

THE MESSENGER

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH • PO BOX 12635 • 5400 ANNIE OAKLEY DRIVE
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FEBRUARY 2016 ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD

Every pastor in the Orthodox Church is used to great themes that play out during the course of the Church Year. The new year begins in September, heralding once again a renewal when we enter into the cycle of feasts and fasts that allow us to see and share in the whole salvation history given to us by our Savior. Church School and adult discussion groups starts. The schedule ramps up seriously after a quieter summer.

Then we begin the preparation for the great revelation feasts of the Nativity of Our Lord, then His Theophany. The Nativity Fast allows us to cleanse our souls and bodies in preparation for this wonderful time. Then the celebration of the Nativity in all of its glory fulfills the forty days. Eleven days of feasting (no fasting allowed) end with the strict fast of the Eve of Theophany then explodes into the joy of the Theophany, when the waters are blessed, renewing all of creation. The great theme (and calendar buster) of house blessings season follows. Every pastor then gears up for the rigors of Great Lent with all of its fasting, extra services, confessions and diligent care for our souls. Holy Week and Pascha allow us to share in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord. The joyful paschal season lasts for forty long days of light. Right around Pentecost we begin to move into the slower summertime again, although the Great and Holy Feasts of Transfiguration and the Dormition of the Theotokos, which bring us to the end of the church year, are truly beautiful celebrations. Then we reload and start again!

Which brings us to February.

February has its own unique rhythm. It always (more or less) is the month that points us to the coming of the Great Fast. The Lenten Triodion, the special liturgical book for the pre-Lenten Sundays and all the days of Great Lent, always makes its debut in February. This year, it is on February 21. This year, because Pascha falls so late and only the first two Sundays of the Triodion fall during February, the month stands out for what I see as our call to four great encounters with God.

The first encounter with God comes when we celebrate the *Great and Holy Feast of the Meeting of our Lord* on February 2. This feast celebrates the fulfillment by Joseph and Mary of the Law by bringing their forty-day old infant Son to the Temple. What really stands out about that day, however, is the encounter of Christ with the Righteous Elder Simeon. Fr. John Hondros, in the February St. John's Newsletter, offered this biographical information:

“St. Simeon, whom St. Luke describes in his Gospel as “righteous and devout,” was quite old – in fact, 360 years-old! – when he was blessed to receive the Christ child in his arms. Simeon was one of the seventy scholars called to Alexandria by the Egyptian Pharaoh, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, in the 3rd Century BC, to translate the Holy Scriptures into Greek – this version is called the Septuagint (“the book of the seventy”) and is the translation of the Old Testament used by the Orthodox Church. While Simeon was translating the Prophecy of Isaiah and read the words, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son . . .” (Isaiah 7:14), he wanted to correct the text to read “woman.” At that moment an angel appeared to the young Simeon and held back his hand, promising that he would not die until he beheld the Messiah born of a Virgin – and for this reason, St. Luke records that Simeon was “looking for the consolation of Israel.” (Luke 2:25)”

FEBRUARY 2016

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church • Las Vegas, Nevada

	1	2 DIVINE LITURGY, 8:00 AM MEETING OF THE LORD BLESSING OF CANDLES	3	4 ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM COFFEE CHAT, 10:00 AM	5	6 GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM CONFESSIONS	
	VESPERS/LITIYA, 6:30 PM BLESSING OF CANDLES		ADULT CLASS ONLY, 7:00 PM				
7 DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM HOURS: TESFAY EPISTLE: PARKER POST-COMM: WHEELER CHURCH SCHOOL	8	9	10	11 ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM NO COFFEE CHAT	12 CLANTON MEMORIAL SERVICE, 10:00 AM	13 RUSSIAN CONFESSIONS, 9 AM SLAVONIC LITURGY, 10 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL, 3 PM GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM CONFESSIONS	
		PARISH COUNCIL, 6:00 PM	ADULT CLASS ONLY, 7:00 PM	FATHER JOHN OUT OF TOWN DIOCESAN COUNCIL, SAN FRANCISCO, FEB 10-11			
14 DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM HOURS: HUFFMAN EPISTLE: STRANSKY POST-COMM: DEMKO CHURCH SCHOOL	15	16	17	18 ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM NO COFFEE CHAT	19	20 GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM CONFESSIONS	
		FATHER JOHN OUT OF TOWN, FEBRUARY 15-20, METROPOLITAN COUNCIL, SYOSSET, NY	ADULT CLASS ONLY, 7:00 PM				
21 DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM HOURS: DEMKO EPISTLE: HOOD POST-COMM: PARKER CHURCH SCHOOL PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE	FAST FREE	22	23	24	25 ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM COFFEE CHAT, 10:00 AM	26	27 CHOIR REHEARSAL, 3 PM GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM CONFESSIONS
		FAST FREE	FAST FREE	FAST FREE	FAST FREE	FAST FREE	
28 DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM HOURS: STRANSKY EPISTLE: E. HUFFMAN POST-COMM: BROOKS CHURCH SCHOOL PRODIGAL SON	29	GREETERS FEB 7: WHEELER/CHONG FEB 14: MCAULEY/OSBURN FEB 21: CAMPBELL/STAFFORD FEB 28: MCAULEY/DEMKO					

