

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

February 3, 2019

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 15:21-28

Next Week: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 **Gospel Reading:** Luke 19:1-10

*Take time to read the scriptures to prepare your heart and mind for Sunday's Liturgy.

Services: Sat., Feb. 9th **Great Vespers**
(Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow) **7 pm**

Sun., Feb. 10th **Zaccheus Sunday**
Church School **9:15 am**
Hours **9:45 am**
Divine Liturgy **10 am**

Announcements:

Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, candles, visits and gifts which I received during my surgery and recovery.

*God Bless Us Everyone,
Claudette*

Last Sunday's Ham and Turkey Dinner was a success! Unfortunately, I was called out during the dinner and deeply regret not being able to be a part of the Feast. Everyone that I talked to expressed how much they enjoyed the food and fellowship. A *SPECIAL THANKS* to everyone who made this event so successful!

The Greshes are in the process of preparing for the FINAL move from Ohio. However, there's no room at the Rectory in order to complete the move! Father has had some success in minimizing some of his stuff and Parish Council has approved the posting of additional parish pieces that will need a new home. Pictures of these items that need a new home will be made available. If you have any interest, just let Father Stephan know and give a donation to the Church.

House Blessings: Father Stephan is blessing houses ~~ *Did you remember to give him a call and arrange one? Please let him know if there are any changes to your address and/or phone number.* He will contact you before he arrives. Don't worry about your mess, Father Stephan has had a lot of life experience with a house full of people and stuff. Traditionally one would want to have at least one clean spot with a clean white cloth that has a bowl of blessed water, an icon, candle, and a fresh herb that can be used for the blessing and later as seasoning.

Looking ahead: Please note these events on your calendars which will occur in ensuing month or so:

Parish Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 17th after Divine Liturgy.

Pre-Lenten Retreat: Saturday, March 9th. This year's speaker will be Fr. Mark Meholick who will speak on icons.

The *2019 Church Calendars* have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

The winter season edging its way in! Use your judgment based on weather conditions. If the services are canceled, it will be announced on WPXI.

Collection: January 20th: \$378 & January 27th: \$1,787

St. Simeon, the Elder and Anna, the Prophetess

By Fr. Lawrence Farley

Simeon, an old man, was led by the Spirit in the temple to meet the Theotokos and recognize the Child in her arms as the long-awaited Messiah. He had been promised by God that he would not die until he had seen the Christ, and upon seeing Him, in joy he sang, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace." He also prophesied that this Divine Child would be a controversial figure in Israel and a judgment on them. He thus revealed in prophecy the nature of Jesus' messiahship – that He would not be a figure of triumphal popularity but One spoken against and crucified. He predicted that a sword of sorrow would pierce the heart of the Theotokos also, which happened when she saw her Son upon the Cross.

Anna was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was widowed at an early age after only seven years of marriage. After this she lived in holy chastity until the age of 84, spending all her time in the temple worshipping with fasting and prayer. As a true prophetess, she also recognized the infant Jesus as the true Messiah and spoke of Him to all who came to the temple, saying that the Redeemer of Jerusalem and Israel had been born.

Simeon and Anna abide in the Church as embodiments of the hope and desire of Israel for its Messiah.