



## St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral

(<https://www.facebook.com/AlexanderNevskyCathedral/>)

(<http://www.sanocpgh.org/>)

# The Cathedral Messenger

Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Archbishop Melchisedek  
Archpriest John Mikita (Dean)  
Protodeacon Michael Wusylko  
Deacon Stephen Boyd

## February 2024

### Sermon on the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple

(By Archbishop Dmitri of Blessed Memory)

On February 2nd the Church celebrates the great feast of The Meeting of our Lord in the Temple. The Gospel lesson for that day relates how the mother of Jesus brought Him to the temple, as was the custom and requirement under the God-given Law of Moses, of Israel (Exodus 13:2, 12; Leviticus 12:2-8). When the righteous Simeon, who received Christ in his arms at the temple, saw the child, he knew immediately that this was the Redeemer promised by all of Israel's prophecies, for the elder was inspired by the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:26-27). Being inspired, he himself uttered prophetic words which form the hymn sung or chanted at the end of every Vespers service: "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" (Luke 2:29-32).

This particular feast is part of the great celebration that began forty days prior, with the Nativity of Christ (December 25). Eight days later (January 1) we remembered the Circumcision of Christ and then His Baptism (January 6). The commemoration of these events in our Lord's earthly life



basically form one feast, the feast of the Incarnation of God the Word.

God literally entered the world, into time and history. He was physically present in the midst of His people, His creatures whom He loves. Our Lord took on human nature in order to reconcile unto Himself, man who had strayed far from the Source of his life.

In taking on the "form of a servant" God, at the same time, in the Person of Christ, fulfilled every requirement of the Law that He Himself had given to His people through Moses. He demonstrated, thereby, that everything that had happened in Israel's history could not be described merely as a succession of unrelated events. Rather this was a history with a definite goal: the salvation of mankind. He identified Himself as the Director of that history and fulfilled its expectation.

When the righteous Simeon took the child into His arms and declared that this indeed was Salvation Incarnate, the "Light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of Israel," a new era began; the era of God's presence among His children.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Irene and Kevin Kane,  
in memory of their family members now with God.

To this day, all of the Church's celebrations, no matter what the event commemorated may be, whether in the life of Christ, of the Theotokos, or of the saints, all are celebrations of Christ and the establishment on earth of the Kingdom of His presence. He initiated this Kingdom and promised its ultimate realization. And now, just as the Old Israel had awaited the beginning of God's Kingdom, the New Israel (the Church) awaits the Second and Glorious Coming of Christ and the fullness of His Kingdom, revealed.

Although all of our celebrations are intimately rooted in the knowledge that we have been called for complete communion with Christ and to live in function of His Kingdom to which we already belong, we still live in a world that has for the most part rejected what Christ gave it, that is, authentic life "in abundance," life with real purpose and meaning. We Christians, in spite of having accepted what God's intervention in human affairs gave us, slip repeatedly and fall into the great temptation to convert the things of this world into gods. We are constantly attracted by ways of seeking happiness and fulfillment that exclude God. This, of course, always proves to be vain and futile.

So our lives vacillate, back and forth, between the assurance of salvation and indifference, between moments of real joy because we know that God is with us, and moments of boredom because we cannot give ourselves totally over to Him.

Every Christian celebration reaches its climax in the Divine Liturgy for the feast. In this sacred work, when God's people assemble in His name, we actually become

participants in the Heavenly Kingdom to come. We are as literally present with Christ in His future Kingdom as the Apostles were with Him at the Last Supper. So the Kingdom is initiated among us and we enjoy it before our time, by anticipation. This is what every Eucharist is; this is what our feasts and celebrations are all about, and that is why the Eucharist is the very center of all of them.

I will emphasize again, however, that although what we have said is true, we continually orient our lives towards everyday pursuits, often living as though we had never experienced this divine reality. That is why repentance and penitential seasons are in order. That is why in approximately one month we will enter the Great Fast or Lent during which time we are exhorted to repent of our sins.

What is important for us Christians is that we have really "seen the True Light, received the Heavenly Spirit, found the true faith" in this experience of the Kingdom of God. The question we must all ask ourselves sincerely, however, is "what are we like when we return into this world after this Heavenly experience?"

To Christ Who willed to be held in the arms of the righteous Simeon for our salvation be glory, honor and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

---

First published in The Dawn  
Publication of the Diocese of the South  
Orthodox Church in America  
January 1999



## SANWA ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The pierogie workshops for the year will be on these days: Feb. 3, Mar. 2, Apr. 20, May 18, Jun. 8, Aug. 24, Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Dec. 7th.
2. We have recently embarked on a monthly project to provide a Wednesday evening meal to the needy at St. Moses the Black (Neighborhood Resilience) in the Hill District. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Mat. Mary.



