



The **Presentation of the Lord in the Temple** (also called the **Meeting of the Lord**) is one of the **Great Feasts** of the **Orthodox Church**, celebrated on **February 2** (February 15 on the Julian Calendar.) Many churches bless candles for the Feast because of St. Simeon's reference to Christ as a Light of revelation to the Gentiles. (This feast is also known as **Candlemas**, particularly in Western nations, due to the custom of blessing **candles** on this day)

Why do we bless candles?

Candles are symbolic of Christ being the Light of the World, and thereby, we bless the candles and bring light in to the darkness of the world.

Here is a prayer for the blessing of candles:

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light that illumines every man that comes into the world: Do Thou bestow Thy blessing upon these candles, and sanctify them with the light of Thy grace; that as they, kindles with visible fire, do dispel the shadows of night, so may also our hearts, lighted by the invisible flame of the Holy Spirit, cast out the darkness of sin; to the end that with the eye of a cleansed soul, we may see that which is well-pleasing to Thee and necessary for our salvation; so that having triumphed over the dark afflictions of this world we may at the last attain to the Light Everlasting: For Thou art our Savior, and to Thee do we ascribe glory, with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever and forever. Amen.

In the preparation for Divine Liturgy, entrance prayers are said by the priest, including prayers at lighting candles:

At the icon of Christ: O Jesus, full of light, in Your light we see light, for You are the true light that enlightens the whole creation. Enlighten us by Your glorious light, O Radiance of the heavenly Father.

At the icon of the Theotokos: O Pure and Holy One, who dwells in the abodes of light, keep away from us evil passions and hateful thoughts; grant us purity of heart, so that we may do the deeds of righteousness.

Some ideas to celebrate the Feast at home:

Bring homemade candles to church to be blessed for the feast:



[Honeycomb rolled candles](#) are the easiest:



[Dipped Candles](#)

Enjoy edible candle cookies



[Candle cookies](#)