ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
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773-575-3272 (Fr. Andrew’s cell)
www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Saturday & Sunday, February 6-7, 2021
Saturday Liturgy, 10:00 am • Saturday Vespers, 7:00 pm
Sunday Matins, 8:30 am • Sunday Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

16th Sunday of St. Matthew • Afterfeast of the Presentation

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VARIABLE HYMNS

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion for the Presentation (Tone 1): Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! For from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, who granteth us Resurrection!

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.
THE EPISTLE

For the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord will give strength to His people. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (6:1-10)

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, “At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.” Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

THE GOSPEL

For the Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:14-30, Luke 8:8)

The Lord spoke this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: “Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.” And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: “Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.”

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: “Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed,
and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.”

As Jesus said these things He cried out: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

**THE SYNAXARION READING**

On February 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue to celebrate the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ.

On this day, we also commemorate our righteous Father Parthenios, bishop of Lampsakos.

“To Lampsakos hath Parthenios his clay forsaken, / As a lamp that with his mighty brightness brightly blazeth. / Parthenios slept the seventh, falling on long slumber.”

As a child Parthenios remembered well the words of the Gospel and endeavored to fulfill them. He settled in the area of a lake where he fished. He then sold the fish and distributed the money to the poor. As bishop of Lampsakos, he cleansed the town of paganism, closed the idolatrous temples, built many churches and strengthened the faithful in the Faith. Through prayer, he healed every manner of illness and he was particularly powerful over evil spirits. Once he wanted to cast out an evil spirit from an insane man, but it begged him not to do so. Parthenios told the spirit to dwell in him instead, and it fled in fear. Parthenios reposed in the fourth century.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Luke of Hellas; and New-martyr George of Crete.

On the Sunday which falls during the After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom).

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.
Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

This weekend at All Saints:

- **Baptism of Samuel Smith**, at Saturday morning’s Divine Liturgy. May God grant him and the Smith family many years!
- **Intro to Orthodoxy class**, Saturday at 6pm. *This week we will continue our overview of the New Testament and salvation history.*
- **Children’s church school**, Sunday after Divine Liturgy
- **Fr. Pat’s Zoom Bible class**, Sunday 1pm

This week:

- **Wednesday through Friday**: Morning Prayers, 9am. *No morning prayers Tuesday this week.*
- **Wednesday, Feb. 10**: Compline prayers and chant class, 7pm.
- **Saturday, Feb. 13**: Divine Liturgy, 10am; Vespers, 7pm.
- **Sunday, Feb. 14**: Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, and the Holy Martyr Valentine. Matins, 8:30am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30am.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS**

*From Fr. Andrew:* Blessed Theophany! Please remember that all Orthodox Christian homes should be blessed by a priest at least once a year. Contact Fr. Andrew or Fr. Patrick to schedule your house blessing at your convenience, and know that you are under no obligation to have a meal or gift for the priest. I have no problem stretching these blessings out over the entire year, especially this year due to concerns over COVID.

How should you prepare your home for the blessing?

- All who dwell in the home should make every effort to be present.
- Turn off all televisions, radios, or any other distractions.
- Light a candle in front of at least one icon (preferably the usual place of prayer).
- Provide a list of names, living and departed, for the priest to commemorate.

**WEEKLY CLEAN-UP**

*From Melissa W.:* As a friendly housekeeping reminder, please ensure the nursery and playroom are tidied up when you are finished using these rooms. Thank you also for keeping food out to keep pests away!
On February 2, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This great feast, which commemorates that event at which Mary presents herself and her child in the temple for purification prayers forty days after the birth of her Son, is the culmination of the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Once again, this feast reminds us of the Incarnation of God. As a man, Christ is submitting Himself to the Law that all might be fulfilled. We are confronted again with the amazing truth of the Incarnation —that God lowered Himself to become a man so that man might be lifted up out of his sin. Christ was truly a man, "like us in all respects save sin," says St. Paul.

While remaining fully God, He submits Himself to the Jewish law as a man, "For I come not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it." Upon their arrival at the temple, Mary presents the Christ Child to the Elder Simeon. It is this "meeting" that the feast celebrates. The second person of the Trinity "meets" his people as represented by Simeon, allowing mankind to embrace its creator and the author of its salvation.

Simeon knew it was his salvation he embraced and for him, life was now complete: "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 Thy people; a light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel."
How many times have we heard those words uttered in church? Countless times, no doubt, for they are uttered at every Vespers service and at the churching of infants. Perhaps we have heard them so many times that the words flow right past us.

But listen! Do you really hear what is being said? Simeon the Elder, he who originally spoke these words, certainly knew their import. In fact, Simeon is asked to explain in one of the hymns of Great Vespers preceding the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord: "Simeon, tell us: whom dost thou bear in thine arms, that thou dost rejoice so greatly in the temple? To whom dost thou cry and shout — Now I am set free, for I have seen my savior?" And Simeon responds: "This is He who was born of a Virgin: this is He, the Word, God of God, who for our sakes has taken flesh and saved man. Let us worship him." (Great Vespers sticheron.)

It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had beheld "the Lord's Christ."

Simeon knew what he beheld. Simeon knew he could now "depart in peace," for he had encountered his salvation, the source of his eternal peace. He knew once he had embraced His savior, that life was fulfilled and death was nothing to be feared. Upon meeting Christ, his joy was complete.

In Simeon, we see the response of a man who has encountered his salvation. Let us ask ourselves, what do we encounter when we enter the Temple? Who is it we expect to see? Who is it we embrace as Christ is presented to us?

Each time we enter Christ's Church, we are offered the opportunity to embrace our Savior. Through the services and the sacraments, He is a living reality, the savior of our souls, the granter of eternal peace.

Do we receive Him? Or do we allow the distractions of life to cause Him to pass by unnoticed? Simeon shows us the way — He is faithful, he is patient, he is obedient to be where he needed to be in order to embrace his salvation.

Like Simeon, let us embrace our salvation. Like Simeon, let us be at peace with God, with all men and with ourselves. God has come in the flesh and allowed us to embrace Him. So intimate is his love for us that He allows us to carry Him within us, even as Simeon carried Him in his arms. Christ is among us! "Let the choir of angels be amazed at this wonder and let us mortal men raise our voice in song, beholding the ineffable condescension of God. Aged arms now embrace Him before whom the powers of heaven tremble, He who alone loves mankind" (Orthros of the feast).
Daily Bible Readings
February 7-13, 2021
Adapted from the St. James Daily Devotional Guide

Sunday, Feb. 7: St. Parthenios, Bishop of Lampsakos
Psalms 92, 93, 94 / Genesis 38
Romans 1:1-17 / Matthew 11:25-30

Monday, Feb. 8: Prophet Zachariah
Psalm 105 / Genesis 39
Romans 1:18-32 / Matthew 12:1-8

Tuesday, Feb. 9: Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch
Psalms 99, 100, 101, 102 / Genesis 40
Romans 2:1-16 / Matthew 12:9-14

Wednesday, Feb. 10: Hieromartyr Haralambos, Bishop of Magnesia
Psalms 103, 104 / Genesis 41
Romans 2:17-29 / Matthew 12:15-21

Thursday, Feb. 11: Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste
Psalms 95, 96, 97, 98 / Genesis 42
Romans 3:1-8 / Matthew 12:22-30

Friday, Feb. 12: St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch
Psalm 106 / Genesis 43
Romans 3:9-18 / Matthew 12:31-37

Psalm 107 / Genesis 44
Romans 3:19-26 / Matthew 12:43-50

All Saints is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan Joseph
The Right Reverend Bishop Anthony, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org