

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
After Feast of the Presentation of our Lord
February 9, 2025

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made concerning the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee forever. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O most mighty, with Thy glory and Thy majesty. Bend Thy bow, and prosper, and reign.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of righteous Simeon; who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under Thee. (*Refrain*)

The scepter of Thy kingdom is a righteous scepter. (*Refrain*)

Glory... both now... Only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations. **(then sing the Troparion of the Presentation)**

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Presentation (Tone 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 old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

Kontakion of the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)

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.

Prokeimenon

Make vows to the Lord thy God, and perform them.
In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Epistle

2 Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel

Luke 18:10-14

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Assisting Priest: Fr. Michael Kontogiorgis

Holy Bread: Kh Meleah Palke/Carol Ofiesh/Pr Vicki Kontogiorgis

Commemorations(Living): Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, George, Joan, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Cassi, Nina, Dominick, Yina, Rashid, Hala, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Gabriela, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, suffering believers throughout the world.

Now is the time to register your children for the 2025 Summer Youth Camps at Antiochian Village. Website: www.antiochianvillage.org

Zoom Prayer/Bible Study is Wednesday at 8:00 PM. We are studying the Gospel according to St. John, chapters 4 and 5. Look for an email on Tuesday that provides linking information as well as supporting material.

Lent will soon be here. February 23 is Meatfare (Judgment) Sunday. March 2 is Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday. Lent begins Monday, March 3.

Know your faith. Paul consecrated a young man, _____ to be the bishop of Ephesus. This young man had a pagan father, and a devout mother whose name was _____. His grandmother was also a devout believer, whose name was _____. (T/F) Paul wrote two letters to this young bishop. Paul also consecrated _____, to whom Paul wrote one of the letters in the New Testament, to the bishop of the island of _____. Ignatius was the (third) bishop of _____. On his way to his martyrdom in _____, he wrote letters to various churches, encouraging them to gather with their bishop frequently to celebrate the Eucharist. After the Babylonian captivity (586 BC), God called a man named _____, a cupbearer to the Persian king, to return to _____, and rebuild its walls. Name the two Sundays that precede Lent: 1) _____ and 2) _____. Name two tax collectors in the NT: _____.

The primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence upon God*. If practiced seriously, the Lenten abstinence from food involves a considerable measure of real hunger, and also a feeling of tiredness and physical exhaustion. The purpose of this is to lead us in turn to a sense of inward brokenness and contrition; to bring us, that is, to the point where we appreciate the full force of Christ's statement, 'Without Me you can do nothing' (John 15: 5). If we always take our fill of food and drink, we easily grow over-confident in our own abilities, acquiring a false sense of autonomy and self-sufficiency. The observance of a physical fast undermines this sinful complacency. Stripping from us the specious assurance of the Pharisee - who fasted, it is true, but not in the right spirit - Lenten abstinence gives us the saving self dissatisfaction of the Publican (Luke 18:10-13). Such is the function of the hunger and the tiredness: to make us 'poor in spirit', aware of our helplessness and of our dependence on God's aid.



St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church **Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese**

Metropolitan Saba
Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Meeting at Compton Village
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Fr. Thomas L. Palke, Pastor
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