, and other recourses to address these needs as the population of our Diocese continues to grow. Hopefully, we will all do what we can to help provide the resources for our Diocese.

November 21 is the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast, overlooked by many, shows us how the lives of Christians were dedicated to the service of God, and can serve as an example to us in these modern times.

We have two brother Sir Knights who are in need of our prayers. Richard Sifuentes and Donald Hubenak are both suffering with cancer, and are under hospice care.

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Another year is quickly coming to an end, with the holiday season almost here, and is the usual time to think about all the things we should be thankful for. One of the biggest things is that we have the right to vote, and express our wishes at the ballot box. Hopefully, we will continue down the path of Religious Freedom and protecting the lives of the unborn, and continue with the progress made on the economic front, so that we can all be better off, and have the ability to help financially those who are on the bottom rung of the economic ladder.

*Have a peaceful and enjoyable Thanksgiving.*

# THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

## Feast: November 21

Religious parents never fail by devout prayer to consecrate their children to the divine service and love, both before and after their birth. Some amongst the Jews, not content with this general consecration of their children, offered them to God in their infancy, by the hands of the priests in the temple, to be lodged in apartments belonging to the temple, and brought up in attending the priests and Levites in the sacred ministry. It is an ancient tradition, that the Blessed Virgin Mary was thus solemnly offered to God in the temple in her infancy.[1] This festival of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, or, as it is often called by the Greeks, the entrance of the Blessed Virgin into the Temple, is mentioned in the most ancient Greek Menologies extant.

By the consecration which the Blessed Virgin made of herself to God in the first use which she made of her reason, we are admonished of the most important and strict obligation which all persons lie under, of an early dedication of themselves to the divine love and service. It is agreed amongst all masters of Christian morality, that everyone is bound in the first moral instant of the use of reason to convert his heart to God by love; and if divine faith be then duly proposed to him (which is the case of Christian children) by a supernatural assent to it, he is bound then to make an act of faith; also an act of hope in God as a supernatural rewarder and helper, and an act of divine charity. Who can be secure that in the very moment in which he entered into his moral life and was capable of living to God, did not stain his innocence by a capital omission of this duty? How diligent and solicitous are parents bound to be in instructing their children in the first fundamental mysteries of faith, and in the duty of prayer, and in impressing upon their tender minds a sense of spiritual things in a manner in which their age may be capable of receiving it. These first fruits of the heart are a sacrifice of which God is infinitely jealous, an emblem of which were all the sacrifices of first fruits prescribed in the old law, in token that he is our beginning and last end. Such a heart, adorned with the baptismal grace of innocence, has particular charms. Grace recovered by penance is not like that of innocence which has never been defiled; nor is it the same happiness for a soul to return to God from the slavery of sin, as for one to give him her first affections, and to open her understanding and will to his love before the world has found any entrance there. The tender soul of Mary was then adorned with the most precious graces, an object of astonishment and praise to the angels, and of the highest complacence to the adorable Trinity, the Father looking upon her as his beloved daughter, the Son, as one chosen and prepared to become his mother, and the Holy Ghost as his darling spouse.

Mary lived retired until she was introduced into the world and espoused to St. Joseph. Some think her espousals were at first only a promise or betrothing: but the ends assigned by the fathers, seem rather to show them to have been a marriage. These are summed up by St. Jerome as follows:[2] that by the pedigree of Joseph, the descent of Mary from the tribe of Juda, might be demonstrated; that she might not be stoned by the Jews as an adulteress; that, fleeing into Egypt, she might have the comfort and protection of a spouse. A fourth reason, says St. Jerome, is added by the martyr Ignatius: that the birth of the Son of God might be concealed from the devil. The words of that apostolic father are: "Three mysteries wrought by God in silence were concealed from the prince of this world. the virginity of Mary, the bringing forth of her Son, and the death of the Lord." [3] Not that God could fear any impediment to his designs from the devil; but he was pleased to effect these mysteries in silence and without worldly show and noise, that pride and hell might, by his all-wise and sweet providence, be more meetly triumphed over, whilst the devil himself hastened his own overthrow by concurring to the mystery of the cross. From the marriage of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, St. Austin shows [4] that marriage requires no more than the mutual consent of the will between parties who lie under no impediment or inability to an indissoluble individual society of life. In this holy marriage we admire the incomparable chastity of Mary and Joseph; and the sanctity and honor, as well as the patronage and example, which that holy state receives from this mystery. In certain particular churches the espousals of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph are honored with an office on the 23rd of January.

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