

**“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER”** *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*  
*O Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord, pray to God for us!*

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212  
 www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (Talk or Text) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!**

**Glory to Jesus Christ!** (*responded with: Glory forever!*) Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*) We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God’s Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Blessing of Candles  
 Pre-Lenten Breakfast and honoring Eleanor Sanger’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (DATE CHANGE)**

9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos with anointing  
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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

9:30 Divine Liturgy  
 Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Gold → Purple**  
 Rite of Forgiveness

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 #GreatFast**

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS  
 9:30am Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 #GreatFast**

9:30am Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 #GreatFast**

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy and meal

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2 #GreatFast**

9:30am Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3 #GreatFast**

9:30am Presanctified Liturgy

**ALL-SOULS SATURDAY, MARCH 4 #GreatFast**

9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (2<sup>nd</sup> of 5)  
 (*Zadušna Subota*) **Please note the date change**  
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**Mystery of Confession** – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service

**RELOCATION UPDATE**

\*\*\* **Reports** – This past week we have been blessed to receive the report from the Insurance Company as well as the estimate for repairs from the Restoration Company. The Parish Council is discussing these reports and will talk with the Allison Park Church this week to take our next steps.  
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\* **Parish House Condemned** - Extension of citation from the City of Pittsburgh Inspector was denied. A second citation was received. (After a third citation the church could start to be fined.) Citations will keep coming until permits are requested for the repairs of the parish house.  
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May God continue to guide our journey to  
 2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, PA 15101  
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*As updates are available, they will be shared here.  
 Please contact Larry or Fr. Dave with any questions*  
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**BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)*  
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\*\* **Great Lent 2023** - Our Journey To Pascha has begun! We are in the series of Sundays known as the Triodion. These weeks are meant to prepare us for Great Lent (*to prepare us for Holy Week to prepare us for Pascha*). Please reach out to Fr. Dave with your questions about this important fasting period that is around the corner.

Today is **Meatfare Sunday**, traditionally the last day for meat before the Great Fast. Begin to prepare yourself for the 40-day journey that begins in one week, February 27.

<p>Meatfare  <b>FEBRUARY 19th</b>                  FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY</p> 	<p><b>The Last Judgement</b>                  Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2                  Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46</p>	<p>Pray facing East this week.                  Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him!                  Use up/freeze dairy this week.</p>
<p>Cheesefare  <b>FEBRUARY 26th</b>                  FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY</p> 	<p><b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b>                  FORGIVENESS SUNDAY                  Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4                  Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21</p>	<p>Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.</p>

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 \*\*\* **Many Years! and Congratulations** to Ashley (Wertz) and Derek Andrekovich who yesterday were united together in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony. Through the prayers of Saints Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs, May God grant you many years!  
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\*\*\* **Pan-Orthodox Christian widows, divorcees, and never-married** - The group’s next gathering will be on **Saturday, February 25** at 7 pm at Sts. Peter and Paul (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106). Please contact Fr. Dave for more information.  
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\*\*\* **Bowling Outing** – The previously discussed bowling outing has been postponed until after Pascha.  
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\*\*\* **Rite of Forgiveness** – After the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, **February 26**, we will have prayers from Vespers and the Rite of Forgiveness as a community immediately following the Liturgy. **Let’s pray that we begin the Great Fast on the right foot: taking the step of forgiveness together.**  
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\*\*\* **“Clean Week” Services** – The first week of the Great Fast is known as “Clean Week”. We will have services in the evenings and mornings (see schedule in the first column). All are encouraged to come to as many services as your schedule allows. **The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete** was “written in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, *The Great Canon still maintains relevance for the modern age. It is the backbone of Orthodox services for the first week of Great Lent and sets the tone for a Christian's self reflection and repentance appropriate to the season.*”  
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\*\*\* **Fellowship Meals** - Got Soup? A ‘t’radition in many Orthodox parishes is to have soup (or other light meal) following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during the Great Fast. We will have this meal after our Wednesday evening services. A sign up sheet is in the church hall for those interested in bringing in food.  
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\*\*\* **Lenten Coin Boxes** – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28:19) Coin boxes are available in the Church Hall to collect your spare change throughout the Great Fast for our Community Outreach next month (OCMC). More information is available at [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org). “Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Tim 6:18)  
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\* **Food Drive** – For the month of February we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry on Pittsburgh’s South Side**. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! The list of food items they are looking for is available in the February Newsletter, church hall, or at: [stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)  
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\*\* **All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota)** Liturgies and Panachidas for 2023 will continue on Saturdays, **March 4 (DATE CHANGE), 18, 25, and June 3**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday, come to church, pray with us, and light two candles for your living and departed loved ones. **Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to your Commemoration Diptychs (Hramoty).** Offering Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule.

