

February 2nd, 2025

**THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Troparion — Tone 1

**By Your birth, You sanctified a virginal womb, / and fittingly You blessed
Simeon's hands, O Christ God; / even now You have saved us by anticipation. /
Grant peace to Your faithful people whom You have loved, O only Lover of
mankind.**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protosphyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Tanya and John Francis and Pamela.

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

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The Weekly Bulletin
**HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

February 2nd, 2025

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS - The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation. Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12). The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions. We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: "Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy." Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature; therefore, we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth. Saint Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 1st of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 2nd of February

MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 8th of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 9th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 15th of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 16th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

PARISH YEARLY MEETING

Following Divine Liturgy and brief Coffee Hour

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Coffee Hour Canceled

Due to the renovation of the Church hall, we will not be able to offer Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 2nd, 2025. Thank you for understanding.

Many Blessed Years!

On Sunday 26th of January, Harper May Trevenen, daughter of Stephanie Trevenen-Holtz was baptized into the Holy Orthodox Faith and took a baptismal name Lydia. Please keep newly baptized handmaiden of God Lydia in your prayers.

Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Please plan to worship with us for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. Great Vespers will be on Saturday. 1st of February at 5 pm and Divine Liturgy will be on Sunday, 2nd of February at 10 am.

Blessing of the homes

We are again with the opportunity to bless the homes of all our parishioners. If you would like your home to be blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact Father Michael at pejovicveljko@gmail.com. Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

Contribution Letters

Yearly contribution letters are now available in the Narthex. Please take yours and thank you for your support. May God grant you many blessed years!

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On February 16th, 2025, after a brief coffee hour, we will have our Annual Parish Meeting. At this meeting, we will vote for acceptance of the Budget Proposal for 2025. We will also reflect on Parish life throughout the year 2024. We will remember all the achievements of our Parish as well as point out all our shortcomings that hopefully, we will address during 2025. Parish Annual Meeting is the congregational event and as such we are all expected to be present.

Axios, Axios, Axios

On Thursday, January 27th, 2025, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated the twelfth anniversary of his enthronement as Metropolitan of All America and Canada. For more information please follow the link:

<https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/twelfth-anniversary-of-the-enthronement-of-his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon>

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com.