

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

Yesterday, the Church commemorated an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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** (who the Church remembers today) 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** (also remembered today by the Church), 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. 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.



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

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: docandrn1@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915



**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

Afterfeast of the Meeting of
our Lord 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 - Meeting

Today the Church remembers:

Afterfeast of the Meeting • Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess • Rt. Blv. Prince Roman of Uglich (1285) • Prophet Azariah (2 Chronicles 15th-10th c. B.C.) • Martyrs Papias, Diodorus and Claudianus, at Perge in Pamphylia (250) • Martyrs Adrian and Eubulus, at Caesarea in Cappadocia (ca. 308-309) • Martyr Blaise of Caesarea in Cappadocia (ca. 308-309)

February 3, 2013

Tone 2 of the Octoechos

35th Sunday after Pentecost