

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD



**Great Feast of the
Presentation (Meeting)
of our Lord into the Temple**

February 2, 2020

Welcome to our Guests—

We are grateful that you have joined us for worship of God this morning! To follow along with the service, a service book is available for your use in the pew. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox Christian guests are welcome and invited to join us in veneration of the Holy Cross (held by the Priest) and receive holy bread (as a sign of hospitality) at the conclusion of the Liturgy. After the Dismissal, please join us in our Social Center (next door) for Coffee (Fellowship) Hour so that we can meet and greet you!

Reception of Holy Communion—

In order to receive Holy Communion (the Eucharist), Orthodox Christians must be prepared through fasting, prayer, the Sacrament of Confession, and be at peace with others. Also, it is of great importance to hear the Word of God (Epistle & Gospel readings) before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ (Holy Communion). Our Lord likens the Kingdom of God to a banquet in which we've been invited (which as Orthodox Christians, we believe that we are participating in the heavenly worship), thus we encourage you to be on time for Divine Liturgy and stay until the Dismissal.

Parents and Children—

The presence of children during worship is a gift from God and reminder that our parish community is growing! A little commotion and noise is understandable, but if you feel the need to exit the sanctuary, please use the "cry room" in the back (near the narthex) or the classroom area, and please come back. For our Lord said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

****Liturgical Variables for TODAY celebrating the Festal Liturgy of St. John Chysostom****

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore, God hath blessed thee forever. *(Refrain)*

Glory... Both now... *(Refrain)*

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, proceed prosperously, and be king.

Refrain: O Son of God, carried in the arms of the Righteous Simeon, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the peoples fall under Thee. *(Refrain)*

A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. *(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father... Only-begotten Son...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation!

✦ *During the Little Entrance, chant the Apolytikion of the Presentation. Then, the following Entrance Hymn:*

THE ENTRANCE HYMN OF REGULAR SUNDAYS

The Lord hath made known His salvation; He hath revealed His justice in the sight of the Gentiles!

Save us, O Son of God, **Who art risen from the dead**, for now we sing unto Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✦ *After the Little Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee!

APOLYTIKION FOR THE PRESENTATION IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O Righteous Elder; you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the Resurrection!

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (TONE ONE)

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb! And Blessed Symeon's hands, O Christ God. Now You have come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O Lover of Man!

THE EPISTLE

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (7:7-17)

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended

from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (2:22-40)

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel." And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

Parish Announcements—

SOUPer Bowl Luncheon Fundraiser (TODAY): Join us during Fellowship Hour for a luncheon fundraiser hosted by our Teen SOYO and Youth—proceeds go towards a special project of our teens AND the Food for Hungry People national campaign!

WEEKLY Bible Study (Tuesday mornings): Join us on Tuesday mornings at 11:00a. If you're looking for a New Year's Resolution—make it reading the Bible and join us!

College Student Dinner Outing (Friday, February 7): ALL college students are invited to a dinner at the Home of Fr. Paul & Ramia Fuller at 7:00p - join us for this gathering! Please RSVP.

Diocesan Spring Gathering in Chicago (February 21-23): Joining with our diocesan families and His Grace, Bishop Anthony for a spring gathering hosted in Chicago. There are activities for all ages and it is close by to us! Details and links in the weekly parish email.

Schedule of Liturgical Services & Activities

Tuesday, February 4	WEEKLY Bible Study	11:00a
Wednesday, February 5	Vespers	6:00p
Saturday, February 8	Great Vespers	6:00p
Sunday, February 9	Matins	9:00a
	Divine Liturgy followed by Church School & Fellowship Hour	10:00a

Upcoming Parish Events—Mark Your Calendars:

- WEEKLY Bible Study (Tuesday mornings)
- Adult Education Class (3rd Sunday of the Month—Feb 16)
- Diocesan Spring Gathering—Chicago (Feb 21-23)
- Beginning of Great Lent (Monday, March 2)

