

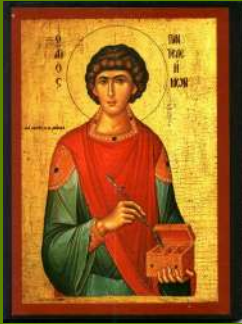
St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector V. Rev. Anthony Spengler, Attached

Protodeacon Robert Northrup Reader James Tilghman

Parish Council President: Nicholas Cavaligos



Sunday, February 7, 2016

Gospel: St. Matthew 15:21-28

36h Sunday after Pentecost / St. Parthenius / New Hieromartyrs Met. Vladimir, Kiev & Abp. Peter Voronezh

Tone 3

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

February Bulletin Sponsor

Mr. & Mrs. Andre Davik for the Health of the Family

Liturgical & Event Schedule

Sunday, February 7 (Children's Sunday)

9:10 am: Hours

9:30 am: D.L. / 40th Day Panachida / Social

Tuesday, February 9

6:00 pm: Chamber of Commerce Meeting

7:30 pm: Monthly Healing Service

Wednesday, February 10

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER @ St Blase

11:00 am-2:00 pm & 4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Saturday, February 13

11:00 am Winter Camp Begins- WI (we will leave @ 9:00am)

6:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, February 14

9:10 am: Hours

9:30 am: D. L. / 40 Day Panachida / Social @ Rectory Basement / Church School

40 Days Eternal Memory

February 7: Bernice McGurk

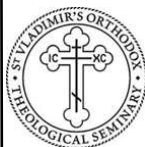
February 14: Helen Pender

February 21: Matthew Lyons / Catherine

February 27: Terrorist attack @ Palestine Univ.

16 Marines killed in helicopter crash in Hawaii & Joshua Zdinak

2016 - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



February: St Vladimir's Seminary

This collection will take place during the Litany before the *Our Father*. Or you can speak to Steve Grabavoy or Mark Hruban to contribute.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Winter Camp:

Saturday February 13-Monday February 15

Tuesday, February 16:

7:30 pm: Bible Study (Church Rectory)

Wednesday, February 17:

7:00 pm: Orthodox Teen Night

Sunday, February 21:

11:45 am: Monthly Board Meeting

Noon: Russian Winter Festival- Lee St Cathedral

FAST FREE WEEK: February 22nd-26th

Tuesday, February 23:

10:00 am Deanery Meeting (Christ the Saviour)

7:30 pm: Orthodoxy 101 Class (Church Basement)

Saturday, February 27:

Carson Day Event

3:00 pm: (NOTE SPECIAL TIME) Great Vespers

4:00-8:00 pm: Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner in Church Basement

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday July 24:

Our Annual Patronal Feast Day Celebration (Noon-???)

Sunday August 28:

Our 2nd Annual Community Picnic (Noon-4:00pm or 5:00pm)

7549 West 61st Place, Summit, Illinois 60501

Rectory 708-552-5276 / Cell 570-212-8747

website: <http://www.saintpanteleimon.org/>

Synaxis of Primates issues communiqué concerning Council

CHAMBÉSY, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND [GOARCH]

At the conclusion of a week-long meeting here January 21-28, 2016, the following communiqué was released by the Synaxis of Primates.

SYNAXIS OF THE PRIMATES OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES

Chambésy, 21-28, 2016

COMMUNIQUÉ

At the invitation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Synaxis of Primates of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches took place at the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy, Geneva, from 21 to 28 January, 2016. The following Primates attended:

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Patriarch Theodore of Alexandria

Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem

Patriarch Kirill of Moscow

Patriarch Irinej of Serbia

Patriarch Daniel of Romania

Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria

Patriarch Ilia of Georgia

Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

Archbishop Rastislav of the Czech Lands and Slovakia

The following Primates were unable to attend: Their Beatitudes Patriarch John X of Antioch and Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw and All Poland, for health reasons, and Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece, for personal reasons. Nevertheless, all three were represented by official delegations of their Churches.

