

HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Simeon, the God receiver

February 2, 2025

The Meeting of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
with the Righteous Simeon and Anna

The Sunday of Zacchaeus

February 2, 2025

Schedule of services for the week of February 3 – February 9

Saturday, February 8 – *The Holy Great Martyr Theodore, the general of Heraclea; The Holy Prophet Zechariah, who beheld the Sickle*

- 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy & Panahida; + Halyna Hudzan
- 4:00 PM – Confessions
- 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, February 9 – *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee; Leavetaking of the Meeting of Our Lord; The Holy Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch*

- 8:40 AM – 3rd Hour
 - 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
- For all parishioners

O Physician of Souls and Bodies, we pray for:

Pope Francis, Barbara Alexander, Maria Amaro, Fr. Deacon Craig Anderson, Janice Andre, Peter Andre, Fr. Christopher Andrews, Harry and Virginia Bowden, Julia Camberos, Kim Camplisson, Patrick Carmack, Noah Chase, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Dennis Cline, Amy Cohn, Vivian Corr, Fr. Deacon Benjamin Crowe, Maria Cruz, Joe Danscuk, Fr. Daniel Dozier, Gabriel Espedal, Ana Fandrey, Karen Foto, Christine Galgano, Janet Greenwell, Deborah Harris, Michael Havens, Martha Hill, Doris Huber, Rebecca Huber, Gavin Hudspeth, Melissa Hunter, Taylor Kessler, Jacob, Jamie Kohanyj, Juan Lopez, Pauli Martin, Mila Mina, Linda Moffit, Maryann Nagrant, Julia Ohnysty, Genevieve Paquette, Sylvia Pasnak, Fr. Lee Perry, Anthony Porrello, Nina Porrello, Peter Porrello, Fr. Robert Rankin, Margaret Raya, Michael Raya Jr. Maha Salazar, Gretchen Sharpe, Karen Simonich, Debbie Stark, Tava Tomc, Hong Truong, Pat Walsh, Maria Zhukova, Mark Zimmer, Gianna, Nicole, Subdcn Eddie and his wife Viane.

Today salvation has come to this house.” Our Great God and Savior has come to save the world. Have you experienced His salvation in your ...house”? Would you like to share this life with the world through a calling to holy orders, religious or monastic life? Contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Valentine’s Fund for Seminarians

Between now and February 9th we continue to collect contributions to benefit our Seminarians. This is to help them cover various expenses such as personal care items and other items not covered by their Eparchies. You can use this QR code to make a donation.



February Birthdays

Sara Barbat, Domenico Camplisson, Katherine Meador, John Florko, Kimberly Hartman, Michael Havens, Lita Kosch, Daniele Laman, Gary Lucero, Mila Mina, Clara Nevitt, Sally Provencio

Many blessed years!

Did I miss a birthday? Please let me know.

WHOEVER PRAYS FOR THOSE WHO HURT HIM LAYS THE DEMONS LOW; BUT HE WHO OPPOSES HIS AFFRONTER IS BOUND TO THE DEMONS.

– ST. MARK THE ASCETIC

The Encounter of Our Lord with the Righteous Simeon and Anna The Spirit of the Service of the Feast

The Spirit of the feast day service is the same as that of the Nativity of our Lord and the Theophany: to glorify the Theophany (manifestation of God) on earth, to extol the Divinity of Christ and give honor to the Most Pure Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St. Cyril of Alexandria speaks beautifully of the profound content and significance of this feast in his sermon for this day: "The Eternal," he says, "is both a small Child and the 'Ancient of Days' (i.e., God). A Child at the breast and at the same time the Creator of ages. I behold a Child and recognize God. The Child is nourished and at the same time sustains the universe. The Child weeps and at the same time he gives life and joy to the world. The Child is in swaddling clothes and at the same time he delivers me from the bonds of sin ... This Child – the angels glorify him, the archangels bow before him. The Principalities tremble in his presence, the Powers praise him, the Cherubim minister to him, the Seraphim bless him, the sun praises him, the moon serves him, nature obeys him, fountains and seas yield to him... This Child conquered death, overcame the devil, abolished Adam's curse, ... washed away all sins, condemned all heresy, adorned all creation, saved Adam, renewed Eve, summoned all the nations and sanctified the universe ... Therefore, let us all go forth to greet the Presentation of our Lord with splendor ... Therefore, let us brighten this day with candles, as befits the children of light, and let us bring to Christ the Light of spiritual illumination." (Prologue, I)

The sticheras of Vespers, the Sessional hymns, the canon and the sticheras of the Matins service form one magnificent hymn of glory in honor of Christ's Theophany (manifestation), celebrating the Incarnation of the Eternal Word of God, and extolling the Most Holy Mother of God. The small child, brought to the temple by his parents, is the Eternal God who gave the law to Moses on Mt. Sinai: "He who once gave the Law to Moses on

Sinai," we sing in the sticheras of *Lytiya*, "today submits himself to the prescriptions of the Law, in his compassion, he has become like unto us for our sakes ... Today Simeon takes into his arms the Lord of glory, whom Moses once saw in darkness, when on Sinai God gave him the tablets ... The Creator of heaven and earth today is carried in the arms of the old Simeon."

