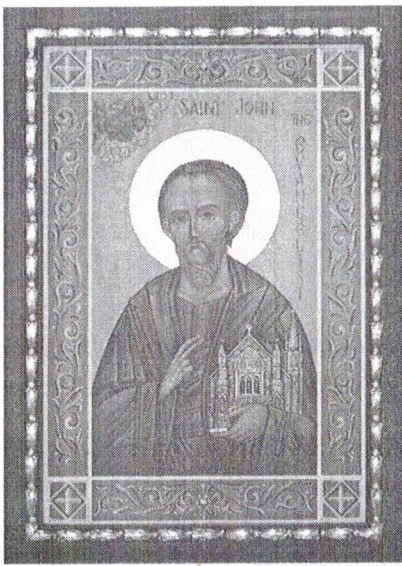




February 04, 2024



*ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST*  
*ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH*

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HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA , ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND  
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON,  
OAKLAND , AND MID-ATLANTIC

PASTOR: REVEREND FATHER STEVEN SHAHEEN

REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER

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*We take this opportunity to welcome those guests praying with us.*

*Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer,  
please contact Fr. Steven*

*The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread. Please see Father Steven after Divine Liturgy.*

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**Divine Liturgy Variables on Sunday, February 04, 2024**

**Tone 2 / Eothinon 2**

**Thirty-second Sunday of Pentecost & Fifteenth Sunday of Luke  
("Zacchaeus") After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ  
Venerable Isidore of Pelusium; The Mothers of the Three Hierarchs:  
Emmelia, Nona and Anthousa**

**THE FIRST ANTIPHON**

**My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the  
king. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe. Refrain:  
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us. Grace  
is poured into thy lips: therefore, God hath blessed thee forever.  
(Refrain) Glory... Both now... (Refrain)**

**THE SECOND ANTIPHON**

**Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness  
and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be  
king. Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of  
righteous Simeon; who sing to Thee. Alleluia. Thine arrows are  
sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby  
the peoples fall under Thee. (Refrain) A scepter of uprightness is the  
scepter of Thy kingdom. (Refrain) Glory... Both now... O, only be-  
gotten Son and Word of God...**

## THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation. • During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ.

### APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

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.

### APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

### APOLYTIKION OF SAINT JOHN

Apostle John, speaker of deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people, powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him therefore to disperse the darkness of ignorance, and pray for peace and great mercy to be shown upon us.

## THE EPISTLE

(For the Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God. Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

## THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke—"Zacchaeus")

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to  
St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

**Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of:**

**Debbie, Jim (Health), Jeffery, Ann, Carol, Aiden, Shannon, Justin, William (Cancer), Donald, Harriett (Health), Jan (Health) Fr. Andrew (Health), Rhonda, Karen and Cindy.**

**For Thou are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Thy servants who have fallen asleep especially:**

**Prayers are offered in memory of Patriarch Ignatius IV, Metropolitan Philip, Bishop Antoun, Archbishop Peter, Archbishop Michael, Igumen George, Archpriest Peter, Archpriest Theodore, Dn. Larry, Sh. Peggy, Priest Basil, Priest Solobadon, and Archpriest John, Mary, Infant Clyde Eddy, Child Mica, Mother Nektaria,, Janis, ND AP Moses, ND Pat, ND Raymond, Eleanor and Dn Innocent.**

**These will be updated monthly.**

**See Fr. Steven to add names**

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### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess...who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day... (Luke 2:36-37) For the elderly and lonely who wonder what they can do to serve God, Anna's fastings and prayers are a wonderful example.**

**- From the Orthodox Study Bible**



# GOD KEEPS A PROMISE



**A**ccording to the law of Moses, all Hebrew parents were required to bring their first-born son to the Temple on the 40th day after his birth. This was done in remembrance of the Hebrew exodus from Egypt and their freedom from slavery -- when their first-born sons were protected from the "angel of death," -- who slew the young male children of the Egyptians. It was customary to bring a sacrifice to the Temple that day in thanksgiving to God.

Obedient to the precepts of their people, Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after His birth. As their sacrifice, they brought two young doves with them. While there, they encountered the Righteous Simeon -- a pious man who was advanced in years. God promised him that he would not die until he saw the coming of the Messiah. When Simeon came upon Christ and His parents, he knew that this was the One for Whom the world had waited: the Light Who would enlighten the Gentiles. Indeed, Simeon knew that he could now "depart in peace." Simeon blessed them and proclaimed that: "this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel." (Luke 2:34)

Before returning home, Mary, Joseph and Jesus also met Anna, a prophetess who had lived in the Temple some 84 years as a widow. She, too, recognized the true identity and mission of the young Child.

This event is celebrated as the FEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD by our Holy Orthodox Church in February each year. To further emphasize the coming of the "Light" into a darkened world, candles are blessed on this holy day.

*The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin* . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

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