

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

## Time and Patience

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> the Church remembers two people whose lives are extraordinary examples of patience. In the calendar they are called the "righteous Godbearer Simeon" and "Anna the Prophetess."

The previous day is the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, an event in which Simeon and Anna had central roles. Jesus Christ, a new baby, was brought by his parents into the Temple in Jerusalem. They presented Him to the Lord according to the Old Testament Law, given to Moses in God's words: "Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine" (Exodus 13:2).

Simeon and Anna were overjoyed. For the aged Simeon, seeing Christ the Savior was the fulfillment of God's long-awaited promise of the "consolation" of Israel. He knew very well the words of the prophets concerning this, for example: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned..." (Isaiah 40:1) He knew that Isaiah had described a voice crying, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (40:3). Now it had all been fulfilled in the preaching of John the Baptizer and the coming of Jesus Christ, and Simeon was ready to die in peace.

Anna, a prophetess from a family of prophets, had fasted and prayed for decades in the Temple. On this day of the Savior's coming, she recognized Him. She was prepared, though by this time she was well over eighty, to spread the good news to everyone.



January 28, 2018

34<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN  
AND THE PHARISEE

- 8:50am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 2Tim. 3:10-15  
Gospel: Lk. 18:10-14
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

**NOTE:** Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation from fasting - this is a **FAST-FREE WEEK**.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29**

**5:00pm** - Great Vespers & Litya

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 - THREE HIERARCHS**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

(continued on the next page)

## Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Mary Fehisin, Andrew & Dorothy Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

One of the readings for February 3<sup>rd</sup> is about that quality of faithful patience that Simeon and Anna demonstrate so well. The Letter of James counsels, "Be patient therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient" (5:7-8a).

The words remind us that things happen in God's time, not ours. The farmer is patient with the land until God sends the rain. For Simeon and Anna, the time of waiting was very long, so their patience had to be very great. Whatever situations face us—the ones that require patience—may also stretch on. We must "strengthen our hearts" as Simeon and Anna did.

So we can't just idly wait around for something to happen. We have to be ready for God to act at any moment, and not "grumble against one another" when our patience gets tested for a longer time than we might have expected and wished. Even a lengthy period of time in human reckoning is only an instant in God's sight. So no matter how far away it seems to us, James writes, "the coming of the Lord is near" (5: 8b).

## Schedule of Services

(continued from previous page)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya & Blessing of Candles

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

6:00pm - Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Stacy Baron Anderson**, who celebrates her birthday this Friday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

## Announcements

◆ Our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held, weather permitting, on **Sunday, February 11** following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. All parishioners (members in good standing, defined by the Church Canons, and OCA, Diocesan and Parish by-laws) are urged to attend this very important in the life of our parish meeting.

## Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able.

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.