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\*\*\* **Sunday of Orthodoxy Service** - The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is hosting the annual Sunday of Orthodoxy Service and Celebration on **Sunday, March 5** at 4:30 pm at St. George Cathedral (Dawson Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA)

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**Deanery Lenten Mission Schedule**

Confessions starting at 3:30, Vespers at 4:00, and Fellowship Meal following

- March 12 - St John's Ambridge
- March 19 - St John's East Pittsburgh
- March 26 - St John's Northside
- April 2 - St Michael's Rankin

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**St Nicholas Program: Camping for Faithful and Families with Special Needs** – On **June 21-24**, All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Camp (110 All Saint Road, Emlenton, PA 16373) offers a wonderful camping program for families with special needs. Please visit [www.uocyouth.org/campingministry](http://www.uocyouth.org/campingministry) for more information (or ask Fr. Dave).

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**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 390
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 189
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 229
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 808</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 35</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>

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**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Mary Jane Hudak; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Kathy Schrmack; Eleanor Sanger; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

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**VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE**

- Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)
- Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)
- FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)
- YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](http://youtube.com/acroddioecese)

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**\* On Lighting Candles in the Church** – In lighting our two candles, the first thing we should do is make an offering for them. Everything that we have is from God and the first step is to give back to Him for all of His many blessings. The next step is to venerate the icons that guard the candles and lift our prayers to God on high. Next, we light a candle, remembering all of our loved ones who are sick (or who we just want to pray for) and then a candle for our loved ones who have passed into the next life. We beseech God to have mercy on their souls. Lastly, as we light the candles, we quietly say “Lord have mercy,” repenting for our own sinfulness while at the same time “re-igniting” our own flame and recommitting our whole life to God. Thus we begin again to live as light, helping others see the Way in a world of darkness. The importance of lighting our own candles is that you are able to say a prayer for your loved ones. “We light candles for the forgiveness of sins of **both** those who light the candles and of those for whom the candles are lit.” (*holy father Nicodemus of Mount Athos*) “Let light shine out of darkness, [and] Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (1 Cor. 4:6)

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**Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar) (Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

**Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online: [www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/)

**SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

<sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol’s temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother’s falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

**The Rights of an Apostle**

9 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? <sup>2</sup>If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.



**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

**The Judgment of the Nations**

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**THE MONK BUKOLOS, BISHOP OF SMYRNA**

*Commemorated on February 19/6*

The Monk Bukolos, Bishop of Smyrna, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, and was established by him as the first bishop of the Smyrna Church (Asia Minor).

By the grace of God, Saint Bukolos converted to Christ and baptised many of the pagans, and as an experienced and wise guide he defended his flock from the darkness of heresy. He died at peace in about the years 100-105. He passed his flock on to Saint Polycarp (Comm. 23 February), one of the apostolic fathers, who likewise was a disciple of the holy Apostle John the Theologian. At the grave of Saint Bukolos grew a myrtle tree, which healed the sick.

**PRAYER CORNER**

*For the Health of...* Karen, Octavian, Anna Mae, David, Donna, Gregory, Joshua, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael  
*...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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*For the souls of the newly departed...*

Paul Shoemaker, Sr (2/27) *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God’s Memory.*

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**A Prayer When Lighting A Candle**

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

Set our hearts on fire with love for You, O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping Your commandments we may glorify You, the giver of all good gifts. Amen.

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## ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

### Being an Orthodox Christian

The Orthodox Church is not just another organization, club or fraternal society. It is the Body of Christ, and a life-giving relationship with God. The Orthodox Church is a continuation of the Christian Church from the time of Christ until the present. As Orthodox Christians, we do not have a relationship with Christ in isolation, but alongside other Orthodox Christians. With these things in mind, Orthodox Christians are expected to:

- ✠ Strive daily to live a Christian life, according to the teachings of Our Lord in the Gospels, and the tradition of the Church.
- ✠ Regularly participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays (and on holy days as permitted by your employment).
  - *Those who are homebound and/or physically unable to attend services on a regular basis are asked to spiritually join in prayer on Sundays and holy days. The priest will visit with the Sacraments periodically throughout the year, as requested.*
- ✠ Regularly receive Holy Communion and participate in the Mystery of Holy Confession. (The minimum is no less than once a year for each, but at least four times a year is better.)
- ✠ Offer your whole life to Christ, and offer the “Three T’s” - time, talent and treasure - to sustain the church (your stewardship).
  - Participate in parish ministries and activities.
  - Volunteer to help.
  - Give monetary support.
  - Our parish does not survive on stewardship, we “thrive” on this form of

voluntary giving of who we are. If we are unable to donate monetarily, there are many other ways to give with time and talents.

