

*Meeting of the Lord
in the Temple
Tone 7*

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*Hebrews 7:7-17*

*Luke 2:22-40*

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*Homily by
Protodn. Pat Lamb*

*Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders*

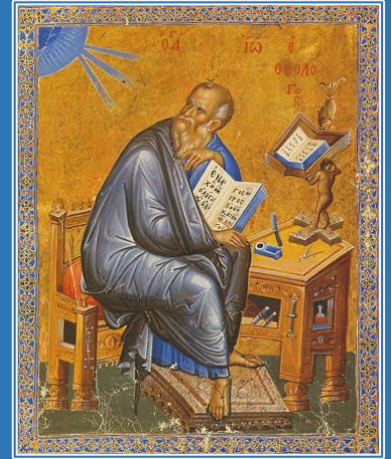
*Coffee Hour Hosts:
Patras / Labrecque*

St. John Orthodox Cathedral Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, February 2, 2025



And the Days Following



O 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 mercies to be shown upon us.

Feast Days and Services



Meeting of the Lord in The Temple Falls on a Sunday This Year February 2, 2025

*Great Vespers, February 1, Saturday Evening
Divine Liturgy for the Feast, February 2, Sunday
(Matins will begin a bit earlier at 9am)*

The **Meeting of the Lord in the Temple** (also called the **Presentation**) is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on Feb 2. In the Gospel of Luke 2:22-40, Mary and Joseph took the infant Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem. He was received in the arms of the elder Simeon, who then prayed, "Now let Thy servant depart in peace... for I have seen Thy salvation." This was one of the things that Mary "pondered in her heart"—the fact that others recognized that her Son was the Messiah.

Parish Events and News

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)
12:30pm – 2:00pm**

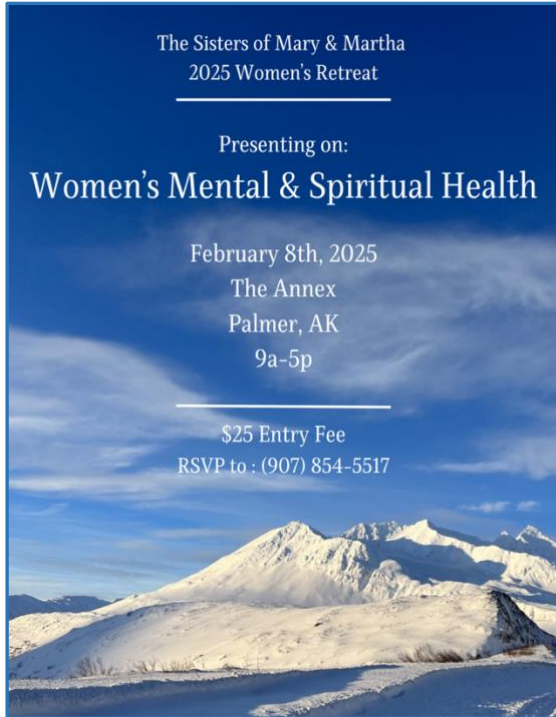


Women's Retreat 2025

Hello! This is the last weekend to RSVP to Sydney at (907)854-5517. The Annex is in downtown Palmer at 247 S Alaska St, Palmer, AK 99645 (easily located in Google Maps). There is limited parking in the front and back of the building so if groups can carpool that will help, there is also surrounding street parking all around.

All food and writing supplies will be provided. Please pay via church website by clicking Donate and clicking Sisters of Mary and Martha in the category section. You can also pay via tithe box if clearly labeled. (The fee is \$25.00)

We look forward to being with you all and sharing in thoughtful discussions -The Retreat Committee



Coffee Hour This Sunday - February 2, 2025 Group A - First Sunday of the Month



Hosts Families: Patras / Labrecque

Snacks: Abel, Bower, Carroll, Cook, Davis, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey O'Fallon, Patras, Sorensens, Stallman, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Weaver, Wells

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### Next Sunday - Group B - February 9 - Hosts: Klatt / Ihde

