

## Schedule for the Week

**SUNDAY - 12 February - SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON - The Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom**

*1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Luke 15:11-32*

**Monday; 13 February - The Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John**

*1 John 2:18-3:10 Mark 11:1-11*

**Tuesday; 14 February - The Holy Martyr Tryphon of Campsada**

*1 John 3:11-20 Mark 14:10-42*

6:30 PM - MOLEBEN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF UKRAINE ) - Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church 315 4th St.. West Easton

**Wednesday: 15 February - THE MEETING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (MAJOR HOLY DAY)**

*Hebrews 7:7-17 Luke 2:22-40*

**9 AM -DIVINE LITURGY with Blessing of Candles**

**Thursday; 16 February - The Holy and Righteous Symeon the God-Receiver and the Prophetess Anna**

*1 John 4:20-5:21 Mark 15:1-15*

**Friday; 17 February - The Venerable Isadore of Pelusium**

*2 John 1:1-13 Mark 15:22-25, 33-41*

**Saturday; 18 February - The Holy Martyress Agatha of Palermo in Sicily (First Memorial Saturday)**

*1 Corinthians 10:23-28 Luke 21:8-9,25-27,33-36*

9 AM - DIVINE LITURGY with Sorokousty

**SUNDAY - 19 February - MEATFARE SUNDAY - SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT - The Venerable Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna**

*1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Matthew 25:31-46*

## Announcements

- **MAJOR HOLY DAY THIS WEEK** - This Wednesday, 15 February, is the FEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD. It is a Major Holy Day when all the faithful are expected to attend Divine Services as possible. It is the day when candles are traditionally blessed for use during the year. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9AM followed by the Blessing of Candles. The candles will be available for a donation.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Annual General Parish Meeting Sunday; 26 March 2023 immediately after Divine Liturgy.**

- **COFFEE HOUR SIGN - UP SHEET:** The new coffee hour sign-up sheet is now posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday. **UPDATE ON OUR AID TO UKRAINE! EMERGENCY REQUEST RECEIVED!**
- **We have received word from Ukraine, asking us to help volunteers from the city of Oleksandria in Central Ukraine, in setting up an emergency hospital and trauma center for the wounded from Bakhmut, Soledar and Dnipro. They are asking for twin size bed sheet sets, bed pillows, blankets, bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, dark men's warm clothes, dark sweatshirts and sweat pants, dark long sleeve men's shirts, thermal underwear sets, underwear, men's warm socks, pain relieve medicine, beef jerky, tuna in pouches and other non-perishable food items. As you know these areas are under recent and UNRELENTING AND HORRIFIC ATTACK by Russia. Our help is NEEDED.**
- **SOROKOUSTY COMMEMORATION** - As we have begun the 5 week preparation for the coming of Great Lent, as a reminder, we will celebrate the commemoration of the deceased on the five designated Sorokousty Saturdays. if you wish to have Father Richard commemorate your deceased family members, please utilize the Sorokousty envelope provided in today's bulletin and place it in the collection basket with your regular offering.
- **MONTHLY PRAYER SERVICE FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH CANCER AND OTHER ILLNESS** - The next special monthly prayer service for those suffering with cancer and other illness, to the Mother of God "Queen of All" will take place ***Monday; 20 February***. If you would like to remember anyone in prayer, please submit their names on the list available in the Chapel and deposit it in the chapel near the icon of the Mother of God, Queen of All. Donations can also be placed in the same receptacle.
- **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES** - Classes continue every Saturday at 10 AM. Our own choir director, John Koretski leads the class. Anyone interested is welcome.
- **Adult Ukrainian Language Classes** - Classes continue every Thursday at 6 PM. Mr. Ihor Mirchuk is the instructor. Anyone interested is welcome.

## Today's Liturgical Propers

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

### **Tone 2 Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
 You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
 And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
 all the powers of heaven cried out://  
 "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

### **Tone 1 Troparion**

Let us who love their words come together with hymns,  
 and honor the three great torch-bearers of the ^triune Godhead:  
 Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom!  
 These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines.  
 They are sweetly flowing rivers ^of wisdom,  
 and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.  
 They ceaselessly intercede for us//  
 before the Holy Trinity.

**Tone 3 Kontakion**     *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;  
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.  
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:  
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;  
receive me as a penitent, //  
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

**Tone 2 Prokeimenon**     *(Resurrection)*

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. *(Ps. 117:14)*

*V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.  
(Ps. 117:18)*

**Epistle**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!  
(Ps. 19:1)*

*V. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)*

**Gospel**

Luke 15:11-32

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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## The Five Saturdays of the Deceased (Sorokousty)



Every year the Church Typikon designates five Sorokousty/ Saturdays of the Deceased during Great Lent. In addition the first Saturday for this purpose actually occurs before Great Lent on the Saturday before the reading of the Gospel of the Last Judgement. For 2023 these Saturdays are February 18th; March 8th, 18th, and 25th; and April 1st. It is a tradition of our Holy Church to commemorate the memories of our beloved deceased at Divine Liturgy on these five Saturdays of the year. Please utilize the Sorokousty envelope included in today's bulletin and either place it in the collection basket with your regular offering or send it into the church through regular mail. **NOTE: If you have additional names to be remembered, you may print them on a separate sheet of paper and include it in the envelope. PLEASE ONLY LIST FIRST NAMES!**

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

Commemorated on [February 2](#)



The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Virgin and Saint Joseph brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the Divine Child in his arms, (For this reason, he is called "the God-Receiver.") and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Blessed Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day." She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were

looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the 6th century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. Giving thanks to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the VII century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the VIII century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessaloniki in the IX century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God known as “the Softener of Evil Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy.” The Mother of God is depicted without her Child, and seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar Icon, “Of the Seven Swords” (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right. The “Softening of Evil Hearts” Is also commemorated on August 13.