Presentation (Meeting) of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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This feast, celebrated on February 2, is known in the Orthodox Church as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Another name for the feast is The Meeting of our Lord. Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians call the feast, The Purification of the Holy Virgin. About 450 AD in Jerusalem, people began the custom of holding lighted candles during the Divine Liturgy of this feast day. Therefore, some churches in the West refer to this holy day as Candlemas. The Feast of the Presentation concludes the observances related to the Nativity of Christ, a period that opened on November 15 with the beginning of the Nativity fast.

The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice. Joseph and Mary were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple.

When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel." Also, in the Temple was Anna the Prophetess. She had been a widow for many years. Anna was about eighty-four years old and spent her time in the Temple worshiping, fasting, and praying. When she saw the Christ Child she praised God and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the Messiah.

February 2, 2020 – Presentation (Meeting) of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Matins Gospel Reading: Luke 2:25-32

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8):
From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Apolytikon of the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1):
Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Who art full of grace, for from Thee did shine the Sun of Justice, Christ Who is our God, a light to those who dwell in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, bearing in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who grants to us Resurrection.

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
Kontakion for the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1):
Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon’s arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.

Epistle Reading:
The Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews 7:7-17

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

This Week at All Saints

Saturday, February 8: Vespers, 7:30 PM (Confession available before and after)

**Volunteers**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Prosphora</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Food</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Feb 9</td>
<td>Jim K.</td>
<td>Debbie K.</td>
<td>Nancy L.</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Phil &amp; Rowena L.</td>
<td>G - K</td>
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<td>Saturday Feb 22</td>
<td>Sd. Joseph</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Roberta P.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
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<td>Sunday Feb 23</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Azizah C.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Gabriel &amp; Domitille N.</td>
<td>R - W</td>
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<td>Sunday Mar 1</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td>Carmen C.</td>
<td>Eric &amp; Cristina P.</td>
<td>A - F</td>
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<td>Wednesday Mar 4</td>
<td>Dcn Walid</td>
<td>Ofelija I.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
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News and Announcements

**House Blessings:** The season for house blessings has begun. Nothing elaborate is required and a meal is discouraged. Please contact Fr. Pat at your convenience to arrange a time for your home to be blessed or with any questions. The visit need not take more than an hour.

**BIRTHDAY TEA for Kh. Denise** - In honor of our beloved Kh. Denise’s 80th birthday, a Women’s Group tea has been planned for Saturday, February 8th at 2:00 PM at church. This event is open to all of the ladies, young women and girls of our parish. Please RSVP to JoAnne T. by February 2nd.

Registration is now open for the 2020 Family Synaxis Women’s Retreat: The annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis Women’s Retreat will be held February 7 to February 8 (Friday to Saturday) at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The theme of the retreat will be Kindling the Divine Spark. More information and other details are posted on the website: gocfamilysynaxis.org

**Diocese of Toledo Spring Gathering February 2020:** St. Mary Church in Palos Heights, IL is excited to host the Spring Gathering February 20th-23rd 2020! We have a great weekend planned including special guest speaker, Dr. Albert Rossi from St. Vladimir’s Seminary. Registration for the Spring Gathering can now be done online at: https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1089606

**OCMC Mission Team Dinner:** join All Saints' table on Thursday February 13th at 6:30 PM at St John the Baptist Orthodox Church 2350 East Dempster St in Des Plaines. Guest speaker: Metropolitan Theodosius of Kananga, Democratic Republic of Congo. The hosting church puts a lot of effort in preparing for this event; come honor their work, while at the same time supporting orthodox missions! Suggested donation $35/person.