The Child the temple is the Messiah we see today in sent by God and foretold by the prophets: "O Simeon, tell us whom you are joyfully carrying into the temple. To whom are you saying: Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord, because my eyes have seen my Savior? He is the child born of the Virgin. He is the Word, God of God! O Lord, who for our sake was incarnate and saved mankind, to you we bow in worship."

And the Mother of the Child brought to the temple is the Most Holy Mother of God: "Adorn your bridal chamber, O Sion and welcome Christ the King," says the *stichera* of the *aposticha* in the Vespers service, "welcome Mary, the gate of heaven, for she has appeared as a cherubic throne on which the King of Glory is seated." The Most Pure Virgin Mary is not only the Mother of Christ, but also our hope and our Intercessor. In the ninth Ode of the canon of Matins, we entreat her: "O Virgin Mother of God, Hope of all Christians, protect, watch over, and guard all those who put their hope in you ... O Virgin Mother of God, good helper of the world, protect and preserve us from every care and worry." Holy Church, seeing the great mystery of the Theophany and the love of God towards us, calls upon the faithful to give glory to Christ the Lord: "Let the choir of angels be amazed at this wonder, and let us mortal men raise our voices in song, beholding the ineffable condescension of God. Aged arms now embrace him before whom the powers of heaven tremble, he who alone loves mankind. (Sessional Hymn, Matins)





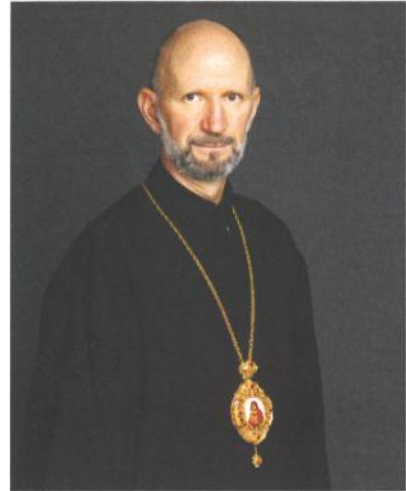
Thank You to all those who made the visit by bishop Artur and bishop Teodor such a prayerful, joyous, and beautiful event.

Priests: Fr. James Babcock, Fr. Sean Brown, Fr. Brad Guillory, Fr. Michael Sidun.

Deacons: Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Fr. Deacon Gregory Gath

Servers: Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Levi Chambers, Nelson Chase

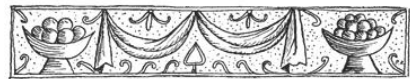
Chef du jour: Fr. Brad Guillory, **Sous Chef:** Daniele Laman assisted by Dorcas Alexander



Bishop Artur Bubnevych
Episcopal Ordination and Enthronement
as the sixth Bishop of Phoenix

JANUARY 28, 2025

*"I will love you, O Lord, my strength;
the Lord is my rock and my refuge."
(Psalm 17:2-3)*



"We're always getting him out of a tree.
We should've called him Zacchaeus."



The Episcopal vestments that we ordered for Kyr Artur have shipped from Ukraine!

I was sent the pictures above of the vestments that we ordered for bishop Artur. They should arrive in Phoenix within 2 - 3 weeks. Bishop Artur is already making plans to return to Holy Angels for our Patronal Feast on November 8 and he assured me that he will bring the vestments with him to celebrate with us.

Thank all of you who contributed to this beautiful set of vestments!

1st All Souls Saturday

Saturday, February 22nd is First All Souls Saturday. There will be a Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM for all our beloved departed followed by a Panakhyda. Special envelopes are included in the envelope mailing. Please write the names of all those you wish to be remembered and place in the collection basket. I encourage all to attend the Liturgies and Panahidas for our beloved deceased.

Looking Ahead:

- ❖ Feb. 22nd – 1st All Souls Saturday
- ❖ Feb. 23rd – Meatfare Sunday Potluck
- ❖ March 2nd – Cheesefare Sunday; Forgiveness Vespers following social
- ❖ March 3rd – The Great Fast Begins (day of strict fast)
- ❖ March 15th – 2nd All Souls Saturday
- ❖ March 22nd – 3rd All Souls Saturday
- ❖ March 23rd – Sunday of the Holy Cross
- ❖ March 29th – 4th All Souls Saturday
- ❖ March 25th – Annunciation
- ❖ April 5th – Akathist Saturday
- ❖ April 13th – Flowery (Palm) Sunday
- ❖ April 20th – Pascha



The Blessing of the Litija

Adapted from V. Rev. Victor Potapov



On great feasts and on days commemorating highly honored saints, an intensified prayer is offered at the Vespers service called the Litija. It begins with the singing of special hymns in honor of the feast or saint of the day, during which the clergy go in procession to the porch or vestibule of the church. Here the Church steps out of its blessed walls and offers prayers of a universal character for the whole world, embracing all people.

