



# The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



**FEBRUARY Bulletin Sponsor- OPEN**

## Liturgical & Events Schedule

**Sunday, February 2**

**Zacchaeus Sunday & The Meeting of the Lord**

9:10 AM: Hours

9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy / brief social meal

11:00 AM: Annual Meeting followed by brief Council Meeting and address by Fr. Andrew

**Tuesday, February 4**

9:00 AM: Prospora Baking

**Wednesday, February 5**

7:30 pm City Council Meeting

**Saturday, February 8**

6:00 pm Vespers / Confessions

**Sunday, February 9- Publican & Pharisee**

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Choir Rehearsal / No Social / Sisterhood fundraiser / Council Meeting

## January / February 2025

### Reader Schedule

February 2: George Horodnic (Zacchaeus)

February 9: Deacon James Hyrb (Publican & Pharisee)

February 16: Deacon David Gemmel (Prodigal Son)

February 23: Natalia Simko (Meatfare Sunday)

## 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

February 2 – Mike Dubinka / Pani Joan Mahler / Dorothy Sudak

February 9 – Frank Kusky / Noreen Moderalli / Sub-Deacon Vladimir (Walter) Rusnak

## 2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Tusinac (President)

Phone- 724-456-7366

Cindy Ferrick (Treasurer)

Phone 330-531-1119

Joann Sirilla (Financial Secretary)

Phone 330-881-6775

Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis (Council)

Phone 330-774-8860

Natalia Simko (Council) (Cemetery issues)

Phone- 330-980-3033

### Maintenance Issues:

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084

Michael Centofanti - 330-544-3518

ORTHODOX CHURCH FATHERS



God does not dwell  
where there is division  
and anger.

St. Ignatius of Antioch

## ANNUAL MEETING TODAY

**Sunday, February 2, 2025**

The Annual Meeting will take place today following the Liturgy.

Following Liturgy there will be a brief meal in the basement with the meeting to hopefully begin at 11:00 AM in the Church. Clean-up needs to be complete by the time of the meeting.

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

<https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/>

[padrebartek@gmail.com](mailto:padrebartek@gmail.com)

## **PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Send a “Thinking of You” card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please

---

### **His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Participates in 2025 March for Life**

On January 23–24, 2025, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon participated in the annual March for Life events in Washington, DC.

On the morning of Thursday, January 23, Metropolitan Tikhon met with Ms. Emily Yocum (Wilkinson), President and Executive Director of Orthodox Christians for Life, and Ms. Sophia Lyda, Program Coordinator, at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America in Springfield, VA. Their discussion covered various topics, including the long-term goals of Orthodox Christians for Life, educational initiatives, and ongoing pro-life ministries. At the conclusion of the meeting, His Beatitude was presented with an icon of the Holy Innocents.

Later that evening, Metropolitan Tikhon attended the opening Mass for the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. He was joined by His Grace Bishop John of Worcester of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, the appointed representative for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States, His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey, His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland and the Romanian Episcopate, and Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Acting Chancellor and Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America. Following the service, His Beatitude hosted the visiting hierarchs for dinner.

On Friday, January 24, the Orthodox gathering at the March for Life began at 11:30 AM on the National Mall. His Beatitude and the other hierarchs were welcomed to the stage for the invocation which was followed by a number of addresses by representatives of the March for Life, the Vice President, Governors, the Speaker of the House, and other guests. His Beatitude then led the Orthodox clergy and faithful in a Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion before proceeding with the March.

Also present were Fr. John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Hieromonk Vasily (Permiakov), Assistant Professor of Liturgical Theology at St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, along with seminarians representing both seminaries.

## PRAYER LIST– Updated 1-29

**PARISHIONERS:** Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Heidi Kuzemchak / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Melanie Yannitto / Marion Zwinski

**HIERARCHS & CLERGY:** AB Alexander from Dallas / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyan / Fr. Deacon James Hryb / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Paul Demkosky (Fr.) / Trudy Ellmore / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / James Malchisky (Fr.) / Mea Mahan / Mary Mahan / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Diane Ruff / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brian (Shirilla) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Karen (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Katie (Garrity) / Paul (Kolesar) / Paula (Voytilla) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Richard (Tusinac)

**MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky)

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - DECEMBER	2023	2024
<b>1st Week</b>		
New Years Day	19	Father on Vacation
Vespers	None	6
Theophany Supper	None	18
Theophany Vigil	9	29
Liturgy	Not recorded	43 / 24
Theophany Liturgy	9	Weather– Can- celed
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	8	6
Liturgy	55 / 38	55 / 33
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Vespers	6	6
Liturgy	33 / 22	42 / 20
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers	None-Weather	8
Liturgy	50	59 / 43
<b>5th week</b>		
Vespers	10	No 5th Week
Liturgy	50 / 39	No 5th Week

### FEBRUARY Celebrations

#### *Birthday*

- 2 Dorothy Shirilla
- 3 Sonia Tsvetkoff / David Dionisio
- 4 Nataniel Bremer
- 5 Zoland Zile
- 6 Ales Zarynow / Karen Simko
- 10 Mat. Pauline Gemmel / Fr. Eli Bremer
- 11 Lidija Arvan / Marcy Kubancsek / Cindy Ferrick
- 12 Marion Zwinski / AP James Gleason
- 13 Dr. James Hryb
- 14 Matushka Ann Lardas
- 15 Martha Centofanti
- 1 Carol Ruff / Jo Ann Kalantzis / Deena Vansuch
- 17 Nadine Sabo
- 19 Shelly Nicoloff / Vitaly Muzyka
- 20 Julianna Kusinski
- 22 Joey Clark
- 24 Marc Elash
- 25 Sandra Bufalini / Robert Willison
- 26 Andy Basile / Pani Bernadette Zarynow / Basil Glovinsky
- 28 George Rusnak

#### *Anniversary*

- 1–2020 His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland
- 9-1969 AP John Steffaro (Priestly ordination)
- 13 John & Maureen Koval
- 14-2004 The Most Blessed Tikhon—Consecration as Bishop
- 28 Michael & Natalia Simko

#### *Names Day*

- 6 Dorothy Shirilla 10 Cindy Ferrick
- 8 Cindy Ferrick 28 Maureen Koval

---

## FEBRUARY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

*NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP*

---

**Bulletin:** OPEN

**Wine:** In memory of my dad Steven Elash, Eileen and Stephan Elash Eileen and Tim Nolder and all members of the Graban & Elash families– Given by Cindy Ferrick

**Incense:** For the Health of all the members of the Graban & Elash Families– Given by Cindy Ferrick

**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** OPEN

**Altar Candles:** OPEN

**Tetrapod Candles:** OPEN

**St. Herman Candles:** Commemorating all who participate in the maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers and those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.

**St. Panteleimon Icon Candles:** In honor of Ryan Debiec on the occasion of his birthday on 2-13- FGiven by Sue Kennedy & Family

**Protection Icon Candles:** OPEN

**St. John the Baptist Candles:** OPEN

---

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
*Wine	*St. Herman candles	Incense
*Bulletin	*St. Panteleimon Icon candles	
*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	*Protection Icon candles	<b>Flowers</b> - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– <i>Updated</i>
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

---

### Invitation for Exhibitors to Attend the 21st All-American Council

The Orthodox Church in America invites exhibitors to participate in the 21st All-American Council (AAC), to be held from July 14-18, 2025, at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, AZ. This event provides an excellent opportunity for exhibitors to connect with clergy, lay delegates, and attendees from across the Orthodox Church in America to showcase products, services, and ministries that support the life of the Church.

#### Exhibit Opportunities

The AAC Exhibit Hall will be a focal point of activity throughout the Council, with opportunities for attendees to explore the exhibits during breaks, meals, and designated exhibit hours.

#### How to Register as an Exhibitor

Vendors and exhibitors are asked to review exhibitor information and complete their registration online at [oca.org/aac](http://oca.org/aac). Details include booth sizes, pricing, setup times, and exhibitor guidelines. Booth costs are as follows:

Standard Vendor Booth 8x10: \$1,250.00 USD (i.e. sale of goods/services)

Standard Display Booth 8x10: \$675.00 USD (i.e. display of ministries/services only, no sales permitted)

The registration deadline for exhibitors is Friday, June 13, 2025.

Applications will be reviewed and approved as

applications are submitted. Confirmations and additional instructions will be sent upon approval. Full payment is required to confirm your space once approved. Space is very limited so be sure to reserve your spot early as it is anticipated that we will sell out fast.

The AAC will utilize Heritage Nationwide Exposition Services, which will provide booths, signage, and resources for vendors and exhibitors. The company can also arrange for shipment of goods to and from the AAC and fill special needs or requests. Space is also available for exhibits from OCA dioceses, departments, institutions, and other entities.

For inquiries, please contact the Exhibits Coordinator at [exhibits.aac@oca.org](mailto:exhibits.aac@oca.org).

#### Terms and Conditions

Exhibitors are responsible for arranging their own meals, travel, and accommodations. Each exhibit space includes one table, two chairs, and access to electricity upon request. Additional equipment or services may be arranged through the venue at the exhibitor's expense.

Setup for exhibits will take place on Sunday, July 13th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and teardown must be completed by Friday, July 18th at 11:00 AM.

All exhibitors must comply with the terms outlined in the Exhibitor Prospectus. Exhibits must reflect the values and mission of the Orthodox Church in America. The Orthodox Church in America reserves the right to review and approve all exhibit applications.

For more details, please visit the AAC webpage: [oca.org/aac](http://oca.org/aac).

Contact: [exhibits.aac@oca.org](mailto:exhibits.aac@oca.org)



## FEBRUARY Reposed List

- 1- Jane Sablak (2004) ©
- 1- John Jay Truhan (2004) ©
- 1- Helen Gozur (2006) ©
- 1- Thomas Livosky (1951) ©
- 3- Ann Sature (2012)
- 3- Nicholas Tsaknis (1952) ©
- 3- Mary Lisko (1953) ©
- 3- Mike Alesafis (1960) ©
- 4- Michael Livosky (2003) ©
- 5- Mike Alesafis (1960) ©
- 6- Bessie Poullos (1961) ©
- 7- Rossetas Kallis (1958) ©
- 8- Joseph Durshaw (1972) ©
- 8- Andrew Libertin (1985) ©
- 8- Anna Graban (1937) ©
- 8- Steve Hamanzi (1946) ©
- 8- Maxim Berezoussky (1964) ©
- 9- George Cross (2020) ©
- 10- George Bobosh (1984) ©
- 10- Steve Elash (1998) ©
- 10- T. Rago (1924) © (no name)
- 10- Helen Holubanich (1924) ©
- 10- Steve Stavridis (1935) ©
- 12- V. Rev. Nicholas Vansuch (1987) ©
- 12- John Holibonich (2004) ©
- 12- Theodore Kalos (1932) ©
- 13- Bishop Varlaam (2020)
- 13- Vera Kristian (1980) ©
- 14- Emmanuel Balale (1956) ©
- 14- Bertha Ginnis (1961) ©
- 14- John Macala (1963) ©
- 14- Nicholas Angelides (1963) ©
- 15- Justina Popodich (grandmother)
- 15- George Billik (1998) ©
- 15- John Timkovich (2004) ©
- 15- Thelma Psaras (1930) ©
- 15- Alfteria Jaetanis (1930) ©
- 15- Anna Sirilla (1955) ©
- 15- Mary Shirilla (1962) ©
- 16- Albert Bartek (1952)
- 16- Paul Cole (1997) ©
- 16- John Stamatinas (1946) ©
- 16- Infant Klimis (1 hr old) (1956) ©
- 16- Ann Leschinsky (1956) ©
- 17- Metropolitan Orestes (1977)
- 17- Myron Bilchik (1982) ©
- 17- Emmanuel Balale (1956) ©
- 17- Robert Fischer (1995) ©
- 18- Virginia Nosik (2004) ©
- 18- George Caleris (1957) ©
- 18- Paul Petruschak (2024)
- 19- Elizabeth Antas (1921) ©
- 19- George Berezovsky (1922) ©
- 19- Michael Voyis (1949) ©
- 19- Ann Allshouse (1984) ©
- 20- Daniel Shirilla (1992) ©
- 21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020)
- 22- Fr. Andrew Hutnyan (2004)
- 22- Manuel Smyrmios (1944) ©
- 22- Carol Ann Feltovich (2016) ©
- 22- Sub-deacon Wylie Meath (2024)
- 23- Rose Dobrovolski (1995) ©
- 24- Nicholas Andrew Shirilla (2012) ©
- 24- Still born Volchko (1924) ©
- 24- Eva Wolfe (1925) ©
- 24- Elizabeth Cvercko (1929) ©
- 25- Vasil Heib (1920) ©
- 25- John Kotuka (1960) ©
- 25- Veronica Shirilla (1995) ©
- 25- Charlette Zenko (2024)
- 27- Steve Basala (1985)
- 27- Mike Kazonis (1950) ©
- 28- Mike Babiak (1922) ©
- 29- Milan Miller Batalo (1920) ©

---

### His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Albania Falls Asleep in the Lord

With deep sorrow and in the hope of the Resurrection, the Orthodox Church in America joins the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania and the entire Orthodox world in mourning the falling asleep of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania, who reposed in the Lord on January 25, 2025, at the age of 95.

A major figure in modern Orthodoxy, His Beatitude was instrumental in restoring the Orthodox Church of Albania following decades of state-sponsored persecution. Through his efforts, churches were rebuilt, seminaries and charitable institutions were established, and a new generation of clergy and faithful were formed, ensuring the Church's revival after one of the most severe periods of oppression in Christian history. His missionary zeal, pastoral wisdom, and unwavering faith in Christ left a deep mark on the Orthodox world. May the Lord make his memory to be eternal!

---

### Twelfth Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

On Thursday, January 27, 2022 His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon celebrates the twelfth anniversary of his enthronement as Metropolitan of All America and Canada. The clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America give thanks to the Almighty God for His Beatitude's archpastoral love for his flock and primatial leadership. May God grant His Beatitude many more blessed years!

## FINAL JANUARY FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$18,826.38
Income	\$9,562.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>- \$9,263.68</b>
Weekly Tithe	\$8,531.70
Weekly Candles	\$331.00
Altar Candles	\$50.00
Perpetual Memorial Fund	\$480.00
Religious Item	\$20.00
Unneeded Gifts	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$30.00
Bulletin	\$50.00
Monthly Charity Collection: OCMC (Support a Mission Priest)	\$900 +300=\$1,200

### Hebrews 7:7-17 (Epistle, Meeting)

Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

### Many Years! His Eminence Celebrates Ten Years of Episcopal Ministry

The clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest congratulate His Eminence Archbishop Daniel on the commemoration of his consecration the the episcopacy. Today, January 24, the feast of St. Xenia of St. Petersburg, marks ten years of episcopal ministry.

May God grant Archbishop Daniel many years.

### 1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Sunday, Epistle)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

### Luke 2:22-40 (Gospel, Meeting)

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting 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 peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

## CrossRoad Summer Institute to be Hosted at St Vladimir's Seminary

St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (SVOTS) will host the third session of the CrossRoad Summer Institute on its campus from July 5-15 this summer, welcoming a group of 32 high school juniors and seniors for the intensive ten-day program. Three other sessions will take place this summer in Boston and Southern California to support a total of 128 11th and 12th-grade students. The Institute combines focused classroom sessions with forays into the host city and visits with local parishes; attendees describe the experience as 'life-changing.'

Members of the SVOTS faculty have been actively involved in CrossRoad since its inception in 2004, but this is the first time it will be held on campus. This new initiative was brought forward by Interim President and Academic Dean, Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, and is being coordinated by senior staff member Ted Bazil and seminarian Ana Legaspi (M.A. '25). Ana participated in the Institute last summer as a summer staff member; she was hired as CrossRoad Summer Program Director in August 2024.

"CrossRoad is coming home! It was a great joy to work with our alumna, Dr Bezzerides, to bring one session of CrossRoad to the St Vladimir's Seminary campus this summer," commented Dr Tudorie. "The mission of CrossRoad Institute, especially its emphasis on theological education, is so closely related to ours at St Vladimir's Seminary; we pray that all program participants discover a newfound strength in their faith during their time here."