If you have any questions about Stewardship or any of the above, please reach out to Fr Dave or Larry Martin (Parish Council President)

## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

“After the end of the General Judgment, the Righteous Judge (God) will declare the decision both to the righteous and to the sinners. To the righteous He will say: ‘Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;’ while to the sinners He will say: “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” And these will go away to eternal hades, while the righteous will go to eternal life.

This retribution after the General Judgment will be complete, final, and definitive. It will complete, because it is not the soul alone, as the Partial Judgment of man after death, but the soul together with the body, that will receive what is deserved. It will be final, because it will be enduring and not temporary like that at Partial Judgment. And it will be definitive, because both for the righteous and for the sinners it will be unalterable and eternal.”

+St Nectarios of Aegina

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## FEBRUARY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - TRIODION BEGINS**

9:30 Divine Liturgy (and Church School)

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of St. Petersburg

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.

9:30 Divine Liturgy

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (40 days after Nativity)**

FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD

9:30am Festal Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Candles

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - ALL-SOULS (1<sup>ST</sup> OF 5)**

9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*Zadušna*

*Subota*)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

9:30 Divine Liturgy, Youth Sunday,

Blessing of Candles, and Church School

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (DATE CHANGE)**

9:30 Moleben to the Theotokos

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

9:30 Divine Liturgy

Forgiveness Sunday Prayers

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 #GreatFast**

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS

9:30am Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 #GreatFast**

9:30am Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

**Food Drive** – This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St., Pgh, PA 15203). Volunteers are needed on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick first at 412-431-6428) Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of food items that they are looking for:

- ✓ Ready to eat canned fruit or vegetables
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Canned Soups
- ✓ Canned Chili
- ✓ Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Noodle/Rice Mixes
- ✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles
- ✓ Canned Stews
- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
- ✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared
- ✓ Baked Beans

- ✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Tuna Helper Box
- ✓ Instant Cereal
- ✓ Boxed Cereal
- ✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)
- ✓ Canned Meats

[stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

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## FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

**"Three Holy Hierarchs" – the Assemblage (Sobor, Synaxis) of the Holy Ecumenical Teachers of the Church and Sainted-Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostomos**

*Commemorated on Feb. 12 / Jan. 30*

**"Three Saints" – the Assemblage (Sobor, Synaxis) of the Holy Ecumenical Teachers of the Church and Sainted-Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostomos:** At Constantinople for a long time there raged disputes about which one of the three sainted-hierarchs should be accorded the primacy of honour. One faction of the people preferred St Basil (Comm. Jan. 14/1), others stood forth for St Gregory the Theologian (Comm. Feb. 7 / Jan. 25), while a third revered St John Chrysostomos (Comm. Nov 26/13).

From this arose among church factions amongst Christians: some called themselves Basilians, others – Gregorians, and the third – Johannites.

In accord with the will of God, in the year 1084 the three sainted-hierarchs appeared to the Eucharistic Metropolitan John, and in declaring that they were equal before God, they gave orders that the disputes should stop and that a day in common celebration of their memory should be established.

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**On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord**  
*Commemorated on February 15/2*  
On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 2: 22-40). On the 40th day after birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple – the centre of religious life of the God-chosen nation. By the Law of Moses (Lev 12) a woman, having given birth to a child of the male

gender, was forbidden for 40 days to enter into the Temple of God. After this interval the mother came to the Temple with the child, so as to offer to the Lord thanksgiving and a purification sacrifice. The MostHoly Virgin, the Mother of God, did not have need for purification, since without defilement she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity, but in profound humility she submitted to the precepts of the Law.

At this time there lived at Jerusalem the righteous elder Simeon (the account about him is located under the day of his commemoration – 3 February). It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold Christ the Saviour. By inspiration from above, the pious elder went to the Temple at that very moment when the MostHoly Mother of God and Righteous Joseph had brought there the Infant Jesus, so as to fulfill the ritual ceremony of the Law. The God-Bearer Simeon took the God-Infant in his arms, and having given thanks to God, he uttered a prophecy about the Saviour of the world: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Lord, with peace according to Thy word, wherefore hath mine eyes beheld Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the enlightening of gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Lk 2: 29-32). Righteous Simeon said to the MostHoly Virgin: "Behold, This One is set for the fall and rising up of many in Israel and for the sign spoken against, and for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul, so that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed" (Lk 2: 35).

At the Temple also the 84 year old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (Comm. 3 February), "who did not leave the temple, serving God both day and night in fasting and prayer. And she also at that time, having drawn near, glorified the Lord and spake about Him (the God-Infant) to all awaiting deliverance at Jerusalem" (Lk 2: 37-38).