Schedule of Divine Services

February 2024

(Note: Calendar is subject to change. Please consult calendar at [sanocpgh.org/calendar](http://sanocpgh.org/calendar) )

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Jan. 28</b> <b>34th Sunday After Pentecost (New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia)</b> Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am	<b>Jan. 29</b>	<b>Jan. 30</b>	<b>Jan. 31</b> Vespers 6:30 pm	<b>1</b> Great Vespers with Litya 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> <b>Meeting of Christ</b> Hours 8:40 am Festal Liturgy with Blessing of Candles 9:00 am Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> Pierogies Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm
<b>4</b> <b>35th Sunday After Pentecost (Ven. Isidore of Pelusium)</b> Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Diocesan Council Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>7</b> Vespers 6:30 pm Adult Education 7:00 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm
<b>11</b> <b>36th Sunday After Pentecost (Hieromartyr Blaise)</b> Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Vespers 6:30 pm Adult Education 7:00 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm
<b>18</b> <b>Zaccheus Sunday</b> Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Vespers 6:30 pm Adult Education 7:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	<b>24</b> Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm
<b>25</b> <b>Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee</b> Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Vespers 6:30 pm Adult Education 7:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>Mar. 1</b>	<b>Mar. 2</b> Pierogies Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm

Fast-free Week



Clip and insert in prayer book to pray for those in the prayer list

### Prayer List

(All names should be submitted to one of the Cathedral Clergy for commemoration at the divine services.)

<b>For Health and Salvation:</b> Matushka Eugenia Erica with child Erin with child Alexander Georgette Marilyn Marilyn	Adrienne George Sam Nathaniel Rebecca Yvonne Olga Jan	<b>For the Newly Departed:</b> Nun Elizabeth Sylvia Irene
---	--	--

Assignments							
Date	Epistle	Hours	Greeters	Candle Room	Collection Counters	Bell Ringers	Brunch Group
Feb. 4	J Hershey	T Szewczyk	B Daskivich	S Romanchik	N Waryanka, R Glisan	Brayden & Julianna	II
Feb. 11	F Balog	G Pazin	A Ribar	Rinaldo	J Dille, G Ribar	Brayden & Allie	III
Feb. 18	G Pazin	L Nescott	J Resovich	G Ribar	N Tesone, K Zallow	Julliana & Jules	IV
Feb. 25	G Brkovich	DN Davison	C Steeb	B Savchik	R Steeb, R Horodnic	Aleks & Allie	V
Mar. 3	R Glisan	M Wusylko	E Glisan	S Romanchik	N Waryanka, R Glisan	Brayden & Julianna	VI
Mar. 10	D Geeza	J Hershey	C Namisnak	Rinaldo	J Dille, G Ribar	Brayden & Allie	I
Mar. 17	J Pazin	T Szewczyk	L Papakirk	G Ribar	N Tesone, K Zallow	Julliana & Jules	II
Mar. 24	J Hershey	G Pazin	B Daskivich	B Savchik	R Steeb, R Horodnic	Aleks & Allie	III
Mar. 31	F Balog	L Nescott	J Resovich	R Steeb	N Waryanka, R Glisan	Brayden & Julianna	IV

## PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

- The Annual Meeting was held on January 21st following Liturgy. Almost 60 members were present during the meeting in which a budget was passed for 2024.
- The following members were elected to council or to new positions on council:

President – Larissa Lindquist; Vice President – Tim Shewczyk; Treasurer – Dr. Bob Horodnic; Council Members – Roy Glisan, and Sterling Fuentes. Michael Laquatra, approved at the 1/14/24 council meeting, will complete the remaining 1 year of Tim Shewczyk's council member position. Frank Namisnak will serve as Past President/Consultant for 1 year.

- All council members and officers will be sworn in on February 4, 2024.
- Thanks to those individuals who have completed service on council: Nick Tesone, Alex Glisan and Brian Dubos.
- Special thanks to Jeff Dille for all of his diligent and hard work to prepare the 2024 budget.
- The minutes from the last council meeting (1/14/24) and from the Annual Meeting have been posted on the bulletin board in the church hall.
- The next council meeting will be held on February 18, 2024 following Liturgy.
- Collections for the Diocese of Alaska totaled \$6,000 from members of our parish. In addition, the Women's Association also sent \$2,500, for a total of \$8,500 sent from our parish to the Diocese of Alaska.
- Please turn in your Stewardship for to Fr. John or Council President Frank Namisnak/ Larissa Lindquist.



January 25, 2024

St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral  
1600 Guyton Rd.  
Pittsburgh PA 15101

Dear Friends at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral,

Thank you! Thank you for your steadfast support of our work over the years. Your most recent Angel Tree gifts were so lovely and much appreciated. What a blessing everything will be to our clients and to The Nest. I know The Nest loves to receive new clothing and baby gear to sell at the store since it elevates their inventory.

We are truly grateful for your ongoing support demonstrated in so many ways. Your generosity enables us to meet the material needs of our clients and to build relationships with them that we pray will lead to spiritual transformation.

We thank God for you and pray that He will continue to bless you richly as you seek to be a blessing to others.

With gratitude,  
Amy Mee

Church Engagement Director, Network of Life/Women's Choice Network

The Orthodox Christians for Life (OCLife) parish ministry will meet on  
Sunday, Feb. 4, following coffee hour. All are invited!

## Special Church Events

### Feast of Theophany



**Congratulations to the newly tonsured Readers Vladislav and John!  
God grant them many years!**



**Congratulations to Archpriest Paul Suda on his 84th birthday!  
May God grant Fr. Paul many years!**

