

Sunday 4th of February 2024

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

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:12-16

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Kontakion – Tone 1

**Hail, Virgin Theotokos, full of grace; / for from you has shone
forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / giving light
those in darkness. / Be glad, O righteous Elder; / for you
received in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who
bestows upon us resurrection.**

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 Archpriests Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Lanie, Matushka Irene, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, 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, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and irene.

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

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461

Father Michael - Priest-in-charge
(848)228-1563

holyspiritwantagej@gmail.com

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

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

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

The WEEKLY BULLETIN

**HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

February 4th, 2024

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

- 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 (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him 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 Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law. thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy 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." 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.

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 3rd of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 4th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 10th of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 11th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday 25th of February – after coffee hour

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation, and ask any questions you may have.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On February 25th of 2024, 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 2024. We will also reflect on Parish life throughout the year 2023. We will remember all the achievements of our Parish as well as point out all our shortcomings that hopefully, we will address during 2024. Parish Annual Meeting is the congregational event and as such we are all expected to be present.

Blessing of Homes and Blessed Water

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.

Call for Proposals: New Icon of All Saints of America

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, desires to commission a new icon of All Saints of America. For more information please contact the following link: [Call for Proposals: New Icon of All Saints of America - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](http://Call for Proposals: New Icon of All Saints of America - Orthodox Church in America (oca.org))

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and baby diapers (size newborn to 6-month-old).

Have an item for the bulletin?

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