

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

## BULLETIN – PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

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Bulletin Submissions Deadline – **10 am Wed.** ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org>

**Ss Peter & Paul Mission:** preserve, practice, and proclaim the Gospel of our Lord, God, & Savior Jesus Christ in order to glorify God in the parish and wider community.

### *This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – February 3-9, 2025*

2/3-7 **Mo-Fr** **Fr. Christopher out of town @ Clergy Seminar**

2/3 **Mo** **No Bible Study**  
6:30 pm– Adult choir rehearsal

2/4 **Tu** **No Readers Orthros**

2/5 **Wd** **6:00 pm – Vespers**

2/6 **Th** **7:00 am – Men's Reading Group**

2/8 **Sa** **5:30 pm – Learn Byzantine Tones**  
**6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline**

2/9 **Su** **Lenten Triodion Begins**  
**8:20 am – Orthros**  
**9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – Pharisee & Publican**  
**10:20 am – Church School Catechism**

*Looking Ahead—*

February 10 *Morning Divine Liturgy*  
*Bible Study*

February 11 *Akathist to the Theotokos for healing*  
*Adult choir rehearsal*

February 14-16 *Youth Winter Camp @ St. Nicholas Camp*

February 16 ***Sunday of the Prodigal***  
*Adult choir rehearsal*

February 17 *Bible Study*

February 19 *Parish Council*

February 23 ***Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)***  
*Catechism*  
*Youth choir practice*  
*Community Dinner*

### **FEBRUARY 16 AED TRAINING**

Victor Albers will hold a training on how to use the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on Sunday, February 16 after Divine Liturgy. Location to be determined.

### *Many Years – Birthday*

<i>Josh Nicholas</i>	<i>February 2</i>
<i>Kh. Ellen Steiger</i>	<i>February 4</i>
<i>Calvin Lewis</i>	<i>February 5</i>
<i>Willie Steiger</i>	<i>February 8</i>

Feast of the  
**Presentation of the Lord in the Temple**  
**TODAY**  
Feast Day Ministry Team and  
Coffee Hour Team are hosting  
a brunch after the Services

### **CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS & INFORMATION**

If you are having trouble logging into your Breeze account and you want to include an updated photo in the new church directory, please email the photo to Terry Cleary: [tlcleary@gmail.com](mailto:tlcleary@gmail.com). If your family information—birth dates and years, anniversary date and year, contact information, etc.—are not up to date and you can't log into your account, let Terry know and she will send you a new link to the Breeze website, the site where we keep our church membership data. If you have forgotten your password, you will have an opportunity to create a new one when you log into Breeze.

***Adult choir rehearsal today***

*6:00 am Monday February 10*  
*Divine Liturgy – Hieromartyr Haralambos*

## LOOKING AHEAD TOWARDS LENT

Last weekend the Zacchaeus Sunday Gospel concluded with the little Publican confessing to Jesus and his other guests that he had gotten rich from cheating people on their taxes. His next words showed that he understood what **had** to come next if his confession was to be genuine: restitution to those he wronged, charity for the poor.

This is an opportunity to re-examine the truly Orthodox view of confession, not as self-punishment or self-disrespect, but rather as a golden and joyful opportunity. The following quote sums it up quite nicely.

“To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God’s love. It is not to look backwards with self-reproach, but forward with trustfulness. It is to see not what I have failed to be, but what, by the grace of Christ, I might yet become.” (St. John Chrysostom)

Ask yourself if St. John doesn’t have something good for you in that quote! It is the rare Christian indeed who isn’t tempted to look down on her/himself, or backward at all the mistakes and missed opportunities of life. May we be encouraged this Lent to instead look forward to a confession that leads to what we still might become in Christ!

## **Biennial Archdiocese Convention July 20-27**

**Hyatt Regency O’Hare Chicago**  
Hosted by St. George Church, Cicero, IL  
[www.ac2025chicago.org](http://www.ac2025chicago.org)

## KITCHEN DONATIONS

There will be a donation jar in the parish hall to collect donations towards the kitchen refurbishment. Please contribute as you are able.

### *Memory Eternal*

February 2

John Johnson

February 8

Fr. Jack Sparks

## LOS ANGELES FIRE RELIEF FUND

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS) is united in faith and joined by a desire to provide solutions to poverty in communities across America. FOCUS is responding to the fires in southern California through the Los Angeles Fire Relief Fund. A donation to the Fund will directly provide: gift cards for immediate needs, essential items like food, clothing, and hygiene supplies, and rebuilding assistance to help families restore what was lost. To donate go [here](#).

## **Parish Life Conference - June 25-29**

**Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport**

**Hosted by St. Nicholas Church**

[www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)

## PREPARATION FOR LENT

We have been invited to join St. Stephen Antiochian Orthodox Church at 65 E. Rincon Ave. in Campbell for a pre-Lenten presentation on “Preparation for Lent” with Fr. John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon’s Seminary. They will have Great Vespers next Saturday, February 8, at 5:00 pm, followed by the talk. All are encouraged to attend.

## WHY CANDLES FOR THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST?

In about 450 AD in Jerusalem, people began the custom of holding lighted candles during the Divine Liturgy of this feast day. As St. Simeon received Christ in his arms, he exclaimed, “A light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.” So we bring candles to the church to be blessed and give thanks for Christ the true light whom we have received. For Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who referred to Himself as the Light of the World. In some Western traditions you may even hear the feast called Candlemas.

**“Let us become like Christ,  
since Christ became like us.”  
St. Gregory of Nazianzus**