

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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Send announcements for the bulletin and/or website to bulletin@stjohnorthodox.org

Send announcements to be emailed to all members to announce@stjohnorthodox.org

February 6, 2011



The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

This past Wednesday, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, February 6 - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following; Superbowl Party at the Townsends

Tuesday, February 8 – Parish Council 7:00pm

Wednesday, February 9 – Vespers 6:00pm

Friday, February 11 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, February 12 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, February 13 - Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

Feb 6 - Sbdcn. Mark (Eric) Townsend

Feb 13 - Reader Mark Felleggy

Feb 20 - Joy Corey

Feb 27 - Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Feb 7 - Felleggy/Holman

Week of Feb 14 - Corey/Rush

Week of Feb 21 – Schaefer

Week of Feb 28 - Goolsby

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

Feb 6 - Team 2 - Corey, Tecca, Roth, Ranson, Holman

Feb 13 - Team 3 - Garbinski, Tourous, Jenkin, Weddle, Kane, Ayres, O'Daniel

Feb 20- Team 4 - Townsend, Rush, Calderoni, Sanman, Handeen

Feb 27 - Team 5 - Poland, Schaefer, Gallatin, Nolan, Johnson

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Paul Truebenbach, Ken Ayoub, Mike Kerr, Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Bartimaeus Butler, Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's Mother), Susan and parents Coo and Lou (friends of Jenny Dancy), Bill (Thomas Craffey's father), Elena & Vitaly w/reposed son Stefan (friends of Teccas), Russell & Samantha & newly reposed infant (Chelsea Stillman's brother & wife & baby), Teri Hundt (sister of Tiffany Gallatin), Robin and her unborn baby girl (Joanna Townsend's cousin), Inna Epling, Jim Ayres, Moses (Michael) Fillmore, Mark & Christina Bischoff (friends of Bartimaeus), Mike Allen, Tammy (cousin of Nanette Sanman), Jess Akins & her daughter Hallee (friends of Trudy Olinger), Bill Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jacob Hunter (Dan Monaghan's cousin in Afghanistan), Pamela Olsen, Mat. Michaela Fenn (wife of Fr. Mark Fenn), Fr. Michael Lewis, Jill Foss (friend of Jeane Wood), Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Moses Kemper, Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, Lynda (Michelle Felleggy's mother), George Kucera, Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's mother).

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Marvel (mother of Mary Jo Neyman), Kh. Barbara Dunaway, Kathleen (Erin Laning's mother), Celeste Botsaris, Joan (Allyson Gross' Mother), John Paras, Nikolay, (father of Oksana Johnson), Sam (Karen Karres' daughter's finance), Archbishop Augustinos of Florina, Devin Austin & Ryan Reinhardt (friends of John Charles and Nanette Sanman), George El Hayek, Fr. Matthew MacKay, Nathan Larson (friend of Tatiana & Jed Bartlett)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU! - Wow! What a huge turn-out last Sunday for the clean-up of our parish buildings and what an enormous amount of work was accomplished! Thanks to each of you who helped out and to any who contributed to the cost of the pizza which we had for the workers at the end of the afternoon! It was a true blessing to see the enthusiasm and dedication of all of you! God is doing a great work here at our beloved little parish and is obviously present in your hearts -- as evidenced by your labor of love! God bless you all -- and may God continue to bless St. John!

Love in Christ, our Loving Lord,
+Fr. Basil

Superbowl Party TODAY at the Townsend's next Sunday – The tradition continues! You are all cordially invited to the Townsend home for Super Bowl XLV! Come enjoy food and fellowship while watching the game on one big screen and one much bigger screen! Starts at 2PM after Church today. Please bring a pot luck dish to share and root on your favorite team! See flyer for more details and directions.



Pysanky Egg Workshop

We have an experienced Pysanky artist willing to come to St. John and teach a workshop on the traditional Ukrainian Orthodox art of Pysanky Eggs. She agreed to charge us a very reasonable amount—only \$45 per person, including ALL supplies, for 3 sessions (3 hours each session). The workshop would take place in March in preparation for Pascha. Please contact Diane Nolan ASAP to indicate your interest —

208.667.2222. The workshop would be limited to a max of 10 people, so Diane will be taking sign-up on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Project Safe Place - an Opportunity to Serve!

