

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

## BULLETIN – PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

### *Many Years -- Birthday*

Josh Nicholas	February 2
Kh. Ellen Steiger	February 4
Calvin Lewis	February 5
Madeline Herlé	February 5
Willie Steiger	February 8

### ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

**Today** there will be a meeting during coffee hour for the Antiochian Women.

### 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.

### REIMBURSEMENT NOTICE

Reimbursement receipts for the fiscal year ending February 29 (3/1/19 – 2/29/2020) must be submitted to the church office by February 26 in order to be paid. Reimbursements will not be paid after that date.

### 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.

## Celebrate the Feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

### Potluck Today

Please each bring enough to serve your family plus 4 more people.

#### Last Names

- \*Albers – Grube: dessert
- \*Hagg – Russell: main dish
- \*Saad – Zellerhoff: side dish or salad

February 8 Memory Eternal  
Fr. Jack Sparks

*This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – February 3-9, 2020*

- 2/3-2/6 **Mon-Thurs** – Fr. Nathan away at the Los Angeles Clergy Seminar
- 2/3 **Mon** 6:30 pm – Choir rehearsal
- 2/4 **Tues** **No Reader's Orthros**
- 2/5 **Wed** **No Divine Liturgy or Vespers**
- 2/6 **Thurs** 6:00 am – Men's Reading Group
- 2/7 **Fri** 10:00 am – Women's Book Study
- 2/8 **Sat** **6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline**
- 2/9 **Sun** **8:20 am – Orthros**  
**9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – Sunday of the Pharisee & the Publican**  
10:20 am – Church School  
Youth Group

*Looking Ahead –*

- February 16 *Sunday of Prodigal Son*
- February 19 *Parish Council*
- February 20-23 *Winter Sacred Music Institute*
- February 23 *Sunday of Last Judgment (Meatfare)*  
*Town Hall Meeting after Divine Liturgy*  
*Youth Group*
- February 26 **No Morning Divine Liturgy**  
*Vesperal Divine Liturgy for St. Raphael & informal potluck*
- March 1 *Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)*
- March 2 **Great Lent begins**

**+February 2 – The Presentation (Meeting) of Christ**

The Greek word for the feast is “Hypapante” [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means “Encounter” or “Meeting.” However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus' first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a

manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, “a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. “Adorn they chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory” (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

**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