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## **Commemorations of the Day:**

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The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel. Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses, a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law. Saint Simeon received 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." Saint 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."

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day." She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem." In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth." Before Christ was born, the 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 persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

This feast is known to have been celebrated in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century. We have sermons by many holy bishops of that era. Over the centuries the celebration became more elaborate and many Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the VII century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the VIII century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessaloniki in the IX century.

(Adapted from OCA website)

## **Announcements**

February charity is earmarked for St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska.

The annual parish meeting will be held today after Divine Liturgy in the parish hall. Please stay for the meeting as it is important that we have a proper quorum. The meeting will overlap with coffee hour.

Perogi making is planned for Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> and Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>, pinchers please arrive by 11am. Many hands make for light work.

Note this Sunday is Zaccheus Sunday, which means we are beginning our Pre-Lenten cycle of preparation. Use this time wisely to prepare for Lent, and mark your calendars for the Maslenitsa in one month on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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### **Spiritual Food for Thought:**

"When the Jesus Prayer is absent, all manner of harmful things assail us, leaving no room for anything good in the soul. But when our Lord is present in the prayer, everything alien is banished."

+St. Gregory Palamas

## **Prayers for the Sick:**

Archbishop Nathaniel  
Archpriest Vladimir  
Priest John  
Archpriest Gregory  
Archpriest John  
Matushka Gloria  
Matushka Myra  
John  
Thom

Nancy  
Joan  
James  
Thomas  
Diane  
William  
Oliver  
Timothy

## **Upcoming Services:**

February 8<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

February 9<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

(No Vespers is planned for the 15<sup>th</sup>, as we have a busy day planned in the parish hall. Hope to see you there.)

February 16<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

## **Contact Information:**

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# **32<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the Temple; Sunday of Zaccheus February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**



## **St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania  
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Rector  
Fr. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached  
Fr. John Nightingale – Attached  
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director  
Thomas LaTournous – Parish President