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

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Eritrean & Ethiopian Outreach
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Russian Outreach
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Church School/Youth
Dn. Stephen Osburn, Jr.
Amy McAuley
Stephan Tanksley

Fellowship Committee
Charity Committee

Simeon was promised by God that he would not die before he saw the Messiah. When Mary brought Jesus into the temple, Simeon knew that the promise had been fulfilled. He took up the infant Son of God and prayed “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word...” We sing the whole prayer to this day every time we serve Vespers.

This encounter is our call to “receive” Christ, just like St. Simeon did. Recognize Him, embrace Him, thank God for Him, and know that we, too, can “depart in peace” for our eyes have seen Him.

The second encounter happens on February 14 (no, not Valentine’s Day!), when in the Slavic tradition on the last Sunday before the Lenten Triodion begins, we hear the story of *Zacchaeus, the tax collector*. This encounter happened when Jesus was passing by and Zacchaeus (who was “short of stature”) could not see for the crowd so he climbed a tree. Jesus looked up and called him down in order to go to his house!

This encounter is our call to encounter Christ in our own lives by having such *desire* to see Him that

we don’t let anything which makes us “small” prevent us from welcoming Christ into our homes. This begins our journey towards Great Lent. We must desire Christ so much that our repentance washes away the smallness, the pettiness, the hardness, which impedes us from seeing Him.

The third encounter is given to us when the Triodion begins on February 21 with the *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee*. Both men in the parable encounter God in the temple through their prayer. But one has a fruitful encounter and one of condemnation. The publican (again, a tax collector!) cannot even lift his head in this encounter because he is so convicted by his sin. His *humility* turns an encounter filled with fear and sorrow into an encounter with mercy, love and forgiveness.

The Pharisee (one of the teachers of the Law, a very learned person) doesn’t bow his head. Instead, he looks God right in the eye in his encounter and justifies himself, “Thank you, Lord, that I’m not like others, especially this publican right over here.” His pride and boastfulness turn his encounter with God into the

MARK THE DATES

February 2: MEETING OF THE LORD, Liturgy 8:00 AM

February 9: Parish Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

February 10-11: Father John out of town (Diocesan Council, SF)

**February 13: Russian Confessions, 9:00 AM; Slavonic Liturgy, 10:00 AM
CHOIR REHEARSAL, 3:00 PM**

February 15-19: Father John out of town (Metropolitian Council, NY)

February 21: Publican and Pharisee (Lenten Triodion begins)

February 22-27: FAST-FREE

February 27: CHOIR REHEARSAL, 3:00 PM

March 5-6: Visit of Archbishop Benjamin

Ordination of Deacon Stephen to the Holy Priesthood

Send email addresses and corrections to:
fatherjohn@lasvegasorthodox.com

conviction and condemnation that the publican so tearfully tried to turn away from.

So we are called to encounter God with the spirit of humility embodied in the publican. As we inch closer and closer to Great Lent and the efforts that we plan on making, we must do so remembering this encounter and choose to seek forgiveness in humility or find condemnation in our pride.

The fourth and final encounter that the Church gives us this month in on February 28, the *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*. This encounter is different than the others, for the encounter happens when God is not present. The son takes his inheritance from his Father and squanders it in sinful living and finds himself an outcast in abject poverty and hunger. It is in this nothingness that he begins to discover that his only salvation was to run back to the Father. His realization of *exile* and desire to return home prepares his heart for true repentance. He returns to his Father prepared to serve as a servant, not a son. But the Father embraces him and prepares a feast to celebrate.

