

In today's Scriptures, we hear how after the defeat of the paganizers in Jerusalem (around the 2nd century B.C.) and the rededication of the Temple ... how for eight days the Jewish people worshipped in temple according to the law. This story points to what is now celebrated to this day by their descendants as Hannukah.

In the Gospel, we hear Luke's telling of the cleansing of the temple, where Jesus drives out the money-changers.

The Old Testament story tells of a time when some attempted to combine the Jewish religion with the gods of Greek mythology. Those who were victorious accepted no compromise of the One True God with other gods.

In the Gospel story, we hear of Jesus driving out of the temple those who saw religion as an opportunity for financial gain.

Elsewhere in Scripture, Our Lord speaks of worshipping God "in Spirit and in Truth."

As we near the end of the Liturgical Year, let us seek to purify our own worship of God.

It is so easy to shift the focus from God to something else - most often ourselves or our own likes and dislikes.

As we continue in today's Eucharistic celebration, let us recognize that it is God who completes us - who fills us ... and not the other way around. Let us lay aside anything that may separate us from drawing near to God in Jesus Christ ... and receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship, today and every day, "in Spirit and in Truth" ... with pure hands, and pure hearts, and pure minds.