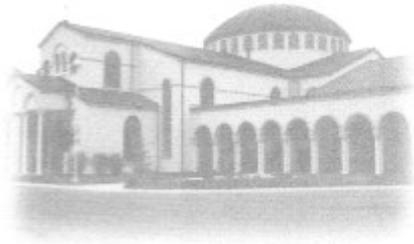


# **PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2020**



## **ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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### **CLERGY**

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH  
*Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America*

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY  
*Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

Very Reverend Michael Nasser  
*Pastor of St. Nicholas ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ [frmichael@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:frmichael@stnicholasgr.com)*

Reverend Theodore Sirotko  
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey  
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff  
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



## WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located on the table in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

## WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas is a worshipping community in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian tradition that preserves, proclaims, and practices the Faith given by Christ to the Apostles, serving Him, one another and our neighbors. We manifest His love through sacramental and liturgical life, education, hospitality, works of mercy, and fellowship.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



# HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

## HYMNS

### ***RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION*** (TONE 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST*** (TONE 1)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS*** (TONE 4)

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

### ***KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST*** (TONE 1)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

## EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews 7:7-17**

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

## GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 2:22-40**

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that 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.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking 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 should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came 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 lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel.” And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

## SYNAXARION

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

### *Verses*

The hands of righteous Simeon, as they bear Thee, depict,  
O my Christ, the bosom of Thy Father.  
On the second, Simeon received Christ in the Temple.

The Greek word for the feast is “Hypapante” [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means “Encounter” or “Meeting.” However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, 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 turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus 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 Thy 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 in the work of her Son. “Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory” (Aposticha of Great Vespers). 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 very God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.

## **HOLY OBLATION IS OFFERED**

For the Health and Blessings of this year's Parish Council. May God grant them wisdom and discernment as they serve.

For the Health and Blessings of Michael John Sirotko on his birthday (Feb 1) by Fr. Theodore and Phyllis Sirotko. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Franklin Amash on his 5th birthday by Jeff, Amy, Jackson, and Cole Amash. We love you, Franklin, and pray that God's love fills your life as you grow in His family!

In memory of the one-year falling asleep in the Lord of Servant of God, Lloyd Heibel, by Randy and Jeanine Heibel. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the month of February. May their memory be Eternal!

## **SERVING MINISTRIES**

	<b><u>Today</u></b>	<b><u>Next Week</u></b>
<b>Epistle Readers:</b>	Grant Medich	Duane Hattem
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	David & Anita Cowles	Jammal family

## **HAPPENING TODAY**

Church School Teacher's Meeting

## **REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS**

### **LIVING**

Fr. John Dixon	David Corey	Sam Homsey
Vera Mijatovic	Eva Rose Saseen	Jean Laramy
Audrey Nicoloff	Barbara Sielaff	Laura Lee
Ralph Thomas	Joe Corey	

*If you desire a name to be added to this prayer list, Holy Oblations may be offered, with the option of being added to the bulletin Prayer List for 40 days.*

### **DEPARTED**

Victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty in the Middle East,  
and throughout the world.

### **PARISHIONERS DEPARTED IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

2/04/1997	Albert Philippi
2/04/2006	Subdeacon Joseph Nicola
2/04/2008	Mona Bashara
2/07/2010	Marie Azkoul
2/09/1975	Saleme Ayoub
2/11/1980	Donald Mickel
2/11/2001	Josephine Sickrey
2/11/2007	Mabel Sickrey
2/12/1944	Joseph Eyd
2/13/1958	Sleyman Abraham
2/14/1962	C. K. Maloley
2/15/1991	Kezma Sayfee
2/16/1944	Assad Maloley
2/17/1986	Ramza Cassis
2/19/1960	Mose Halaley
2/20/1972	Josephine Wawee
2/22/2001	Helen J. Maloley
2/24/2009	Mary Henry
2/29/1956	Adeeb Nassif