The Primates of the Orthodox Churches convened to finalize the texts for the Holy and Great Council. In the framework of the Synaxis, on Sunday, 24 January, a Divine Liturgy was held at the Holy Stavropegic Church of St. Paul. Along with the Ecumenical Patriarch, who presided, Their Beatitudes and Heads of the delegations of the Orthodox Churches concelebrated the Liturgy, with the exception of the Head of the delegation of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

During the Synaxis, whose sessions were held in the apostolic spirit of "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4.15), in concord and understanding, the Primates affirmed their decision to convene the Holy and Great Council. The Council will be held at the Orthodox Academy of Crete from June 16 to 27, 2016. To this end, the Primates humbly invoke the grace and blessing of the Holy Trinity and fervently invite the prayers of the fullness of the Church, clergy and laity, for the period leading to and the sessions of the Holy and Great Council.

The items officially approved for referral to and adoption by the Holy and Great Council are: *The Mission of the Orthodox Church in the Contemporary World*, *The Orthodox Diaspora, Autonomy and its Manner of Proclamation*, *The Sacrament of Marriage and its Impediments*, *The Significance of Fasting and its Application Today*, and *Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World*. By decision of the Primates, all approved documents will be published.

The Primates also discussed and determined the establishment of a Pan-Orthodox Secretariat, the by-laws of the Council, the participation of non-Orthodox observers in the opening and closing sessions, and the budgetary costs related the Council.

Moreover, the Primates expressed their support for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East and their ongoing concern for the abduction of the two Metropolitans, Paul Yazigi of the Patriarchate of Antioch and Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of the Syriac Archdiocese.

The proceedings of the Synaxis concluded on Wednesday evening, January 27, 2016, with the closing address by its President, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

At the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy-Geneva, 27 January, 2016

From the Secretariat of the Sacred Synaxis



FUNDRAISER : FISH FRY Benefits St. Panteliemon

This coming Wednesday, February 10th is our fish fry fundraiser. Please encourage as many as your friends and family to attend. All profits will be of help to our financial bottom line.

Location: St Blasé Catholic Church
(Half-a-block from our parish)

Time: 11-2 & 4-8

Cost: \$8 adults / \$4 children

Menu: 8oz of Fish (cod), coleslaw, French fries, coffee, soda.

Volunteers are needed to help serve during the day or prepare take outs. Head coverings & gloves are mandatory for kitchen work and serving.

New DCE activity book fourth in series on saints

The fourth in an [on-line series of activity books](#) focusing on the lives of the saints is now available from the Orthodox Church in America's [Department of Christian Education](#) [DCE] was released during the last week of January 2016.

Titled "Saints and the Animals that Served Them," the [106-page activity book is available for downloading](#).

"People are fascinated with, and love, animals," states Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, DCE Chairperson concerning the natural and profound attraction that the book will have for parents, children and educators alike. "Many of the Saints are known for having befriended God's creatures, and the stories of their interactions with various animals have always been beloved parts of sacred Tradition, a testimony to God's presence in creation, and man's reception of creation as gift."

Going beyond this initial witness, however, Matushka Valerie stressed that "the activity book offers unique and rich opportunities for discussions about the meaning of miracles, the sacred character of the cosmos, as well as man's place within the world as priest, prophet and king, manifesting God's will and love for all that exists."

"Saints and the Animals that Served Them" is styled similarly to its predecessors—[Saints of North America](#), [Saints in Times of Trouble](#), and [Saints Commemorated in the Litiya Prayers](#). Each activity book contains concise, informative, easy-to-read lives of the saints, detailed maps of their lives and travels, troparia and kontakia, entertaining word games and puzzles, helpful resources for further study, as well as beautiful and original iconographic line drawings of the saints which may be used as handouts, enlarged for classroom use and bulletin boards, or given to children—as well as adults—to color.

Visit the [DCE web site](#) to take advantage of the growing number of resources and tools offered for education and enjoyment. In addition, DCE members [may be contacted by e-mail](#) to schedule consultations and related educational events, including a retreat for parishes or groups, titled "Orthodox Surprises," and "Through the Years: Teaching a Single Concept at Various Age Levels," a teacher training workshop.

