Candlemas Homily 2014

1. BVM and St. Joseph carrying the Christchild into the Temple
   1. First Procession
   2. Fulfilment of the Prophecy of Malachi
2. Reception by St. Simeon
   1. Lumen ad revelationem gentium
3. Rite of the Divine Liturgy
   1. Wax: fruit of the work of virginal bees—most pure and holy Body of Christ
   2. Flame: Fire of the Holy Ghost
      1. Inflame our hearts
      2. Through us, give light to the world—a testament to *the* Light of the World
4. Procession
   1. Joyfully take part w/ Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; Holy Prophets Simeon and Anna bid us join them…
5. Wax
   1. Fruit of virgin bees
6. Flame
   1. Prophet Malachy: “He shall purify the sons of Levi…as a refiner’s fire…”
      1. Nothing sentimental about this flame. Its light pierces our dark thoughts and hidden recesses of the mind—it shows us our true selves. This self-knowledge must lead to repentance—and the labor of penance.

3rd Collect:

…et concéde propítius; ut, sicut hæc luminária igne visíbili accénsa noctúrnas de- péllunt ténebras; ita corda nostra invisíbili igne, id est, Sancti Spíritus splendóre illustráta, ómnium vitiórum cæcitáte cáreant: ut, purgáto mentis óculo, ea cérnere possímus, quæ tibi sunt plácita et nostræ salúti utília; quátenus post huius sǽculi caliginósa discrímina ad lucem indeficiéntem perveníre mereámur. Per te, Christe Iesu, Salvátor mundi, qui in Trinitáte perfécta vivis et regnas in sǽcula sæculórum. Amen.

“O Lord Jesus Christ…mercifully grant that, as these candles alight with visible fire dispel the dark of night, so may our hearts, illumined with the invisible fire of the splendor of the Holy Ghost, be free from the blindness of every vice: and that, with purified interior vision, we may be able to discern things pleasing to Thee and useful for our salvation; and, after the treacherous fog of this world, we may merit to come to the unfailing Light. Through Thee, O Christ Jesus, Saviour of the world, Who livest and reignest in the Perfect Trinity unto ages of ages. Amen.”