

## Scripture Readings

**EPISTLE II Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1** Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**GOSPEL Matthew 15:21-28** At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.



## Gospel Reflection: What Do I Do When God Doesn't Answer My Prayer?

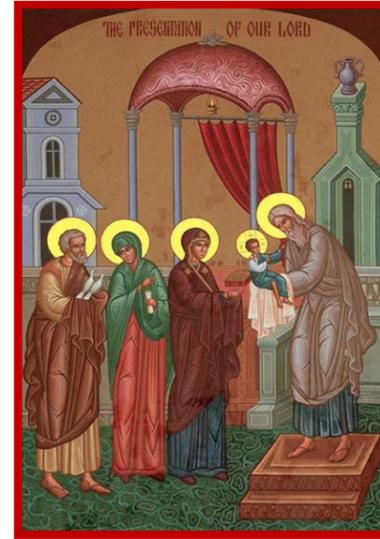


This pre-Lenten Sunday reminds us of an important element of the spiritual life: perseverance in prayer. The Canaanite woman approaches Jesus telling him her daughter was possessed by a demon (likely a physical illness). Jesus response was silence. He appears to ignore her. The disciples complain that the woman was pestering them, probably to heal her daughter as well. The more the woman met resistance, the more she drew close to Jesus. She was a Canaanite, a gentile despised by the Jews. Jesus even likens her to a dog, saying: "It is not fair to take the children's (Jews) bread and throw it to the dogs." The woman persists and Jesus pronounces her great faith to all present — granting healing to her daughter. Far from

actually being callous to the woman's need, Jesus engaged her in this personal struggle to teach a lesson. He resisted her to the limits he thought she could take and she proved him right. She persisted in her pleading, mindful only of her suffering daughter's plight. When Jesus pushed back, she approached all the more boldly. In the end she achieved her objective — her daughter was restored to health. God may seem silent to us when we pray. Like the Canaanite woman, we ask and receive no response. We wonder why God seems deaf to our cry or indifferent to our need. We may even blame ourselves for past sins and indiscretions, thinking that God's "deafness" is His way of revenge. Today's Gospel passage gives us insight into the real human dilemma: What do I do when God doesn't answer my prayer? Like the Canaanite woman, we must persevere and persist. She did not give up, she overcame the religious prejudice of the Jews, she didn't let Jesus' silence thwart her, even when she was likened to a dog at the master's table, she pushed through all the more determined. Why? It was love that compelled her, moved her, drove her to seek wholeness and healing for her daughter. Even though she didn't know Jesus personally, she knew, as did many, that this rabbi was different, that he possessed a power over life and death, that he had healed countless others and could heal her own offspring. Her persistence was rooted in love—that's why she never gave up. It is the same for us. God's ways are not our ways, but he always hears our cry and is never indifferent to it. He will reach out in his time and manner and meet our needs — as long as we are rooted in love, asking in love, motivated by love. He will never hold our sins against us as a weapon. Our perseverance is a sign that we know, deep down, that he will provide exactly what we need in the way he sees is best for us. Because we are sons and daughters of the same Father, how could he not?

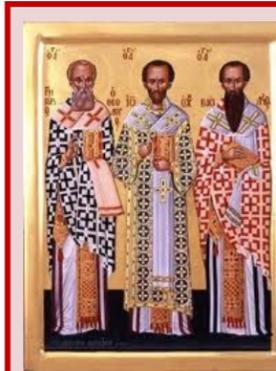
## Orthodox Life: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

**Thursday, February 2: Orthros 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM**



The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple (also called the Presentation) is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on February 2 and February 15 (Patristic Calendar). In Eastern tradition, it is often called The Meeting of Our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, because the hymns emphasize the incarnate God, the Lord Jesus Christ, meeting with his people, Israel, in the persons of the Prophet Simeon and the Prophetess Anna. In the Gospel of Luke 2:22-40, Mary and Joseph took the infant Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem. He was received in the arms of the elder Simeon, who then prayed, "Now let Thy servant depart in peace... for I have seen Thy salvation." This was one of the things that Mary "pondered in her heart"—the fact that others recognized that her Son was the Messiah — the Christ of God. The Gospel reading tells of the Most Holy Virgin, who had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement, humbly fulfilling the requirements of the Law. It tells of St. Simeon who receives Christ as the Lord, not only of Israel, but of all nations and peoples. God was received as the Lord of all not simply the Lord of the

few. The theme of the Feast tells of the changing from the Old Testament to the New Testament, the old law becomes something new, and the path to salvation is now to be had through Jesus — God's face in human history.



### **Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs**

**Monday, January 30: Orthros 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM**

The Feast of Sts. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom on January 30 was instituted around 1100 AD, during the reign of Emperor Alexis I Comnenus. At that time, the citizenry took theology and religious debate very seriously. Strife arose among otherwise notable and virtuous men over which of the three theologians, hundreds of years after they had departed this life, was indeed the greatest! In order to further distinguish themselves from each other, the parties assumed the name of their preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Joannites. By the grace of God, the three Saints appeared together to St. John Mauropos, a monk. They revealed to him that the glory they have before the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty. From that time on, the three were honored together. O Three Holy Hierarchs, great lights of the Orthodox Christian faith, pray to God that our souls may be saved!