Before the Birth of Christ, all righteous men and women lived by faith in the Future Messiah the Saviour of the world, and they awaited His coming. The final righteous ones of the closing Old Testament – Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna – were deemed worthy to meet at the Temple the Bearer of the New Testament, in the Person of Whom both

Divinity and humanity do meet.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. It is known, that on the day of this solemnity were proclaimed sermons by Sainted Bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphylokios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). But in spite of its early origin, this feast was not so solemnly celebrated until the VI Century. During the reign of Justinian in the year 528, a catastrophe befell Antioch – an earthquake, in which many people perished. And upon this misfortune there followed others. In the year 544 there appeared a pestilential plague, daily carrying off several thousand people. During these days of widespread travail, it was revealed to a certain pious christian that the celebration of the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

When at the day of the Meeting of the Lord the all-night vigil was finally made with church procession, the disasters at Byzantium ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established in 544 that the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

Church melodists adorned this feast with many a church work of song: in the VII Century – Sainted Andrew ArchBishop of Crete; in the VIII Century – Sainted Cosma Bishop of Maium, Monk John Damascene, Sainted Germanos Patriarch of Constantinople; and in the IX Century – Sainted Joseph the Studite, ArchBishop of Thessalonika.

With the event of the Meeting of the Lord is associated the icon of the MostHoly Mother of God named: "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy", which it is necessary to distinguish from the icon "Seven Arrows".

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolises the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous elder Simeon: "for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul" (Lk 2: 35).

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## SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.*

**Online Community:** Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

**Parish Phone Tree** - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

**Emergency Sick Calls** – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

**Mystery of Confession** – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

**Holy Communion/Eucharist** – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

**Lapsed Members** – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

**Parishioners in "good standing"** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

**Baptisms** – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.

**Adult Chrismation** – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

**Marriages** – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays in the church. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are blessed in the church.

**Church Funerals** – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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*"The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning."* - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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## PRAYER CORNER #2

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs\**

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**A Prayer For The Sick:**

O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Special Intentions of...** His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Dean, Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians:* Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy,

Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, Nicholas, and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, John, Todd and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

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**February Namedays:**

Timothy Martin, Reader – Apostle Timothy of the 70 (2/4)

Dolores Bowser - Virgin-martyr Dorothea (2/19)

Father's Godson, Zachariah Kalaluhī – Prophet Zachariah (2/21)

...May God grant them many and blessed years!

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**February Birthdays:**

Anthony Winkler (2/1), Fr. Marc Wisnosky (2/1), Fr. Edward Pehanich (2/4), Pañi's mother, Alexandrina Liana Popescu (2/6), Charles Kretchek (2/8), Richard Gedid (2/9), Harmonie Torchia (2/11), Pañi Buczak (2/11), Fr. James Gleason (2/12), Matthew Peifer (2/13), Father's niece, Samantha Ditmore (2/14), Pañi Christyn Dranginis (2/14), W. Dylan Mushinsky (2/17), James Hanchulak (2/17), John Petrovich (2/18), Eleanor Sanger (2/19/33), Carly Anton (2/21), Barbara Kirish (2/22), Theresa Sharpless (2/22), Father's nephew, Brian Verbanick, Jr (2/22), Fr Stephen Krivonak (2/23), Fr William Bennett (2/28), His-All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I (2/29/40) ...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!

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**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...** Tyler, Susan ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.

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**For those preparing for Marriage...** Francis & Alexandra, Nicole & Dustin ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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**February Anniversaries:**

Cynthia & Jeffrey Morrison (2/5) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Erica (due in April), Lindsay, Nicole (June) ...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. Dzadovsky ...through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another.** Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

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**DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

**A prayer for our Neighborhoods**  
by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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**A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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**The Jesus Prayer**

(*Inhale*) O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
(*Exhale*) have mercy on me, a sinner!

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

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[“By the Waters of Babylon” is the entire Psalm 137, sung to a plaintive melody, during Matins (the morning service). It is only sung in church the three Sundays that precede Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son, The Last Judgment (Meatfare), and Forgiveness (Cheesefare).]

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**A Prayer in Exile (Psalm 137):  
Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land**

By the waters of Babylon,  
there we sat down and wept,  
when we remembered Zion.  
<sup>2</sup> On the willows there  
we hung up our harps.  
<sup>3</sup> For there our captors  
required of us songs,  
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,  
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”  
<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD’s song  
in a foreign land?  
<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither!  
<sup>6</sup> Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not set Jerusalem  
above my highest joy!  
<sup>7</sup> Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom  
the day of Jerusalem,  
how they said, “Raze it, raze it!  
Down to its foundations!”  
<sup>8</sup> O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!  
Happy shall he be who requites you  
with what you have done to us!  
<sup>9</sup> Happy shall he be who takes your little ones  
and dashes them against the rock!

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**from the Lenten Triodion**

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver; for my spirit hastens early towards Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled; but in Your compassion purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.

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### **A Prayer for Peace**

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise.

Amen.

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