

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:

For the memory of:

Walter Romanofsky and Joseph Sheehan, our fathers, offered by the Romanofsky family.

Readings:

Hebrews 7:7-17 (*Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ*)

I Timothy 4:9-15 (*Sunday of Zacchaeus, 5th Sunday before lent*)

Luke 2:22-40 (*Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ*)

Luke 19:1-10 (*Zacchaeus Sunday*)

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."

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

(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)

(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

All classes will meet every Sunday.

Grades 5-8 – 9:30 am

Preschool and Grades K through 4 – immediately after communion.

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcement:

- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2020. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- There will be a **meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** today after coffee hour.
- The **annual meeting of the parishioners will be Sunday, February 16th**, after coffee hour. The meeting is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, and for the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting. Please contact Andrew Romanofsky, the Council President, if you have an item that you want included on the agenda. Although all are welcome to attend the meeting, only parishioners who have paid their 2019 dues and assessments, can vote, nominate, or run for office.

Reminders:

- We offer general confession the first Sunday of each month, and Private Confession after Vespers by appointment on Saturday evenings. It is important that every Orthodox Christian go to confession.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

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

*By Your nativity, You did sanctify the Virgin's womb,
And did bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God.*

Now You have come and saved us through love.

Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

Kontakion – Tone 1

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, 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** 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"*. 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"*.

Also at the Temple, was the 84-year-old widow **Anna the Prophetess**, daughter of Phanuel, 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.

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

Sunday of Zacchaeus:

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2020/02/02>

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**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
in the Temple

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.
Enlightening those who sat in darkness!
Rejoice, and be glad, O righteous elder;
You accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection.*

Troparion - Tone 1

Today the Church remembers:

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

• **Sunday of Zacchaeus**

February 2, 2020

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 8 of the Octoechos