

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

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Sunday, February 3, 2019

36th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 3

Post-Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

February 3, annually, is the commemoration of the Righteous God-bearer Simeon and of Saint Anna the Prophetess, who met the Child Jesus in the Temple

About the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

Forty days after Christ was born, He was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time, as well, his mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the Elder Simeon and the Prophetess Anna (Lk 2:22-36) is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Lk 2:26) and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took Him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vespers service:

Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel (Lk 2:29-32).

At this time, as well, Simeon predicted that Jesus would be the "sign which is spoken against" and that he would cause "the fall and the rising of many in Israel." He also foretold Mary's sufferings because of her son (Lk 22:34-35). Anna also was present and, giving thanks to God "she spoke of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38).

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Schedule of Services

- 2/3 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 2/4 Monday**
7:00 PM – Terryville Parish Council Meeting
- 2/6 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 2/9 Saturday**
5:30 PM – "40th Day" Memorial Service
in Memory of Sonya Petroff
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 2/10 Sunday**
Zacchaeus Sunday
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 2/11 Monday**
6:00 PM – Waterbury Parish Council Meeting
- 2/13 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 2/16 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 2/17 Sunday**
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 2/20 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 2/23 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Monthly Rite of General Confession
- 2/24 Sunday**
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 2/27 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 3/2 Saturday**
Pre-Lenten Memorial Saturday
5:30 PM – General Memorial Service in
Commemoration of All the Departed Faithful
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 3/3 Sunday**
Sunday of the Last Judgement
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disaster, difficulty and senseless violence throughout the world.

+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!*

Newly Departed

His Grace Bishop Athanasios of Western Kenya d. 1/4/2019
Glen Sheets—Jennifer Wegh's uncle d. 1/11/19
Sonya Petroff—Marilou's sister and our fellow parishioner d. 1/4/2019

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

John Sarofin 2/3/1999
John Stashenko 2/5/1949
Julia Wazorko 2/5/1960
Nadejda Markovich 2/5/1965
Evheny Mattson 2/6/1952
Paul Preslopsky 2/6/1987
Francis Biscoe 2/8/1978
Mary Abbotts 2/8/1998
William Lyga 2/9/1985

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering in perilous illness
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease

Dayrl—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; chronic health challenges
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; rehabbing after bilateral lung transplant
Carol Johnson—still unwell and in need of our prayerful support
Beverly Kuzmich—had surgery on January 3rd to stabilize broken wrist
Irene Vassos—member of Diocesan Council; injured in fall
Nina Gorbachev—has now suffered a stroke; very unwell

Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko—shut-in at home
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Expectant Mothers

Breanna and the child to be born of her – The Serevs' niece and her baby

Those traveling and soon to be traveling

Melanie Osuch
Mark and Karry Orelup

Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot, now in Afghanistan

Birthdays

Patricia "Patty" Nimchek 2/3
Julia Massicotte – Lenna's daughter 2/4
Nina Gorbachev 2/7
Protodeacon Paul Nimchek 2/7
Tatiana Bouteneff 2/7
Lucy Hopko 2/8

[This article about the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, continues here from page one of this bulletin]

In the service of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God through whom the world was created, now is held as an infant in Simeon's hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now Himself fulfills the Law, carried in arms as a human child.

Receive Him, O Simeon, whom Moses on Mount Sinai beheld in the darkness as the Giver of the Law. Receive Him as a babe now obeying the Law. For He it is of whom the Law and the Prophets have spoken, incarnate for our sake and saving mankind. Come let us adore Him! (A Hymn from Vespers for the Feast)

Let the door of heaven open today, for the Eternal Word of the Father, without giving up His divinity, has been incarnate of the Virgin in time. And as a babe of forty days He is voluntarily brought by His mother to the Temple, according to the Law. And the Elder Simeon takes Him in his arms and cries out: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Lord, who has come to save the human race -- glory to Thee! (A Hymn from Vespers for the Feast)

The Vespers and Matins of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord are filled with hymns on this theme. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated with the lines from the canticle of Mary forming the Prokeimenon ("Responsorial Psalm") before the reading of the Epistle and the words of Simeon being the verses for the Alleluia after the Epistle. The Gospel readings tell of the meeting, while the Old Testament readings at Vespers refer to the Law of the purification in Leviticus, the vision of Isaiah in the Temple of the Thrice-Holy Lord, and the gift of faith to the Egyptians prophesied by Isaiah when the light of the Lord shall be a "revelation to the Gentiles" (Lk 2:32).