Snacks: Agnew, Alvarez, Betson, Cain, Davisson, Drennan, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hoyt, Ihde, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Lineer, Lowry, Moffatt, Peters, Ray, Schlicting, Sluz, Sturdevant, Villafana

## **“Church Etiquette” Tip of the Week**

*When we gather to worship God, Orthodox Christians are “at home” in the environment of the Church gathering and yet at the same time reverent. These tips on “Church etiquette” explain some of the common customs that contribute to the reverent atmosphere of Orthodox worship. They are intended as guidelines to observe, not to judge one another, which by a higher law we are forbidden from doing. (We will be adding a ‘Tip of the Week’ for the next several weeks in the bulletin.)*

### **When to Make the Sign of the Cross upon Oneself**

When to make the sign of the Cross upon oneself is a matter of personal piety and not so much matter of strict practice. The following are sometimes when it is specifically proper to cross yourself and times when you should not.

*Cross yourself at these times...*

- when you hear the prayer invoking God as the Holy Trinity, "Father, Son and Holy Spirit".
- at the beginning and end of liturgical services and your private prayers.
- before venerating an icon, a relic, the cross or Gospel book.
- when entering or exiting the church
- when passing in front of the holy altar table.

*Do not make the sign of the cross upon yourself when...*

- you are at the chalice before or after taking communion (you might hit the chalice with your hand); instead, cross your arms over your chest, right arm on top of the left.
- the priest or bishop blesses saying “peace be to all” – bow slightly and receive the blessing.
- receiving a blessing from a bishop or a priest (kissing the right hand of the bishop or priest is appropriate but not making the sign of the cross).

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## *Notes and Pictures from Parishioners*

### **“Checking In” with Each Other**

Is there something you’d like to share about what your family is up to? Please email [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)

### **Volunteer Drivers for Oksana to Church Needed**



We need drivers for Oksana. Please email Dn. Kevin or text me at 907-947-5345 for any Sunday that you could volunteer. Rides Needed for these dates: February 2, February 9, February 16, and March 2 Even if you can do only one way please volunteer. Thank you.

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## *Dates to Remember*

### *Monday ‘Moms with Kids’ Reading Group*

Please join us for reading group on Mondays at 10 AM. We meet at Saint James House in the living room area.



## Birthdays This Week

February 5 - Wesley Dunaway

February 6 - Leonid Stiehr

February 7 - Natasha Haines

February 7 - Christian Kies

February 9 - Bethany Peters

*M A N Y Y E A R S !*



## Happy Anniversary



## Anniversaries This Week

Kasey & Jennifer Medders - February 3, 1996

*M A N Y Y E A R S !*



## Thursday Reading Group

The Thursday 10 am reading group will be meeting at the Senior Center.

## Remembering in Prayer...



Gwyn Jones  
Joe Dunham  
Sylvia Villafana  
Helen Gillquist  
Kerry Jones

Chris Grasse  
Josphine Hanna & her  
family  
Dwight Stallman  
Elisa Betson

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine  
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to  
war and for peace*

## Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- \* Steven Theodore Primis - February 3, 2001
- \* Archpriest Jack Norman Sparks - February 8, 2010
- \* Phyllis Isabel Webster - February 12, 1992
- \* Lynn Ellen Guio - February 17, 2019
- \* Dn. Christian Timothy Sorensen - February 23, 2000

*M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !*

## *Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each MONTH*

For the Month of **February** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, Feb 22.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



### THE SYNAXARION

#### Meeting of the Lord – February 2

On February 2, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (or Presentation) of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple, where the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms.

#### *Verses*

*As the hands of righteous Simeon bear You, O my Christ,  
they depict the bosom of Your Father.*

*On the second, Simeon receives Christ in the Temple.*



The Greek word for the feast means “Encounter” or “Meeting.”

However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, 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 turtledoves or two young pigeons. In one of many acts of extreme humility, our divine Lord 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 Your 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 with the work of her Son. As it is said in one of the Aposticha verses: “Adorn your chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she has appeared as a cherubic throne, and she carries the King of glory.” 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.

Unto the one true God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.

#### **Saint John Orthodox Cathedral**

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• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson