

VARIABLES – FEBRUARY 2, 2025

## SS. PETER & PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELS AND THE WEST

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER DILLON, PASTOR

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE WASHBURN, REVEREND FATHER JOHN CHRISTIANSON

*“The person who loves God cannot help loving every man as himself, even though he is grieved by the passions of those who are not yet purified. But when they amend their lives, his delight is indescribable and knows no bounds.” ~ St. Maximos the Confessor*

**Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us this morning!** Please sign our Guest Register as you enter the church and be our guest for coffee and refreshments this morning after the service is over. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Ss. Peter and Paul.

### Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

#### Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Hymns & Scriptures

**Variable Hymns** – *see music in packet*

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 7, Byzantine

Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross; thou didst open paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim a warning that thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ, Tn. 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.

Clergy only – Kontakion of the Presentation of Christ, Tn. 1, Byzantine

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.

**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.”

**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 has 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.

**Receiving Holy Communion:** Only Orthodox Christians prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice "open communion" and has no intercommunion with non-Orthodox churches.

**After taking Communion:** Please return to your place and continue standing until the announcements.

### ***Today's Commemorations and Prayer Requests***

*Take this list of prayer requests home with you and keep these people in your prayers this week.*

**For the living:** Newly illumined Thomas, Anthony, Elijah, Emilia; Bp. Anthony; Prs. John, Thomas; Khs. Barbara, Carla, Ellen; Lynne, John, Stephanie, Josh, Calvin, Willie, Mike, Betty, Hugh, Jim, Timothy, Alexander, Jeremiah, Alex, Sophia, Hector, Saoirse, Michael, Persephone, Samuel, Verity, Christine, Atticus, Evelyn, Enrica, Jon & Serenity, Ada, Grayson, Emmett, Sage, Rosanna, Beverly, all our faithful and all our fellow citizens in our counties and cities, especially those enduring the wildfires raging in Los Angeles County.

**For those who are pregnant and their unborn children:** Monica, Helen, Pres. Nikoletta.

**For the reposed:** Newly reposed April & family; Met. Philip; Aps. Gordon, Jack; Prs. Tom, Stephen, Basil, David, Terry; Igm. Leonty; Hmks. Ephraim, John, Athanasios; Mnk. Simeon; Dns. Mark, John, Mark, Nathaniel, David, Joseph, Michael, Daniel; Khs. Judy, Jedonne, Terry Elizabeth, Doris; Pres. Zinnia, Barbara; Mka. Anna; Boris, Glaphyra; John; Fred, Ken & Vivian, Virgil, Beatrice, James, Rick, Amy, Hudson.

**For those serving in the Armed Forces:** Brycen, Jonathan, David, Jacob, Gregory, Daniel, Don, Scott, Michelle, Noah.