

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship**  
**At the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am**  
**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**  
**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)**  
**February 2, 2014: 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the**  
**Temple / Sunday of Zacchæus**



**Tone 7      Troparion      (*Resurrection*)**

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen,// granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 1      Troparion      (*Meeting of the Lord*)**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness.  
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

**Tone 4      Troparion      (*St. Nikolai*)**

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 7      Kontakion      (*Resurrection*)**

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: “The Savior has come to those in faith;// enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

**Tone 1      Kontakion      (*Meeting of the Lord*)**

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin’s womb and blessed Simeon’s hands, Christ God.  
Now You have come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

**Epistles:** 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Hebrews 7:7-17 (*Feast*)

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon**

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.  
*v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!*

**Tone 3      Prokeimenon      (*Song of the Theotokos*)**

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**Tone 7      Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.*  
*v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.*

## **Tone 8**

*v: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation!*

**Gospels:** Luke 19:1-10 & Luke 2:22-40 (*Feast*)

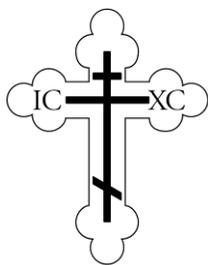
*(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing in **Tone 3**)*

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you!  
In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us, the faithful, discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God.

Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

### **Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



**The First Annual Mission Parish Meeting rescheduled from last Sunday will take place after Liturgy today.** Those who are eligible to vote and hold office are those who have partaken of the Holy Sacraments, are financially supporting our Mission and are not members of another Orthodox parish.

### **Blessing of homes:**

\*Because having one's home blessed is a very important Orthodox Tradition, all parishioners who recognize the importance of this practice and desire to have the spiritual benefits of such blessings should talk to Father and make an appointment.

\*The blessing of the home is not merely a social event. Take it seriously, with preparation and prayer. Televisions, computers, radios and CD players must be off and family members should be present and attentive. Explain to children the meaning of this service (i.e. the priest is bringing the church to our home which confirms that our home is an extension of the church – where we pray, show love for God and one another).

\*Be sure to have ready a candle, an Orthodox Icon (not a religious picture), a bowl for water and a printed or typed list of names of family members that you want the priest to pray for.

\*Do not feel obligated to provide food or refreshments for the priest.

**DEADLINE** for home blessings: Sunday, February 23.

**The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple** Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. 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 of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly 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 should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, 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). St 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 the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, 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 St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, 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 people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth 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. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: St Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; St Cosmas Bishop of Maium, St John of Damascus, and St Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and St Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day 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, with 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 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).

### **Coffee Hour:**

Thank you to The Gresh Family for hosting coffee hour on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Wally and Debby Borojevich will be providing coffee hour on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tom and Lana Baier will be providing coffee hour on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

We need volunteers for February 16, February 23 (Meatfare Sunday), March 2 (Cheesefare Sunday) and March 9. The list will be available after Liturgy on Sunday.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity!!!! and for all of the delicious treats!!!

St. Nikolai of Zica  
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