Great Feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple—February 2

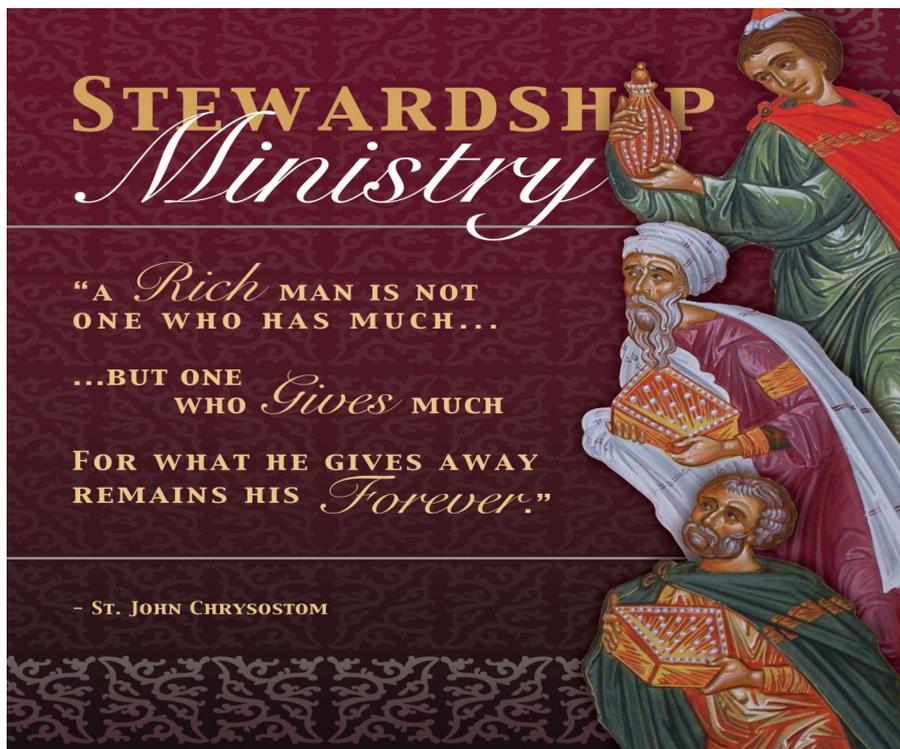
Today, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the Righteous Simeon received Him into his arms. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus' first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel." His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. "Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory" (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

Troparion (Tone 1) of the Presentation of our Lord:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O Righteous Elder; you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the Resurrection!

STEWARDSHIP & PARISH LIFE — 2020

We ask that you please complete your Membership & Pledge Commitment form for 2020 (previously mailed to you; copies available at Church) and send to our church office, to ensure the success of the programs undertaken for the spiritual needs of the families entrusted to our care. Remember that your Stewardship provides the foundation for our Parish Ministries and our efforts in meeting the challenge of spreading Christ's Word and our Orthodox Faith. **Thus far, we've received 39 forms—full participation is 80!**

A graphic with a dark red background and a gold floral pattern at the bottom. On the right side, there are three religious figures: a woman in a green robe holding a golden vessel, a man in a purple robe holding a golden box, and a man in a green robe holding a golden box. The text is in gold and white.

STEWARDSHIP
Ministry

"A Rich MAN IS NOT
ONE WHO HAS MUCH...

...BUT ONE
WHO *Gives* MUCH

FOR WHAT HE GIVES AWAY
REMAINS HIS *Forever.*"

- ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves, and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. **Giving is not a substitute for commitment—it is an expression of our commitment!**

Goal for 2020—

\$150,000 in pledge contributions & 80 forms returned!

