

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:****Mary** Kuzemchak, Mother of Bill Kuzemchak**Joseph**, father of Maribeth Romanofsky**Readings:**

(Publican & Pharisee)

(Meeting)

- 2 Timothy 3:10-15
- Luke 18:10-14
- **Hebrews 7:7-17**
- **Luke 2:22-40**

(Meeting): **BRETHREN**, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one 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."

(Meeting): **At that time**, the parents brought the child Jesus 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 turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, 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 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 revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Symeon 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 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 till 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.

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:****Hours – 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****Private Confession – Half hour before any service.**

See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month**Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month****Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room****Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)****We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.****Announcements:**

- The **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos** will be meeting today after coffee hour.
- Also, the Sisterhood is sponsoring **two pot luck luncheons, one on Meatfare Sunday, Feb. 15, and one on Cheesefare Sunday, Feb. 22.** The cost of the luncheons will be \$5.00 each. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs to let the Sisterhood know what you are bringing to the luncheons.
- **Home Blessings** – There is a sign-up sheet at the candle stand to inform Father that you wish to have your home blessed this year.
- Our **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioners** will be on Sunday February 8, 2015 right after coffee hour. The annual meeting of the parishioners is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, reports by the Rector and Council members, and for other business. Please contact Trudy Ellmore, the Council President, if you have an item that you want included on the agenda or if you plan to nominate someone for a Parish Council position.
- **Church cleaning:** There is a sign-up sheet in the church hall for those willing to sweep up the church and vacuum following Divine Liturgy in preparation for the following week. If you wish to sign up but remain anonymous, please write "taken" or "anonymous" in the slot so we know the clean-up is being taken care of for that week. Thank you for caring for your church.
- **Any Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

1st SUNDAY OF PREPARATION:

Three weeks before Lent proper begins we enter into a period of pre-Lenten preparation. It is a constant feature of the Orthodox tradition of worship that every major liturgical event (Christmas, Easter, Lent) is announced and prepared in advance. Knowing our lack of concentration, the "worldliness" of our life, the Church calls our attention to the seriousness of the approaching event, invites us to meditate on its significance. Thus, before we can practice Lent, we are given its meaning.

This preparation includes four consecutive Sundays preceding Lent, each one of them dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance. Today the first, **Humility** (Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee)

On the eve of this day (i.e. on Saturday at Vespers) the liturgical book of the Lenten season, **the Triodion** makes its first appearance and texts from it are added to the usual liturgical material of the weekly Resurrection service. They develop the first major theme of repentance: **humility**.

The Gospel lesson (Luke 18:10-14) teaches us that humility is the condition of repentance. The parable of the Publican and Pharisee pictures a man who is always pleased with himself and who thinks that he complies with all the requirements of religion. He is proud of himself and self-assured. In reality, however, he has falsified the meaning of religion. He has reduced it to external observations and he measures his piety by the amount of money he gives to the temple. Religion is for him a source of self-admiration. The Publican humbles himself and humility justifies him before God.

"Let us avoid the high-flown speech of the Pharisee"-says the Kontakion of the day- "and learn the majesty of the Publican's humble words."

The Presentation (Meeting) of Our Lord:

Forty days after Jesus Christ's birth, the Theotokos and her betrothed, Joseph, brought her Son to the Temple to make the customary offering for purification; a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. There, the prophetess Anna and the aged Simeon met them. St. Simeon, one of the translators of the Septuagint, sensed the fulfillment of Isaiah's puzzling prophecies of a virginal birth (Isaiah 7:14), and received the young pre-eternal God Incarnate just as he was promised he would before his death. Then St. Simeon praised God and said, "**Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master.**"

In the Orthodox Church, both baby boys and baby girls are taken to the Church on the fortieth day after their birth. This is done in remembrance of the Theotokos and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple.

The Feast day is Commemorated on February 2. (We will celebrate the feast today)

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"**Founded 1966*

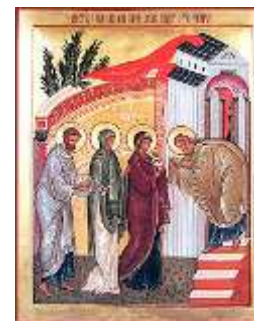
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Glory to
Jesus ChristGlory
Forever**Forefeast of the Meeting**

*The celestial choir of heavenly angels
bends down to the earth
and sees the First-born of all creation
being carried into the Temple as a babe
by a Mother who has not known man,
and in amazement sings with us a pre-festal hymn.*

Troparion — Tone 1

Today the Church remembers:**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE**

- **Forefeast of the Meeting** ● **Beginning of the Lenten Triodion** ● Martyr Tryphon of Campsada near Apamea in Syria (250) ● Martyrs Perpetua, a woman of Carthage, and the Catechumens: Satorius, Revocatus, Saturninus, Secundulus and Felicitas (202-203) ● Ven. Peter Galata, Hermit, near Antioch in Syria (429) ● Ven. Vendemianus (Bendemianus), Hermit, of Bithynia (ca. 512) ● Ven. Bridget (Brigid) of Ireland (523).

February 1, 2015

34rd Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 1 of the OctoechosTriodion week 1
Fast free week