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Church is not merely an historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own "meeting" with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can "depart in peace" since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of His Christ.

[The source of this (lightly edited) article is: <https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/meeting-of-the-lord>]

NEWS AND NOTES

Monday, February 4 – Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council: The Terryville Parish Council will meet on Monday evening, February 4, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, February 5 – Pre-Lenten Retreat for the Clergy of the Connecticut Deanery: Fr. John, who is Dean (“District Manager”) of the seventeen parishes of the Connecticut Deanery, will be away for most of the afternoon and evening on Tuesday, February 5, attending the Pre-Lenten Retreat of the Clergy of the Connecticut Deanery, taking place at All Saints Church, Hartford, CT.

Saturday, February 9 – “40th Day” Memorial for Sonya Petroff: On Saturday, February 9, beginning at 5:30 PM, we will serve the “40th Day” Memorial Service (“Panikhida”) for our newly departed sister-in-Christ and fellow parishioner, Sonya Petroff. Memory Eternal!

Monday, February 11 – Monthly Meeting of the Waterbury Parish Council: The Waterbury Parish Council will meet on Monday evening, February 11, beginning at 6:00 PM. This meeting will take place, as usual and customary, in the Waterbury Parish Community Center.

Saturday, February 23, Monthly Rite of General Confession: On Saturday, February 23, immediately following the conclusion of our usual Saturday evening Vigil worship service, we will, as we do on a regular basis, perform the Rite of General Confession. Let us remind everyone, if we are regularly participating in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, that we must prepare ourselves appropriately for that participation. Included as a supplement in this morning’s bulletin is an article reminding us about how we are to accomplish that preparation. May God strengthen us and humble us to be obedient in this regard.

LOOKING (WAY!) AHEAD: Youth Rally, August 12-17, 2019: The Year 2019 Annual Diocesan Youth Rally will take place August 12-17, 2019. Youth Rally is open to all Diocesan Youth who have finished 5th grade and who have not yet celebrated their 18th birthday. Volunteer Adult Staff Members are required to make this event possible. Staff Members will arrive a day early, on Sunday evening, August 11, and stay the entire week. For further information, please contact Fr. John, who will once again this summer serve as Youth Rally Director and Rector.

Help with Completing Tax Returns: The United Way of West Central CT, serving Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, and Plymouth/Terryville, is once again offering free tax preparation through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). In order to qualify, a household’s income must be less than \$55,000.00. Appointments are required, and may be set up by telephoning (860) 356-2000. Also, the United Way has partnered with H&R Block to bring MyFreeTaxes to households with incomes of less than \$66,000.00. MyFreeTaxes (www.myfreetaxes.com) is a secure and free way to file state and federal taxes online.

Weather Related Cancellations: If we need to cancel parish services and/or other events due to bad weather, those announcements will appear on NBC Connecticut Television and on the NBC Connecticut Internet web-site. We will, also, send out an email to the Parish email group and post an announcement on the Parish website. Finally, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information. (*NOTE: If you need to have your email address added to the Parish email group, please contact Fr. John.*)

Online Donations to the Parish: A PayPal Donation “button” is located on our parish website to make online donations possible. Our parish is registered as a charity with PayPal, so we have slightly lower fees connected to the use of that means of receiving donations. For us, PayPal’s fees are 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 36th Sunday after Pentecost, this year Sunday, February 3

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (1 Tim. 1:15-17)

My son, Timothy: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

At that time, Jesus went away 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." Jesus 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 masters' 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.

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Zacchaeus, this year, Sunday, February 10

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (1 Tim. 4: 9-15)

My Son Timothy: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."