This final encounter in this wonderful month of February this year calls us to realize that each of us is already in exile. We have squandered what God has given us and all He desires is that we return. It is in this realization – this exile – that we encounter the living God and all of His love and mercy. It is a realization that we must have as we enter into the Fast.

So we have the great blessing this year because of the calendar for Pascha to have these four wonderful encounters with God in liturgical celebration! Don't squander the opportunity!

Father John

FEASTDAYS

During February, we celebrate the following feast:

MEETING OF OUR LORD

February 2

VESPERS WITH LITTYA, 6:30 PM (MON)

BLESSING OF CANDLES

DIVINE LITURGY, 8:00 AM (TUES)

BLESSING OF CANDLES

BLESSING OF CANDLES

The Church traditionally blesses candles on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. We will bless our parish stock, but everyone is welcome to bring candles from home for blessing also. We will bless after both Vespers and Liturgy.

TRAVELS

Father John will be away February 10-11 for the meeting of our Diocesan Council in San Francisco and February 15-19 for the meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the OCA in New York. Deacon Stephen (702-521-6988) and Matushka Liz (860-983-1083) will still be here and you can contact either if you have a pastoral emergency. Please note schedule changes on the monthly calendar because of these meetings.

Because of the Metropolitan Council meeting, the normal Parish Council meeting will be held one week earlier than usual (February 9 instead of February 16) at the same time, 6:00 PM.

SLAVONIC SERVICE

Father Alexander will be here on the customary second Saturday of the month (February 13). Russian language confessions begin at 9:00 AM. Slavonic Liturgy is scheduled for 10:00 AM.

FAST-FREE WEEK

The week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is always a **fast-**

free week in the Orthodox Church. This year, that is February 22-27.

PROJECT MEXICO

St Paul's has teamed up with Amazon to have a small bit of your purchase go towards our Project Mexico Youth Trip. So before you order anything from Amazon online, type in the link and thank you for your support.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/88-0242982>

A reminder that we still have 2016 Orthodox Wall Calendars available in the vestibule for a minimum donation of \$5.00 per calendar. All the proceeds from those sales go to our Project Mexico trip.

COFFEE CHAT

Well, our little Thursday morning group has killed yet another restaurant! Our Coffee Chat will now be meeting at the Black Bear Diner (Green Valley Parkway just south of Sunset). **Please note the change in location.** Time remains the same (10:00 AM).

VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN

Please mark your calendars and make plans to be with us for a great parish celebration. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, will be at St. Paul's on the weekend of March 5-6. At the Divine Liturgy he will ordain Deacon Stephen Osburn to the Holy Priesthood. It is a great blessing to a parish to have one of its sons offer himself in service to the Church. Everyone should be present.

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

Forgiveness Sunday this year falls on March 13. We will have Forgiveness Vespers after the Divine Liturgy. This is our liturgical entrance into Great Lent. The Rite of Forgiveness is our opportunity to embrace each other,

forgive each other, and know God's love. **Every Orthodox Christian** makes every effort to be present for this most important celebration.

LOOKING AHEAD

Attached to this newsletter are two flyers: one with the schedule of our pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers on Sunday evenings and the other for the Lenten Retreat scheduled for April 9 at St. John's Church. Please plan ahead and join us in worship and spiritual reflection.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Our next Feeding the Homeless project date is to be determined, but probably in March. If you can donate any of the items needed for the lunches (or funds to provide such), it would be appreciated.

ADULT FAITH FORUM

Our Wednesday evening Adult Faith Forum sessions continue. We will have Daily Vespers at 6:30 PM, followed by a one hour discussion. This year's topic is *Christ and the Church in the Old Testament*. Please join us!

On Wednesday, January 20, there will be **class only** (no Vespers) at 7:00 PM.

CHARITY

Our normal collections of food for Friends of the Desert continue. Needs: jelly, jam, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned tuna/chicken. Thank you!

ORTHODOX VENDORS

A list of businesses that our parish uses or are owned and operated by Orthodox Christians (some parishioners). We provide this information for you to consider if you need services.