### **For The Blessed Repose**



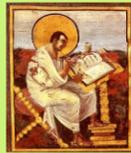
Potula Pahygiannis (40 Days)  
Gus Geckos (1 Year)  
Angeliki Bothos (1 Year)  
Apostolos Cominos (3 Years)  
Georgia Cominos (3 Years)  
George Bothos (12 Years)  
Chrysoula Perlatti (17 Years)  
John Pahygiannis (24 Years)

Offered by their loving families  
for their blessed repose.

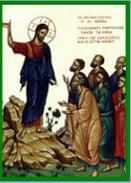
Eternal be their memory!

## For Their Health and Salvation

His Eminence Metropolitan +Panteleimon; His Eminence Archbishop +Pavlos of Aleppo and His Eminence Mar +Gregorios Ioanna of Aleppo, who were kidnapped; persecuted Christians of the Middle East, the Nun Theodora, Sally Katson, Betty Jean Dubard, Aris Peterson, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Despina Bayz, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Joy Kizzie, Lori, Peter, Marie Burpeau, Bill Pastis, Frosso Malavakis, Marge Costas, Christopher Costas, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, George, Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; Lynne; Selena Pappas, George, Andrianna, Michalis, Kosma, Yianni, Alfred Q., Staff Sergeant Nicholas Comas.



**BIBLE STUDY:** Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. We are examining the second half of the Gospel of St. Luke (Chapter 12 and following). All are invited, even if you missed the first half! It's an excellent way to prepare for Great Lent.



**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS 2016-2017:** "Modern Trials to Our Ancient Faith: The Challenges to Living Orthodoxy in America," is offered every Sunday through May 14 starting 11:30 AM in the Church library. Contact Michael Haldas at Michael.haldas@verizon.net for additional information.

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a Special General Assembly after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 5, 2017. It will be held in the Chapel. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on the sale of 7733 Bradley Blvd. to the Metropolitan Washington Orthodox Senior Housing (MWOSH), Incorporated. Those eligible to vote are those who have met their pledge commitment for 2016 in full and have pledged and paid 1/12 of your 2017 pledge. This is a very important meeting that affects the life and good order of our parish family. Please make time to join us!

### PARISH ACTIVITIES

**GOYA BAKE SALE TODAY:** GOYA will be having a Bake Sale Fundraiser TODAY during coffee hour. Individual treats such as muffins, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. will be sold as well as whole baked goods such as pies, cakes, tarts, etc. Thank you for supporting GOYA!

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** Feb 7 at 6:00 PM at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD. Building and nurturing the leadership of men to lead the next generation in the knowledge of God. All men are welcome - join us!

**GODPARENT/GODCHILD LUNCHEON:** In the Grand Hall, Sunday, February 12, following Divine Liturgy. (Adults \$20, Children under 12, \$12, children under 3, free;) There will be music and dancing. Advance table reservation must be made by Sunday, February 4 to Fran Solovieff at FPVLANTIS@AOL.COM Registrations are also accepted online at [https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form\\_response.php?id=133](https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=133) For additional information please contact Maria Campbell at MariaDCampbell@yahoo.com

**50 PLUS:** Jerry Palazo holds Senior Exercises starting on January 18th, between 12:00 PM and 1:00pm at the Church. We will be having our Breakfast on Monday February 6th at the Original Pancake House on Rockville Pike at 10:00am. On February 8th, at 11:30am, we will be having Our Annual Valentine Day Party at 11:30am at Normandie Farm, Potomac, Md. Cost is \$30 per person and main entree selections are Salmon or Chicken. Call Maria 240-421- 9909 for reservations or questions.

**APOKRIATIKO GLENDI:** Hosted by the St. George Greek School will take place on February 24 at 7:00 PM. This is an event for the entire family. Cost is \$15 per person and children 2 and under are free. Tickets include a DJ, dinner and soft drinks. There will be a cash bar. A costume contest begins at 8:30 PM. TO purchase tickets, go to: [https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form\\_response.php?id=134&new\\_individual](https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=134&new_individual)

**GOYA: Sights and Sounds Arts Festival,** March 11 and 12. All 7th -12th grade youth are encouraged to share their talents through a wide use of creative media, including painting, photography, music, dance, drama, writing and much more. Register online and indicate for which categories you are submitting, and whether as a group or individual: [http://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form\\_response.php?id=111](http://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=111) – For more information contact Nicole Averinos at stgsightandsounds@gmail.com



# The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George

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Jesus and the Canaanite Woman

## SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN

TRANSLATION OF THE  
RELICS OF ST. IGNATIUS  
THE GODBEARER



**JANUARY 29, 2017**

### Resurrectional Apolytikion Grave Tone (Tone 7)

By death on Thy Cross thou didst death dissolve; and opened to the thief the way to Paradise. Thou didst transform the lament of the women bearing myrrh, and commanded the disciples the message to proclaim, that Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world great mercy.

### Apolytikion to St. George

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

### Ἀπολυτίκιον

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.