

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

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## FEBRUARY 1, 2015

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 1. Forefeast of the Meeting.**

**Beginning of the Lenten Triodion.** Martyr Tryphon of Campsada near Apamea in Syria (250). Martyrs Perpetua, a woman of Carthage, and the Catechumens: Saturus, Revocatus, Saturninus, Secundulus and Felicitas (202-203). Ven. Peter Galata, Hermit, near Antioch in Syria (429). Ven. Vendemianus (Bendemianus), Hermit, of Bithynia (ca. 512). Ven. Bridget (Brigid) of Ireland (523).

**EPISTLE:** 2 TIMOTHY 3.10-15: All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**GOSPEL:** LUKE 18.10-14: A Pharisee and a tax collector show their faith and love for the Lord.

**VESPERS NEXT WEEK:** Rdr Bob.

**HOURS:** Casey. **NEXT WEEK:** Sam C.

**EPISTLE READER:** Ivan. **NEXT WEEK:** Stephen.

**COFFEE HOUR HOST:** Tshulos Family. **NEXT WEEK:** Johnson Family.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** We will hold our annual parish meeting after the Divine Liturgy on February 15<sup>th</sup> in the Church. This is also Meatfare Sunday, so bring a dish to share as we plot the coming year for our mission parish!

**HOUSE BLESSINGS:** It is a beautiful tradition of our Orthodox faith to bless homes in the Theophany season. To have your house blessed, please see Fr James to schedule an appointment. It would be wonderful if we could every house in the parish blessed in the next few weeks. For those who do not make an appointment, Fr James will be calling to schedule a time.

**CHOIR:** The choir will be meeting Tuesday night at Casey's house for rehearsal. All are invited to come and practice. And as always, all are invited to the choir or to sing along with the entire congregation.

Fr James' contact information: Cell: 315-706-6185 Email: adelphotheos@gmail.com

**WELCOME!** We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

**PAYPAL:** There is now a new way to financially help out the parish - PayPal! If you would like to make a donation through credit or debit card, see Fr James after each service.

**DIRECTORY:** Through the efforts of Ivan, Bernice and Sam, the Parish Directory is now available and was emailed out a few days ago. Please keep this document handy for reaching out to each other throughout the week. Hard copies will be made available. And remember, there are open spaces on the last page for adding new members as they arrive!

**ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT:** The Annual Diocesan Altar Server Retreat will be held at St Basil Academy in Garrison NY from February 6-8. The main focus of this annual retreat is to bring the altar servers of our diocese together in prayer, Christian fellowship, education, and fun. There is no charge to participate in the retreat but early registration is essential.

**KNOW YOUR FAITH:** The next class will be February 3 at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be reading and discussing chapter 12 of the Gospel of St John: The Third Passover in Judea; Anointing at Bethany; Final Entry into Jerusalem; "the Hour." Invite your friends to join us. The complete syllabus is available on the information table and online.

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** Each month, we have a special session of Church School just for the kids on the first Saturday of the month. Please make every effort, weather and sicknesses permitting to attend. They really look forward to it!

**PRAYER SCROLL: LIVING:** Archpriest Timothy Holowatch, Archpriest Herman Shick, Archpriest John Chupeck, Archpriest Thomas Edwards, Archpriest Michael Thier, Archpriest Stephen Mack, Dn Symeon, Abbess Silouana, Mother Raphaela, Mother Christophora, Mat Cecelia, Mat Katya, Mat Catherine, Mat Dorothy, Joshua, Brittany & Isaac, Gretchen, Toni, Peter, Marriane, Terrence, Helen, Judy, Gretchen, Mary & Susan, John & Carmine, Nathan, Leah, Helen, Lindsey, Christopher E, Susanne H, Olga S, Elizabeth, Mary, Joe A, Daniel, Andrew and family, Harold, Wilhemina, Children Anthony, Mia and Isabel, Gordon, Elizabeth, David, Madeline, Shirley, Larry, Christina, Caleb, Jim & Kim, Rachel, Constantine & Maria, Gaetan, Jean. **BIRTHDAYS:** Keira, Christina. **ANNIVERSARIES:** None. **NAMESDAYS:** None.

**REPOSED:** Priest John, Archpriest Alexander, Rdr Gregory, Daniel, Ada, Walter, Lillian, Joseph, Marie, Joseph, Laura, Martha, Stanley, Helen, Charles, Arthur, Taissia, Steluta, Theophan, Lynda, Florence, James. **NEWLY DEPARTED:** James (1-9). **ANNIVERSARIES:** None.