Office of Institutional Chaplains expands web site presence

The Orthodox Church in America's Office of Institutional Chaplains [OIC] recently announced the [upgrade of its web site](#).

"The upgraded site features Saint Porphyrios, who was canonized in 2013," said Archpriest Dr. Steven Voytovich, OIC

Director and Dean of Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA. "Among the many reasons to celebrate the life and ministry of this saint is his service as a hospital chaplain at the Athens Polyclinic for more than thirty years."

According to Father Steven, the new web site offers opportunities to post stories and photos that also will appear on the office's [new Facebook page](#).

The [Office of Institutional Chaplaincies](#) remains committed to supporting the ministry of full and part-time hospital, hospice, long-term care, prison, fire, and police chaplains, and chaplains serving in related settings. Institutional chaplains are theologically formed, clinically trained, formally endorsed, in many cases board certified, and serve in a variety of multi-faith institutional chaplaincy settings.

The OCA is a member of the Commission for Ministry in Specialized Settings [COMISS Network] and endorses chaplains to serve in specific institutional settings and toward certification with credentialing bodies, including the Association of Professional Chaplains, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy.

Under Father Steven's direction, the Office supports the formal endorsement process for institutional chaplains and facilitates dialogue among those ministering in a variety of institutional settings. Currently Father Steven represents the OCA as endorser in COMISS, as a past-chair of the Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies, and as a board certified member with the above credentialing bodies. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, is the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Endorser for OCA clergy and laypersons who are trained and serving as institutional chaplains.



What God Has Prepared for Those who Love Him

By Fr. Lawrence Farley

If the Biblical teaching about hell suffers in the popular imagination, being thought of as a kind of subterranean torture chamber erected and run by an all-powerful divine sociopath, the Biblical teaching about heaven and the Kingdom doesn't fare much better. The word "heaven" conjures up semi-comic images of people in long white nightgowns with wings and halos lounging about on clouds and playing harps. It all looks—well, boring, which fits right in with most people's idea of Church. But what Scripture actually teaches about the Kingdom and the final reward of the saints is very different.

First of all, heaven is not thought of as the final reward, but as an intermediate state. Christians go to heaven when they die not as their reward for being good, but because Christ is there and because before He died He prayed to His Father that those whom He gave Him "may be with Me where I am, to behold My glory" (John 17:24). So, since Christ is in heaven at the right hand of the Father, that is where His disciples go after death also. Heaven is not their reward; being with Jesus is their reward, and He happens to be in heaven. Put another way, heaven is only heaven because Christ is there. Saint Paul did not desire to "depart and go to heaven," but to "depart and to be with Christ" (Philippians 1:23); to be absent from the body for the Christian is not to be in heaven, but to be "at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Heaven, therefore is wonderful, but it is not our final reward. That reward (like the retribution of the unrighteous) comes only after Christ has returned and has raised all the dead, restoring us in our reconstituted bodies. On that Day we will stand before the Lord and hear His judgment, and only after that receive our reward in the regenerated new heavens and the new earth which He will create (Matthew 19:28, 2 Peter 3:13).

What is that reward? If hell is the descent and collapse into unreality, a suffocation of the soul within the prison of its own petrified self-will, then our final reward will be its opposite. It will be our escape from the prison of the darkness of sin into the full and sweet light of day, the emergence of the butterfly from the cocoon of this age. Here can only words fail to describe it, and the apostolic author of the Apocalypse has to strain the limits of language to give some faint hint of that glory, slinging symbols and multiplying metaphors. Even Saint Paul, usually never at a loss for words, can only say that they are "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). He says it is a weight of glory far beyond

all comparison, one so immense that mere flesh and blood cannot receive it (2 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Corinthians 15:50). Unless God had raised us and made us powerful and imperishable, our frail mortal flesh could not bear such waves of glory and joy.