The Women of St. John have been involved in a community ministry for a few years now, and we wanted to open up this opportunity to the whole parish. Project Safe Place provides a safe environment for teens in the community - who may be homeless or struggling at home with issues of abuse or neglect. We have the opportunity to provide a nice home-cooked meal for 15 teens on the **LAST Wednesday of every month**. Currently, we have sign-ups for Jan, Feb and March, but we're taking volunteers for April on. If you'd like to sign-up - or maybe you'd like to work with another individual or family to provide the meal,

please contact our parish coordinator: Barbara Garbinski at bgarbin@roadrunner.com or 208.777.2666. For more information about the local and national organization, please see <http://www.nationalsafeplace.org>.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: St Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; St Cosmas Bishop of Maium, St John of Damascus, and St Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and St Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy." The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar icon, "Of the Seven Swords" (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right.

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: "a sword shall pierce through your own soul" (Luke 2:35).

On the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

"The Lord is circumcised according to the Law, brought to Jerusalem according to the Law, presented to the Lord as it is written in the Law and a sacrifice is offered as the Law demands. Notice that the Creator and Lord of the Law is completely obedient to the Law. What does He achieve by this? He makes our nature obedient in all things to the Father. He completely heals us of its disobedience and transforms the curse on it into a blessing. As all human nature was in Adam, so it is in Christ. All who received their being from the earthly Adam have returned to the earth and been brought down, alas, to Hades. But, according to the apostle, through the heavenly Adam we have all been called up to heaven and made worthy of its glory and grace."

+St. Gregory Palamas, *Homily on the Meeting of the Lord*

House Blessings - Now that we have celebrated the Great Feast of Theophany and blessed the waters for a new year it is time for Theophany Houseblessings! If you would like to have your house blessed this year, please contact Fr. Basil either by email (frbasil@caldaroni.net) or by phone (208-818-2646) to set up an appointment.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon’s arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

Make your vows to the Lord your God, and perform them.

In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Way ~ Kids Church School

This month: We will have memory verse Sunday and Store day so if you haven’t brought your Saint in for the “Mountain of Prayer” bring it in soon. The Mountain is looking wonderful! We remember their lives and their prayers for us and how they help in our efforts to become more like God.

Also In February we will begin working on some creative arts things

February Memory verses:

1. **2 Corinthians 6 16** You are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
2. **2 Timothy:14-15** continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
3. I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God
4. The Only begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light , Very God of Very God, begotten, Not made; of one essence with the father; by whom all things were made;

Creative arts Festival

Theme:

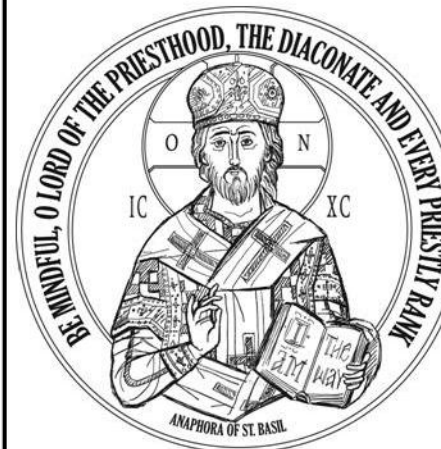
Be mindful O Lord of the Priesthood, the Deaconate and every priest rank.

Entry options:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Painting | Sculptures |
| Collages | Poetry |
| Pictures | Oratorical Composition |
| Photography | |

Be watching for :

Art and writing workshops...coming in February and March!



SOYO Happenings

SOYO youth Lenten retreat! April 9th This will be a one day retreat and is open to all parishes. Guest Speaker: Fr Andrew from Christ the Savior. Topic: TBA; Time: TBA

In Christ Love,

LaVonne Ayoub/ Christian Education