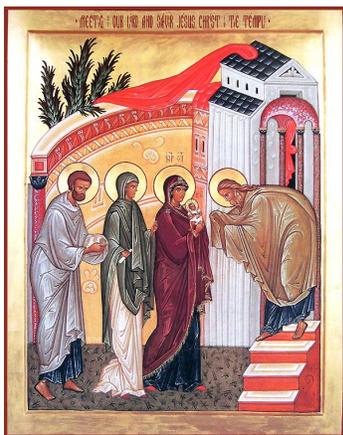




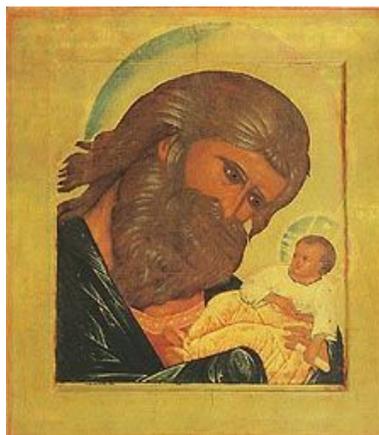
## NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**37th Week after Pentecost**

Monday, February 15 — Sunday, February 21, 2021



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



***Holy, Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver***



***Repose of Saint Theodosius of Chernigov***

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## ~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

Most of the people in our church services today on the Great Feast of the Meeting of our Lord were able to partake of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Those who partook received forgiveness from Him. And we all must be forgiving to others. We must be loving, and guard that which is eternal inside of us. We must never take it for granted. Do not go out and just let your mind wander, but remember this day. Remember St. Symeon and the Prophetess Anna and all those who were gathered with them in the temple on that 40th day after Christ’s birth. Contemplate the meaning of this day as you go throughout your daily affairs. This is how we hang on to our experiences in the church. We all love the experience of being able to receive Holy Communion, and of being together, but we must guard it as we go out into the world, and we must share it with as many as possible. Because so many people today, and if you talk to anyone who is involved in psychology, psychiatry, and medicine—they will tell you that there are many, many troubled people in these times, people who are falling apart at the seams. Our job is to offer them something that will bind those seams together and create a new living person in them; and we call it baptism. We want to draw all men and all women and all children to the holy fount of baptism so they can participate in the life of Jesus Christ. It’s our Christian duty to share the Good News with everyone. May God give us the strength to do what is truly blessed, and us be His laborers in the field of this world that is most assuredly ready for harvest.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

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**~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~**

***The main points from Sunday’s sermon, in 280 characters or less!***

We must hold ourselves accountable not just to ourselves, but to God. Like Zacchaeus the tax collector, we must come to terms with our sinfulness and seek out Christ’s will for our lives.

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**~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~**

***Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week***

<b>~ MONDAY~ (2/15)</b>	<b>~ TUESDAY~ (2/16)</b>
<b>Holy Scripture:</b> Hebrews 7:7-17 Epistle, Meeting Luke 2:22-40 Gospel, Meeting	<b>Holy Scripture:</b> 1 Peter 3:10-22 Mark 12:18-27
<b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b><i>Feast of the Meeting of our Lord; God &amp; Savior Jesus Christ with Symeon, Troparion, Tone I —</i></b> <i>Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace,/ for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,/ enlightening them that are in darkness./ Be glad thou also, O righteous elder,/ who receivest in thine arms the Deliver of our souls,// Who granteth us Resurrection.</i>	<b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b><i>Symeon the God-Receiver &amp; Anna the Prophetess, Troparion, Tone I —</i></b> <i>Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace,/ for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,/ enlightening them that are in darkness./ Be glad thou also, O righteous elder,/ who receivest in thine arms the Deliver of our souls,// Who granteth us Resurrection.</i>
<b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> The Meeting of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ	<b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Holy and Righteous Symeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess (1st c.)
<b>~ WEDNESDAY~ (2/17)</b>	<b>~ THURSDAY~ (2/18)</b>
<b>Holy Scripture:</b> 1 Peter 4:1-11 Mark 12:28-37	<b>Holy Scripture:</b> 1 Peter 4:12-5:5 Mark 12:38-44
<b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b><i>St. Isidore of Pelusium, Troparion, Tone VIII —</i></b>	<b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b><i>Holy Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily, Troparion, Tone IV —</i></b>

In thee, O father, that which was created according to the image of God was manifestly saved./ For accepting thy cross thou didst follow after Christ,/ and praying thou didst learn to disdain the flesh,/ for thou didst transcend it to take care of thine immortal soul.// Wherefore, with the angels doth thy soul rejoice, O venerable Isidore.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Venerable Isidore of Pelusium, monk (436-440)

Thy ewe-lamb Agatha crieth out to Thee with a loud voice, O Jesus:/ "I love Thee, O my Bridegroom,/ and, seeking Thee, I pass through many struggles:/ I am crucified and buried with Thee in Thy baptism,/ and suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee;/ I die for Thee that I might live with Thee./ As an unblemished sacrifice accept me,/ who sacrifice myself with love for Thee// By her supplications save Thou our souls, in that Thou art merciful.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Holy Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily (251)

**~ FRIDAY ~  
(2/19)**

**Holy Scripture:**

2 Peter 1:1-10  
Mark 13:1-8

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**St. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna,  
Troparion, Tone IV —**

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,/ a model of meekness and a teacher of abstinence/ wherefore thou hast attained the heights through humility/ and riches through poverty.// O hierarch Bucolus our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Venerable Bucolus, bishop of Smyrna (ca. 100)

**~ SATURDAY ~  
(2/20)**

**Holy Scripture:**

2 Timothy 2:11-19  
Luke 18:2-8

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**Ss. Parthenius of Lampsacus & Luke of Hellas, Troparion, Tone IV —**

O God of our fathers,/ deal with us ever according to Thy meekness./ Deprive us not of Thy mercy,/ but through their supplications// direct our life in peace.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Venerable Parthenius, bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont (4th c.)

~ **SUNDAY** ~  
(2/21)

**Holy Scripture:**

2 Timothy 3:10-15

Luke 18:10-14

**Excerpt from the Menaion :**

**Publican and the Pharisee, Troparion,**

**Tone VIII —**

*Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-giver. For my spirit rises early to pray towards Thy holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled. But in Thy compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of Thy mercy.*

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

*“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”*

[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]

To read more:

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

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~ **PONDER THIS** ~

*A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week’s lessons and sermons.*

**Meeting of the Lord**

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/meeting-of-the-lord>

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the church is not merely a historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own “meeting” with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can “depart in peace” since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ.

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## ~LOOK IT UP~

**Did you know:** St Simeon was translating a book of the Prophet Isaiah, and read the words: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son" (Is 7:14). He thought that "virgin" was inaccurate, and he wanted to correct the text to read "woman." At that moment an angel appeared to him and held back his hand saying, "You shall see these words fulfilled. You shall not die until you behold Christ the Lord born of a pure and spotless Virgin." Tradition says he died at the great age of 360.

**Read more:** [https://orthodoxwiki.org/Simeon\\_the\\_God-receiver](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Simeon_the_God-receiver)

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## ~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
- Anna and her family
- Please keep in prayer our heroic parishioners who work in the health care profession and are on the front lines of our society's fight against the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 disease.

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## ~ BOOKSTORE ~

- New extra-large icons from Russia!
- *The Heavenly Banquet: Understanding the Divine Liturgy* by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis now in stock!
- New to the bookstore: Writings of St Ephraim, St Gregory, & St Dionysios



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To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

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Matushka Deborah Tomasi \* (310) 849-9451 \* [deborahtomasi@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahtomasi@yahoo.com)

**Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!**