CB Air Conditioning
Cedomir Blagojevic

(702) 493-0295

Dolphin Court Salon & Day Spa
7581 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
(702) 946-6000

Kyklos Café (Greek food)
Galleria Mall
Sophocles Frangakis
(702) 450-1515

Westfield Eye Center
C. Edward Yee, MD
2575 Lindell Road
(702) 362-3937

PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

We ask everyone to remember our parish in daily prayer:
Lord, God and Savior of all, we thank You for the blessing of St. Paul parish in our lives. May Your word become alive in each and every one of us who strive to follow You. Please bless and multiply all the gifts – time, talent and treasure – which are given in thanks to benefit our mission and glorify Your name. Bless and multiply the givers and help us all to make present Your Kingdom. For You are the Giver of all that is good, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

SACRAMENTS/SPECIAL SERVICES

Please follow these guidelines.

- Baptisms. A personal meeting scheduled with Fr. John will be necessary to schedule any baptism requested.
- Matrimony. A date and time for weddings must be requested at least six months (preferably twelve) in advance. There will be premarital sessions for both bride and groom to attend.
- Memorials (Panikhida). Requests

for a memorial must be made at least one week in advance. If possible, the service should be served on Saturday. Other requests will be met as pastorally possible.

PARISH COUNCIL SYNOPSIS JANUARY 12, 2016 MEETING

Rector's Report: Welcomed 2016 council members, all of whom are returning, encouraging them to serve as examples for the parish.

Reminded members he will travel to NY next week for the OCA Finance Committee 18-21 of January. Father will be away again in February, 10-11 in San Francisco for Diocesan Council and 15-20 in New York for the Metropolitan Council. No substitute clergy will be needed. The February parish council meeting will take place on the second Tuesday the 9th.

Reminded council of Archbishop Benjamin's visit on March 5-6 during which Deacon Stephen Osburn will be ordained to the priesthood.

Informed council of the tragic events involving the Clanton family who had been parishioners of St. Paul's. Father asked for prayers for this distressed family.

Vice President's Report: Coffee hour fundraising for the youth planning to attend Project Mexico generally went well. However the young people needed some reminders to pitch in more with the set up and cleaning since the adults and parents ended up doing most of the work.

Informed council her church school classroom still has a hole in the ceiling and no heat in winter and no AC in summer. Kevin will look into it.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Short distributed our financials before the meeting:

Capital Fund: \$4,099.86
Rainy Day: \$12,262.63

Icon Fund: \$10,255.64

Income for December was \$20,565.84, with expenses of \$19,721.98 for a surplus of \$843.86.

FINAL 2015

2015 Inc	\$ 245,686.77
2015 Exp	\$ 226,235.77
Inc over Exp	\$ 19,451.00

All parish finances including accounts payable are totally current.

Informed council the parish will gain \$16,567.00 from bond program reimbursement. The amount available that can be drawn on is \$93,275.44. The balance available for improvements after reimbursement is \$76,708.44.

Of the \$16,567.00, Karen requested that \$8,500 go into the Rainy Day Fund to bring it up to \$20,000. Once the Rainy Day Fund reaches \$20,000, she would consider this adequate to meet any emergency parish needs and would stop funding it. She recommended putting this money into a 6-12 month CD which would gain slightly more interest than it is earning currently. Should funds be needed before maturity, they could still be drawn from the CD since the amount it would lose in interest would be insignificant at current rates. The remainder of the \$16,567.00 would go into advance payment on the bond. Parish council members approved her proceeding with this plan.

An amortization interest schedule is still needed from GoldStar Trust. Karen and Father John will pursue this with GoldStar Trust.

COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds: Kevin will meet with the door company rep tomorrow for final measurements so that new doors can be installed on the church. Actual cost of the doors is 10 to 11 K. Installation is estimated

price.

New cabinets in parish hall and sound barriers will be done when Kevin has the free time. Planning has been for basic white cabinets, but Karen Murphy informed the council that her husband, Bill, has kitchen design experience and purchasing ability through Home Depot, and may be able to special order them at reasonable rates provided he is given the specifications. Kevin will contact him via e-mail with the specifics.

Father informed council that Luis, a cleaning contractor for Ginny Hood's school, has offered to provide cleaning for the parish facilities. Following consensus from parish council, he has already done the hall and restrooms and Father stated he was pleased with the results. Luis has additionally offered to buff the parish hall/kitchen floors twice a year and clean the carpeting in the church. He is bonded and insured but will be working outside of his employer "Coverall". He invoices once a month.