The list of SVOTS faculty members who have advised, taught, and provided spiritual guidance at past CrossRoad Institute sessions begins with none other than the Protospesbyter Thomas Hopko, who worked closely with Executive Director, Dr Ann Bezzerides (M.Div. '00), when the Institute was in its early stages of development. Another faculty member who has participated in CrossRoad since its beginning is Dr Albert Rossi, who has dedicated weeks each summer over the past 20 years to serve as a counselor and session facilitator for the students. The Very Rev. Dr Alexander Rentel, Dr John Barnet, Dr Peter Bouteneff, and Dr Michael Legaspi have all participated as teachers for the program, and the Very Rev. Dr Bogdan Bucur will teach for the program for his first time on the SVOTS campus this summer.

Over the years, there have been several seminarians who have found meaningful opportunities to learn about youth ministry through working as CrossRoad summer staff members. Pavlo Kurganov (M.A. '24, Th.M. '25) served last summer alongside Ana Legaspi for the San Francisco and Chicago sessions; he recounted his experiences in glowing terms, saying,

"The summer of 2024 was unforgettable! Over the

course of 10 days, we learned from several professors of theology and guest speakers on relationships, mental health, and Orthodoxy in public life. There were nine staff members: the director, interns, and summer staff members. We were counselors, teachers, leaders, but most importantly— friends. We became a real team, and we felt a spirit of trust, support, and love among the staff, but also with the participants. We grew in our relationships with Christ, discovering the Church and each other. We asked ourselves daily: Who is this strange person, my neighbor? How great it is to be a part of our big and diverse Orthodox faith!

I'm thankful to God for that experience and this summer 2025 I want to dive into it again!"

Reflecting on her experience with CrossRoad in Summer 2024, Ana Legaspi spoke about what motivated her to continue working with the Institute as Program Director, saying,

"It is hard to describe the impact that a program like CrossRoad can have in the lives of young people. Seeing teenagers commit to this program, give up their cell-phones, and unplug from distractions to focus on loving God is a truly unique and beautiful experience. The transformations that occurred over the span of ten days are a testament to the power of God's love in a heart that is open to accepting Him. The thirst for God that was evident from both the participants and staff members continues even now to strengthen me. I feel truly blessed to serve the Church in this capacity and to work alongside such devoted and faithful servants of Christ!"

All those with a family member, friend, or parishioner who may be interested in applying to join the CrossRoad Summer Institute as a participant, please click the button below to learn more and apply. The deadline to apply for the Summer 2025 program is February 18, 2025.

About the CrossRoad Summer Institute

CrossRoad is a ten-day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way. CrossRoad offers a space for young people to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore their calling as an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.

Interested participants and their parents are encouraged to watch the following videos to learn more about the program: on the National OCA website. (Oca.org)

For Students: The Impact of CrossRoad Summer

Parents & Clergy: A CrossRoad Message For You



## 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 (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.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms,<sup>1</sup> and giving 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" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "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 VI 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 (Litia) 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.

Today we also commemorate the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening 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.

The Icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: "a sword shall pierce through your own soul" (Luke 2:35).

In Constantinople, the Emperors would celebrate the Feast Day at the Blakhernae church during the All-Night Vigil. This custom continued until the Fall of the Byzantine Empire.

<sup>1</sup> For this reason, he is known as the God-Receiver (Θεοδότης).





## Sisterhood is Selling on Superbowl Sunday Sausage (w/Peppers & Onions) Sandwiches\* with a side of Macaroni Salad

**\$10.00**

Please give your order to JoAnn or Nancy by February 5th.  
Sandwiches will be ready after Liturgy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of sandwiches \_\_\_\_\_

Number Plain without Peppers & Onions \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Gluten Free Buns are available, please note GF on your*



### Luke 19:1-10 (Sunday, Gospel)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

## Sunday of Zacchaeus Commemorated on February 2

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.

### FEBRUARY CHARITY

Wild fires in CA to Greek Cathedral in  
Los Angeles