The Lord Himself gives us the barest of hints. He compares the reward to receiving authority over cities (Luke 19:17), which suggests that even in the age to come the time of service will not be over. Paul speaks of us judging the world, and even angels (1 Corinthians 6:2-3). Some might have drearily imagined that there will be nothing to do in the age to come but lie around in a kind of eternal hammock and doze, which sounds like it would become tremendously tedious very quickly. But these divine hints suggest that it will not be so, but that the one with the heart of the servant will still find opportunities to serve. For what could be better than kneeling and receiving commands from the Lord and having the opportunity to do His will and please Him? Saint Gregory of Nyssa suggested the same sort of thing when he suggested that the age to come would bring with it an infinite growth in God.

Here I continually return to my beloved C. S. Lewis. In the conclusion of his *The Last Battle*, the final volume of his Narnian series, he presents the Christ-figure Aslan the lion as saying to the newly-dead, "The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning." "And as He spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."

This is what Saint Gregory of Nyssa was talking about: an eternity of growth in joy, a story so wonderful that no one on earth has read it yet, a story which goes on forever, a story in which every chapter is better than the one before. This is why we persevere, and say our prayers, and go Church. This is why we get up and repent every time we fall. This is our reward. This is the weight of glory. This is Pascha. This is the Kingdom of the living God to which all His children are now hastening.

Prayer List : UPDATED 1-17-16

Prizsts: Anthony Spenglar, John Kuchta, James Gleason (*Fr.'s spiritual father*), ***Ted Bobosh**, ***Moses Berry**, ***John Magramm**, John Duranko, Lev Holowoty, ***Anastassy Fehr**, ***Leonid Kishkovsky**, ***Fr. John Zdinak**, * **Fr. Daniel Rental** , ***Fr. George Havrila**

Dzacons: NONE

Matushka: Kristy Lollar & her unborn child, ***Carol Janacek**, Pani Patricia Duranko, ***Cindy Zdinak**

Parishionzrs: Karen Muzyka, Mark Hruban, Ronald Stachowiak, Rebecca Eggers, Jason Kirnbauer, Sonja Harris, Andrei Davik

Parishionzr's Friends / Family: Donna Parhas (*Nick's Cousin*), Ron (*Mark's Friend*), Mary Ann Magerko, John Magerko, Stephen Holly (*Fr.'s cousin*), George Cavaligos (*Nick's brother*), Christos Parhas (*Nick's cousin*), Constantine Cavaligos (*Nick's dad*), John Hartel (*Joann's Step-dad*), Sandra (*Karen's sister*), Erika Northrup, Walter Litzie (*Fr.'s cousin*), Danielle Krush, Mark Svava, Linda Davik, Mary Northrup, Sandra Leonchik, Dianne Northrup, Raymond Northrup, Joey Krush, Carol Bregin (*Friend of Lynn*), Ann Lazo (*Friend of Lynn*), George Lazo (*Friend of Lynn*), Bruce (*Fr. Kurt's brother*), Christine & her unborn baby, Chrissy Marron, Kelly Flynn , Baby Faith, Daniel Tiani (*friend of Beccky Eggers*), Vivian (*friend of Beccky Eggers*), Tim Kendra (*Rich Wolfe's father*), Joan (*Hruban friend*), Julianna (*Hruban Family*), June (*Hruban Friend*), Jacob (*Spengler Family*), Emilian (*Spengler Family*), Joyce (*Spengler Family*)

Other Requests: Lucille (*Duke*), Dianne (*Bill Rudolph*), Elizabeth Lilos, Jemsey Pradun, Mae Joanna Bass, Hermenegil (*Neighbor*), Lidiya (*Neighbor*), Cathleen Rebollar, Patricia Schuster, ***John Sedor**, * **Maria Sokolova & her 3 new born babies (Lydia, Yekaterina, Helena)**, * **Daria Petrykowski**

Military: Amber, Caleb, Nicholas, David, Timothy, Robert, Kristen, Matthew, Brian, Daniel, Joseph, Joseph (*Fr.'s cousin*)

Captivz: Metropolitan Paul (*Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo*), Archbishop John (*Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo*)

For the UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria / Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world / Those held captive throughout the world.