The landscaper LDI wants to apply preventive weed killer before the spring at a cost of \$240, also to add additional wood chips in the courtyard at a cost of \$1035. Consensus was that this price was approvable.

Charity: Cathy informed council that the next homeless feeding is this Saturday, the 16th. Funds from 2015 have been fully spent on food and supplies for the homeless. Charity committee will meet on a Sunday after Liturgy when all members can be present. Members include Cathy Wilkalis, Karen Murphy, Jeremiah Bezona, Jim Parker, and Rae Pattison.

Rae and Cathy previously discussed the School Bags for Syria project, and Rae is planning to proceed with this starting in February for a total of 50 bags. She has sewing people lined up.

IOCC: Joe Wheeler reported that Nick Kasemeotis' slide talk in December was a most informative, eye-opening presentation about conditions in Syria usually ignored by news media. He will speak and present again at St John Greek Orthodox Church in April.

Church School/Youth: Deacon Stephen reported that 3 young people are unable to go to Project Mexico, but 3 new potential volunteers have replaced them. Sale of church calendars earned \$525 and designated coffee hour proceeds earned \$551 for a total of \$1076. Two parishioners have offered to sponsor a couple of kids and will help out if we come up short. Another fundraiser is still needed to give a total of \$5000.00 that will be due payable in March. If there is extra, it will be used to cover possible contingencies that may occur during travel.

Eritrean/Ethiopian: Informed council that there were serious problems again with the condition of the church, parish hall and restrooms after the last Eritrean service. Father talked with Tekeste to the effect that they would no longer be permitted the use of the parish facilities. After negotiating, they were allowed one last chance. Any further lapses will be cause for denial of use.

Fellowship: The chili cook-off will take place Saturday, Jan 23rd after Vespers. Nine cooks are in the running so far.

Outreach/website: No report.

Russian: Father Alexander will not be here in January.

Stewardship: Currently we have received only 23 pledge forms totaling 38 adults. We are below average in number of pledges. Average pledge, however, is \$6,500; two are > 10 K.

Father will make another little push campaign.

OLD BUSINESS

Iconography: Status quo.

Security Concern: activity from the cult group Koosha has been quiet lately but Gregory Brooks has researched an action plan and will get it to Father by this Thursday. Discussion and questions ensued between Gregory, Father John and council members regarding usher responsibilities, usher training, legal guidelines, and attorney representation.

NEW BUSINESS

Usher/Greeter Training: In reference to the above old business item, Father John is thinking about organizing some usher training. Guidelines are needed for ushers, and greeters as well as some posted guidelines for behavior of people entering the church during services, lighting candles at appropriate times, etc. Two people have volunteered to be new ushers: Bill Stafford, and George Demko.

Next Council Meeting:
Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

PARISH DIPTYCHS

This list of parish departed is to remind us all of those whom we love and miss and to spur us to remember them in our daily prayers. They will be remembered in the proskomedia before each liturgy.

MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Antonina Stark
February 2, 1994

Amelia Zalo
February 8, 2008

Peter Lazadoff
February 10, 1993

Samuel Berhe Tella
February 13, 1991

Gurii Mirosnicenco
February 13, 2010

Edward Grudzina
February 14, 2010

Mary Maviglia
February 18, 1998

Raicevich Harrison
February 18, 1999

Milica Primaky
February 25, 1995

Fred Leo Bell
February 25, 1996

Christina Hollis
February 26, 1998

Bekure Hailu Fesehaye
February 28, 1992

James Mezilson
February 28, 1998

Maria Jamieson
February 28, 2002

Irene Wadhams
February 28, 2002

Melvin Stokich
February 28, 2003

THE RIGHTEOUS ELDER SIMEON

Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver was, according to the testimony of the holy Evangelist Luke, a just and devout man waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him (Luke 2:25). God promised him that he would not die until the promised Messiah, Christ the Lord, came into the world.

Ancient historians tell us that the Egyptian pharaoh Ptolemy II Phila-

delphus (285-247 B.C.) wished to include texts of Holy Scripture in the famous Library at Alexandria. He invited scholars from Jerusalem, and the Sanhedrin sent their wise men. The Righteous Simeon was one of the seventy scholars who came to Alexandria to translate the Holy Scriptures into Greek. The completed work was called "The Septuagint," and is the version of the Old Testament used by the Orthodox Church.

