

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

BULLETIN – SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN & LEAVE-TAKING OF THE PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – **10:00 am Wednesday** ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

Many Years -- Anniversary

Dn. Dave & Sh. Karla Newberry

February 14

Michael & Sophia Botill

February 14

TOWN HALL MEETING

On Sunday, February 23 after the Divine Liturgy, there will be a Town Hall Meeting in the parish hall. Financial overview, budget funds, giving, and the Narthex will all be discussed.

Come Join Us!
Community Dinner
Sunday, February 23
2:00 pm

All are welcome to share in an afternoon of friendship and dine on home-cooked food. If you would like to contribute time and talents or funds, please contact Marc Sacoolas at 831-438-3455.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meets on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 pm in the parish hall.

PARISH NEEDS

If you are able to help in either of the following areas, please contact the church office at 831-336-2228.

- **Community Dinner Leads:** Looking for more people or teams of people to add to the rotation of leading a meal. You will have support from the church and the people that already lead and help, but some current leaders are stepping down and we need to fill their

spots. You would serve in this capacity about three times a year.

- **Grant Writer:** Someone who has a gift for writing and has time to do some research. There are grants for which our church could qualify that would help offset the cost of remodeling/building as well as help in other areas of our community development.

PARISH COUNCIL SNAPSHOT

- It was decided to change the church's fiscal year to begin on September 1 like the ecclesiastical year. (Currently, our fiscal year begins March 1.) Sometime before the new fiscal year begins, we will hold an Annual General Assembly meeting like we usually do in February.
- It was decided to rename "Future Building Projects" in the budget to "Building Fund". Maintenance issues, getting a defibrillator, and getting a new bier (for Holy Week) were also discussed.

Vesperal Divine Liturgy
St. Raphael of Brooklyn
Wednesday, February 26
6:00 pm

Memory Eternal

February 13

Richard Cervantes

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – February 10-16, 2020

2/10	Mon	6:30 pm – Choir rehearsal
2/11	Tues	6:00 am – Reader’s Orthros
2/12	Wed	9:00 am – Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm – Vespers
2/13	Thurs	6:00 am – Men’s Reading Group
2/14	Fri	10:00 am – Women’s Book Study
2/15	Sat	6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline
2/16	Sun	8:20 am – Orthros 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – Sunday of the Prodigal Son 10:20 am – Church School

Looking Ahead –

February 19 Parish Council

*February 20-23 Winter Sacred Music Institute – Darlene
away*

*February 23 Sunday of Last Judgment (Meatfare)
Town Hall Meeting after Divine Liturgy
Youth Group
Community Dinner*

*February 26 **No** Morning Divine Liturgy
Vespers Divine Liturgy for St. Raphael &
informal potluck*

March 1 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

*March 2 **Great Lent Begins – Great
Compline/Canon of St. Andrew***

*March 3 **Great Compline/Canon of St. Andrew***

*March 4 **Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts***

*March 5 **Great Compline/Canon of St. Andrew***

*March 6 **Little Compline/Akathist***

*March 8 **Sunday of Orthodoxy***

+February 9 – Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch

The Holy Martyr Nikephoros lived in Antioch. In this city lived also the presbyter Saprikios and the two men were good friends and considered as brothers. They quarreled and their former love changed to enmity and hate. After a time, Nikephoros came to his senses, repented and more than once asked Saprikios to forgive him. Saprikios would not.

At this time the Roman emperor Gallius (260-268) was persecuting Christians, and one of the first brought to court was the priest Saprikios. He endured tortures for his faith and was condemned to death by beheading. As Saprikios was led

to execution, Nikephoros tearfully implored his forgiveness, but the priest remained stubborn, and even as he approached death, he refused to forgive his fellow Christian. Seeing the hardness of his heart, the Lord withdrew His blessing from Saprikios and would not let him receive the crown of martyrdom. At the last moment, Saprikios suddenly became afraid of death and agreed to offer sacrifice to idols. In vain did Nikephoros urge him not to lose his reward through apostasy, since he already stood on the threshold of the Heavenly Kingdom.

Nikephoros said to the executioner, “I am a Christian, and I believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. Execute me in place of Saprikios.” The governor decided to free Saprikios and to behead Nikephoros in his place. Thus did Saint Nikephoros in 260 A.D. inherit the Kingdom and receive a martyr’s crown.

Orthodox Tidbits

*“The best things, the things we treasure most,
come through difficulties. If we ignore the
difficulties, we are neglecting the true joys.”
His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH*

Orthodox Christianity has always recognized that God can use the difficulties in our lives and even our suffering for our salvation. St. Paul tells us “we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 3:3-5)

St. Symeon the New Theologian tells us to “be ready each day to receive all kinds of afflictions, regarding them as release from your sins.” (153 Practical and Theological Texts, #133) The world may offer “happiness,” but what it offers is fleeting, hollow and ultimately can never truly satisfy us. Only our loving Triune God offers joy, peace and true hope. Let us continue to strive to love one another and be “partakers of the divine nature” (II Peter 1:4) through participation in the Holy Mysteries, prayer, and fasting; to the Glory of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**In Christ,
Fr. Nathan**