Mailing Address: PO Box 333, Lansing NY, 14882

FB Check-in



## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour  
6 PM Great Vespers for the Feast

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Meeting of Jesus  
Christ in the Temple

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3:** 8:30 Morning Prayers  
6 PM Choir Rehearsal  
7 PM Know Your Faith at unwind Café in Ithaca Mall

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4:** 8:30 Daily Matins  
7 PM Cornell OCF in Anabel Taylor Hall

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5:** 8:30 Morning Prayers  
8 PM Ithaca OCF in Mueller Chapel

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6:** 8:30 Morning Prayers  
Altar Servers Retreat, Friday to Sunday

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7:** 6 PM Readers Vespers

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that you would renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only Merciful and loving Lord Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: We pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

### Troparion to the Apostles

First enthroned of the Apostles, And teachers of the Universe; Entreat the Master of all  
To grant peace to the world, And to our souls great mercy!

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE/FOREFEAST OF THE MEETING  
BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION

## SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE FOREFEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD

### Troparion Tone 1 (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:  
"Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//  
Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!"

### Troparion Tone 1 (Forefeast)

The celestial choir of heavenly Angels  
bends down to the earth  
and sees the First-born of all creation being carried into the Temple as a babe  
by a Mother who has not known man,  
and in amazement they sing along with us//  
a hymn of the forefeast.

### Kontakion Tone 4 (Triodion)

Let us free from the pride of the pharisee,  
and let us learn humility from the publican's tears.  
Let us cry to our Savior:  
Have mercy on us, //  
O only merciful one.

### Kontakion Tone 6 (Forefeast)

The Word unseen with the Father,  
now is seen in the flesh, ineffably born of the Virgin,  
and is given into the arms of the priest and Elder://  
Let us worship Him, our True God.

### Prokeimenon Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps 32/33:22)  
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

### Alleluia Verses Tone 1

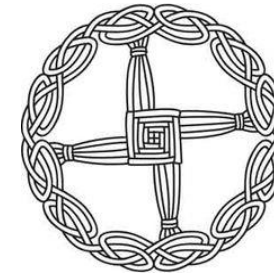
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps 17/18:47)

v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed,  
and his seed forever. (Ps 17/18:50)

### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia!



## THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

On this and the following two Sundays, the theme is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting-point of our journey to Pascha. And to repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in the past. The Greek term metanoia means 'change of mind': to repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship to God and to others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent, self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him. The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a 'change of mind': he is self-dissatisfied, 'poor in spirit,' and where there is this saving self-dissatisfaction there is room for God to act. Unless we learn the secret of the Publican's inward poverty, we shall not share in the Lenten springtime. The theme of the day can be summed up in a saying of the Desert Fathers: 'Better a man who has sinned, if he knows that he has sinned and repents, than a man who has not sinned and thinks of himself as righteous.' - Lenten Triodion

## VENERABLE BRIDGET OF IRELAND

Saint Brigid, “the Mary of the Gael,” was born around 450 in Faughart, about two miles from Dundalk in County Louth. According to Tradition, her father was a pagan named Dubthach, and her mother was Brocessa (Broiseach), one of his slaves.

Even as a child, she was known for her compassion for the poor. She would give away food, clothing, and even her father’s possessions to the poor. One day he took Brigid to the king’s court, leaving her outside to wait for him. He asked the king to buy his daughter from him, since her excessive

generosity made her too expensive for him to keep. The king asked to see the girl, so Dubthach led him outside. They were just in time to see her give away her father’s sword to a beggar. This sword had been presented to Dubthach by the king, who said, “I cannot buy a girl who holds us so cheap.” St Brigid received monastic tonsure at the hands of St Mael of Ardagh (February 6). Soon after this, she established a monastery on land given to her by the King of Leinster. The land was called Cill Dara (Kildare), or “the church of the oak.” This was the beginning of women’s cenobitic monasticism in Ireland.

The miracles performed by St Brigid are numerous. One evening the holy abbess was sitting with the blind nun Dara. From sunset to sunrise they spoke of the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and of the love of Christ, losing all track of time. St Brigid was struck by the beauty of the earth and sky in the morning light. Realizing that Sister Dara was unable to appreciate this beauty, she became very sad. Then she prayed and made the Sign of the Cross over Dara’s eyes. All at once, the blind nun’s eyes were opened and she saw the sun in the east, and the trees and flowers sparkling with dew. She looked for a while, then turned to St Brigid and said, “Close my eyes again, dear Mother, for when the world is visible to the eyes, then God is seen less clearly by the soul.” St Brigid prayed again, and Dara became blind once more.

St Brigid fell asleep in the Lord in the year 523 after receiving Holy Communion from St Ninnidh of Inismacsaint (January 18). She was buried at Kildare, but her relics were transferred to Downpatrick during the Viking invasions. It is believed that she was buried in the same grave with St Patrick (March 17) and St Columba of Iona (June 9).

The tradition of making St Brigid’s crosses from rushes and hanging them in the home is still followed in Ireland, where devotion to her is still strong. She is also venerated in northern Italy, France, and Wales. - OCA.org



## THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation’s religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “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). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: “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).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem” (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.” Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century. - OCA.org