Additions or removals from the list? Please notify Fr. Andrew. (***Bishop Request**) ON:Fr. Dan Rental, Fr. George

Venetian Gardens Restaurant Valentine's Day Dinner

Sunday February 14



Cost: \$20 a person

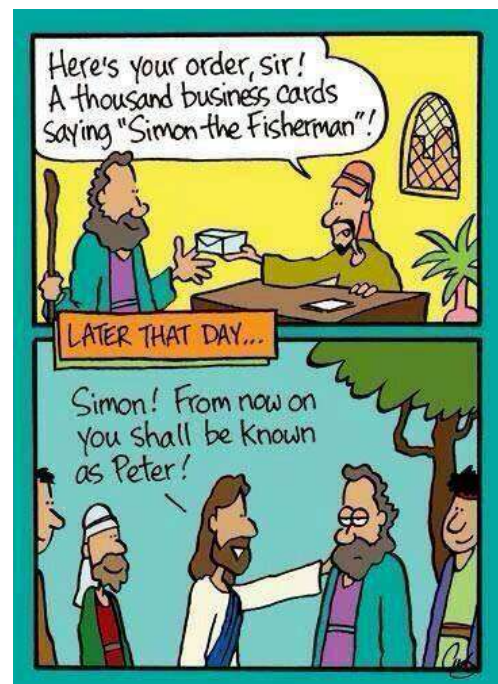
Menu: choice of

- Filet Mignon w/ Doubled Baked Potato & Grilled Asparagus
- Marinated Pork Tenderloin Medallions w/ Mashed Potatoes & Grilled Asparagus
- Portabello Mushrooms Stuffed w/Spinach and Feta Cheese, Wild Rice & Grilled Asparagus

All meals come with choice of Soup or Salad & a Dessert.

Reservations & meal selection are required by February 10th.
Call 708-458-0900.

Restaurant address: 6955 S. Roberts Rd., Bridgeview, IL
(Less than 1.5 miles from our church)



F E B R U A R Y

HAPPY BIRTHDAY		ANNIVERSARY
2- John Grabavoy Jr 19 Vitaly Muzyka 19- Robert Johnson 23- Chrissy Marron	10- Luba Johnson 19- Sonia Harris 22- Scott Eggers	2-09-80: Nicholas & Joann Cavaligos 2-10-73 The Most Blessed Herman retired Metropolitan 2-21-14 The Rt. Rev. David Bishop of Sitka & of Alaska

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

In blessed repose: F E B R U A R Y

1-Alexander Grabavoy (14) 9- Olga Akers (14) 8- Natalie Leonchik (98) 10- Alexandra L. Samuta (86) 12- Mary Stopka (86) 12- Helene W Suchlak (06) 12- Mitrofan (Mike) Grabavoy (61) 16- Baby Girl Grabavoy (71) 17- Metropolitan Orestes (77)	18- Anthony John Nausieda (06) 20- Nicholas Tarchuk (99) 23- Mary Klimiuk (91) 27- Ivan Rosannacha (84) 1940: Ipolit Denika Maria Yakel Leontiy Trofimovich	1941: Dimitri Schhelkun Efirna Kuyava
---	--	---

Remember those who have gone before us in prayer. If there is a name missing from the above list, please speak to Fr. Andrew to have them added.

UPDATED JANUARY 2016

Bulletin Sponsor: Would you be interested in being a bulletin sponsor in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one or friend? Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Services for that month. Donation: \$40 for the month.

Memorial Candle(s): *(Give names to Fr. Andrew)*

Option 1: The Tray of Candles under the Cross is now the area of remembrance for the deceased. If you would like the tray of candles placed in memory of a deceased loved one, the suggested donation is \$30. The Sponsors will be remembered during the Divine Services for that Sunday.