St Simeon was translating a book of the Prophet Isaiah, and read the words: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son" (Is 7:14). He thought that "virgin" was inaccurate, and he wanted to correct the text to read "woman." At that moment an angel appeared to him and held back his hand saying, "You shall see these words fulfilled. You shall not die until you behold Christ the Lord born of a pure and spotless Virgin."

From this day, St Simeon lived in expectation of the Promised Messiah. One day, the righteous Elder received a revelation from the Holy Spirit, and came to the Temple. It was on the very day (the fortieth after the Birth of Christ) when the All-Pure Virgin Mary and St Joseph had come to the Temple in order to perform the ritual prescribed by Jewish Law.

When St Simeon beheld their arrival, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that the divine Child held by the All-Pure Virgin Mary was the Promised Messiah, the Savior of the world. The Elder took the Child in his arms 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 before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory

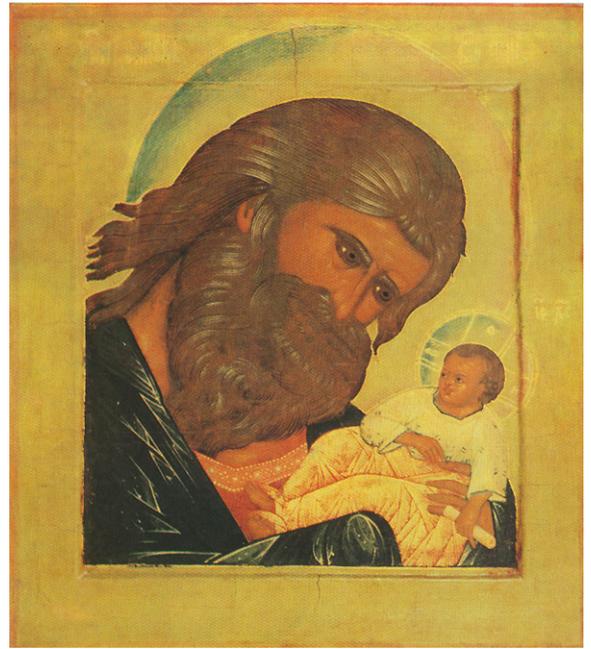
of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

There is a Christian epigram (Number 46) in “The Greek Anthology” which is addressed to St Simeon. It tells the righteous Elder to receive the Child Who was born before Adam, and Who will deliver Simeon from this life and bring him to eternal life. A similar idea is expressed in the Aposticha (Slavic use) for the Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord (December 24). There the Mother of God refers to her Son as “older than ancient Adam.”

Simeon blessed the All-Pure Virgin and St Joseph, and turning to the Mother of God he said, “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).

The holy Evangelist continues: “And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Aser. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not leave the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming at that very hour, also gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption at Jerusalem” (Luke 2:36-38).

The holy righteous Simeon the God-Receiver died at a great age (Tradition says he was 360). His holy relics were transferred to Constantinople in the sixth century. His grave was seen by the Russian pilgrim St Anthony, the future Archbishop of Novgorod (October 8) in 1200. (oca. org)



A PRAYER IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

O God, our help and assistance, who are just and merciful, and who hear the supplications of Your people; look down upon me, a miserable sinner, have mercy upon me, and deliver me from this trouble that besets me, for which, I know, I am deservedly suffering. I acknowledge and believe, O Lord, that all trials of this life are given by You for our chastisement, when we drift away from You and disobey Your commandments; deal not with me after my sins, but according to Your bountiful mercies, for I am the work of Your hands, and You know my weakness. Grant me, I beseech You, Your divine helping grace, and endow me with patience and strength to endure my tribulations with complete submission to Your Will. You know my misery and suffering and to You, my only hope and refuge, I flee for relief and comfort; trusting to Your infinite love and compassion, that in due time, when You know best, You will deliver me from this trouble, and turn my distress into comfort, when I shall rejoice in Your mercy, and exalt and praise Your Holy Name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER AFTER DELIVERANCE FROM TROUBLES

Almighty and merciful God, I most humbly and heartily thank Your divine majesty for Your loving kindness and tender mercies, that You have heard my humble prayer, and graciously vouchsafed to deliver me from my trouble and misery. Grant me, I beseech You, Your helping grace, that I may obediently walk in Your holy commandments, and lead a sober, righteous and godly life, ever remembering Your mercies, and the blessings You have undeservedly bestowed upon me, that I may continually offer to You the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.