As of January 28, 2020—we've received pledge forms from the following **39 parishioners & families** who have turned in their 2020 Membership & Pledge Form totaling **\$80,685**:

Adam & Stephanie Azar	Patti Maloof
Ray & Renee Azar	Steve & Jamie Maynard
Keith & Melinda Bement	Kyle & Eleni Miller
Michael Buzash	Tony K. Nasser
Alecia Corey	Christina Phipps
Noble & Roseann Corey	Adrian Polit
Tim & Kim Curley	Beverly Shahadey
Katherine Ellis	Esther Simbol
Mary Helen Ellis	Mary Ann Simbol
Michael & Nancy Ellis	Jim & Tricia Tanoos
Fr. Paul & Ramia Fuller	Joe & Linda Tanoos
Dan & Susan Hester	Rosemarie Tanoos
Alan & Julie Kassis	Tony Tanoos
Bill & Sandy Kassis	Michael & Mary Jo Tom
Rosemary T. Kassis	Jeremiah & Jennifer Turner
Zack & Denise Kassis	Gary & Adelle Watts
Bonnie Lisher	Preston & Gina White
Russell & Jean Leo	Andy Whitt
Matthew & Alisha Lueke	John & Rima Yacoub
CJ Maloof	

this year—ONLY 39 forms received!

last year—55 forms received!

Know Some Orthodox Terms —

PAGANISM: Belief in religions other than Christianity, especially ancient Greek polytheism, which was a non-revealed religion.

PATEN: (Greek – “diskos”) A small round and flat plate made of gold or silver on which the priest places the particles of bread at the celebration of the Eucharist.

INCARNATE: (From Latin, meaning “to become flesh”) Christ is God Incarnate: He became flesh—that is, human—thereby sanctifying human flesh and reuniting all humanity to God.

Wisdom from the Church Fathers—

“I think that one must approach the Logos Savior, not induced by the fear of punishment and not in the expectation of some kind of a reward, but primarily for the sake of the good in itself. Such will stand on the right in the sanctuary.”

—**St. Clement of Alexandria (d. 215)**

“Fasts and vigils, the study of Scripture, renouncing possessions and everything worldly are not in themselves perfection, as we have said; they are its tools. For perfection is not to be found in them; it is acquired through them. It is useless, therefore, to boast of our fasting, vigils, poverty, and reading of Scripture when we have not achieved the love of God and our fellow men. Whoever has achieved love has God within himself and his intellect is always with God.”

—**St. John Cassian (d. 435)**

HOLY OBLATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR

February 2, 2020

Holy Oblation and Fellowship sponsored by our Youth and Teen SOYO in honor of our parishioners! We will have our annual **SOUPer Bowl Luncheon Fundraiser**, and greatly appreciate your support!

February 9, 2020

Holy Oblation and Fellowship Hour sponsored by the Jabbour Family for the health and well-being of their family.

February 16, 2020

Holy Oblation and Fellowship Hour sponsored by the Christian and Cache Ellis for the health and well-being of their family.

SUMMARY—January 26, 2020

WEEKLY INCOME

Pledges & Assessments	\$ 5,516.62
Candles & Cash	\$ 185.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>\$ 700.00</u>
Total	\$ 6,451.62

Divine Liturgy Attendance: **125**

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

KENSINGTON COOK FEB 2
SOPHIA DAVIS FEB 2
CHRISTINA JABBOUR FEB 2
COURTNEY LAKE FEB 2
CHRISTINA PHIPPS FEB 2
TRICIA TANOOS FEB 2
IAN NEICE FEB 8



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A Parish Community of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America • His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of North America
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest •
His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY, Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo

Parish Council

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chairman</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Kal Ellis	Tony Tanoos	Michael Tom	Esther Simbol
Ray Azar	Alexis Green	Sandy Kassis	
	Jeremiah Turner	Gary Watts	

Parish Organizations & Ministries

<u>Ladies' Society</u>	<u>Society of St. George</u>	<u>Church School</u>
Esther Simbol	Zack Kassis	Christy Ellis
<u>Choir</u>	<u>Teen SOYO</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
Jaimie Ellis	Jillian Turner, President	Michael C. Ellis
Joanna Dailey	Jennifer Turner, Advisor	Zack Kassis
<u>Social Center Coordinator</u>	<u>Senior Group</u>	
Michael C. Ellis	Patti Maloof	