Option 2: One of the small Tray's under the Theotokos in the back of the Church. Donation \$25

Option 3: If this tray is full, one or more candles may be gotten at the candle desk & be placed in the sand box.

Candles for the Health of a Loved One *(Speak to Fr. Andrew to make arrangements)*

Option 1: One of The small tray's of 40 candles in front of the icon of woman saints in the back of the Church - donation \$25.

Option 2: The altar candles in the Sanctuary & Eternal Light candle - donation \$20.

Option 3: If Candles are filled more candles may be gotten at the candle desk & placed in the sand box.

Monthly Panachida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Panachida. If you would like your loved one(s) to be remembered, please give a list of names to Fr. Andrew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month. If there is a remembrance (newly departed or 40th day remembrance) of your family or friends we will remember them on the closest Sunday otherwise they will be remembered on the third Sunday. If it is an remembrance not related to our parish family we will just sing Memory Eternal on the 40 Day remembrance.

Hospitalization/Shut-ins: If anyone goes into hospital, or is a shut-in, please let Fr. Andrew know as soon as possible so he can attend to them and their family members.

Celebration? Achievement?: Your spiritual family would like to share in your achievement, celebration, and accomplishment. Send in a picture or email to Fr. Andrew, by Wednesday @ 5:00 pm so he can place it in the bulletin!

VILLAGE OF SUMMIT ACTIVITIES

Because you belong to a parish in Summit everyone is eligible to participate in any event offered in Summit. Here are some up-coming events:

Summit Park District Summer Camp:

Session 1: From June 13th -July 8th

Session 2: from July 11th-August 5th

Earlybird Camp (All ages) 7:00-8:30 am (\$50)
Mini Camp (3-6 years): 8:30- 1:00 pm (\$125)
Full Day Camp (7-12 years) 8:30 am- 3:00 pm (\$230)
Extended Camp (70-12 years) 3:00 pm-6:00pm (\$110)
Camp location: 5700 S Archer Rd in Summit @ the Park District. For more info. Please contact Jennifer Bonbrake @ 708-496-1012 ext 105.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Feb. 23: Harley Davidson Museum (8:30-5:30)

March 15: Chicago Flower & Garden Show (9:30 4:00pm)

April 26: Morton Arboretum (9:00-4:00pm)

June 21: Chicago Agricultural Tour (9:00-3:00pm)

July 20: Starved Rock-Land & Water Cruise Tour (9-4)

August 28: Bristol Renaissance Faire Illinois / Wisconsin Border (8:30-4:00)

There is a price. Please call Parks Department for more info if you are interested @ 708-496-1012.

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

Commemorated on [February 2](#)

Today 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.

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

Continued Page 8

Meeting of the Lord Con't

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).

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)

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.

Matthew 15:21-28 (Gospel)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.



Orthodox Christian Coalition
Healthy Youth

OCCHY BLURB

A 16-Year-Old Teen Suffered Second Degree Burns When an E-Cigarette Exploded in His Face

Another e-cigarette has **EXPLODED**. Ty Greer, a 16-year-old teen in Alberta, Canada, suffered second degree burns and broken teeth after his e-cigarette spontaneously exploded just inches from his mouth while he was using it in his car.

"It lit my kid's face on fire, busted two teeth out," Perry Greer, Ty's father, told the Canadian Press. "It burned the back of his throat, burned his tongue very badly. If he wasn't wearing glasses, he possibly could have lost his eyes. ...He wanted to die. That is how much pain he was in."



<https://www.yahoo.com/health/16-old-teen-suffered-second-211900580.html>

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OCCHYChicago>

ALL YOU CAN EAT
FISH FRY

Our Village of Summit Trustee, Sam, has graciously offered to run a *Fish Fry* at his restaurant every Wednesday and Friday from February 12th to April 30th. This is during the Western & Eastern Lenten periods. Sam will donate twenty percent (20%) of all proceeds to our parish.

Sam has been very gracious to St. Pantelimon and us. She is currently attending our Orthodoxy 101 class. I encourage everyone to support him and his business on Valentine's Day or any other time.