During the Litija, the prayer, "O God, Save Thy People" is read, as well as four other short petitions. These are comprised of entreaties for the salvation of the people, the Church and civil authorities, for the souls of Christians, for the cities, for this land and all believers living herein, for the reposed, as well as, entreaties asking that we be preserved from foreign invasions and from civil war. Each of these five petitions ends with repeated chanting of Lord have mercy.

During the Litija, the faithful display a heightened sense of humility, as a host of saints are invoked by name, underscoring one of the customs of Eastern Christianity; our prayerful communication with, the saints.

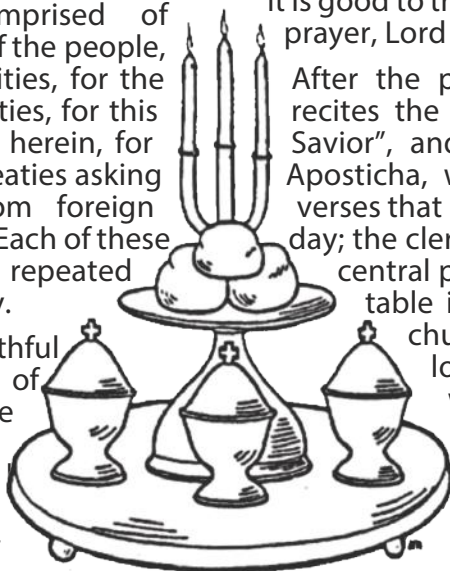
The words *Lord have mercy* are repeatedly chanted during the Litija; which causes the heart, mind, and soul of those who pray to be saturated with this petition. These multiple repetitions are intended to focus our attention on the meaning of the prayer, something the Church considers especially important for man's spiritual growth. Like a musical theme, this oft repeated prayer accompanies us out of the church and into our daily life. Lord have mercy — only three words; yet how profound! First of all, in calling God Lord, we affirm the fact of His rule

over the world, over mankind; and, the most important, over ourselves, and over those who call Him Lord, which means "ruler" or "master." For this reason we refer to ourselves as servants or slaves of God. There is nothing shameful about this title. Slavery, in a worldly sense, is intrinsically a negative thing, for it robs man of his earliest gift from God, the gift of freedom. However, when man becomes a slave of God, keeping His commandments, he learns how to truly live, and it is that truth that actually sets him free. It is good to treasure, keep, and cultivate the prayer, Lord have mercy.

After the petitions are read, the priest recites the prayer, "Hear us, O God our Savior", and during the singing of the Aposticha, which consists of stichera or verses that glorify the feast or saint of the day; the clergy and faithful enter the nave central part of the church. At this time, a table is placed in the center of the church. On the table are five loaves of bread, as well as wheat, wine, and oil. All are blessed in this token act of custom of distributing food to some of whom had come so that they might gain the strength to participate in the

lengthy worship services. Five loaves are blessed in memory of the Lord's feeding of the 5000 who listened to his sermon. Later, after the faithful have venerated the Festal Icon, the priest anoints them with blessed oil.

Note: *The Litija is served at many of the Great Feast Days in our parish. All are welcome to receive this blessing.*



DO NOT DESPAIR BUT TRUST IN GOD'S MERCY

By Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk

Do not despair of whatever sins you may have committed since Baptism and find yourself in true repentance, but await God's mercy. However many and however great and burdensome your sins may be, with God there is greater mercy. Just as His majesty is, so likewise is His mercy. Only guard yourself from sinning henceforth, and walk according to the ways of God.

If you have transgressed in this as a man, and have sinned do not despair. But at that very moment, confess your sin and fall down with humility before the compassionate eyes of God and ask mercy with the voice of the publican, *God be merciful to me a sinner!*

(Luke 18:13), and your sins will be forgiven you.

True repentance demands that a man turn away from sins and from the vanity of this world and turn toward God with all his heart, that he be changed within, and that he become different from what he was before, and *so work out his salvation with fear and trembling* (cf. Phil. 2:12), and so endeavor to do nothing else but only to please God and so be saved. For if

you wish to be in true repentance and so be saved, change yourself and be renewed, and become different from what you were before, and take care for nothing else but only to please God and be saved, and so shall you be a new creature in Christ. For every Christian that wishes to be a true Christian, and not false, ought to be a new man or a new creature. Do not, then, indulge your flesh, and do not do everything it



may desire. It must be *crucified with its affections and lusts* (Gal. 5:24) when you wish to be a Christian, that is, Christ's. Much effort and labor is needed, for a man to be changed and to be the good tree that brings forth good fruit. Strive,

then, for nothing else but to change, renew, and correct yourself. And pray for this, and sigh often and with all zeal to Christ the Lord, that He Himself might renew you and make you good, for without Him our renewal and correction cannot take place. And when you are renewed inwardly and good, then your outward life and works shall also be good.

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Facebook: [Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/HolyAngelsByzantineCatholicChurch)

Parish Advisory Council:

Bruce Bitsko, Nelson Chase, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Bob Greenwell,
Janet Greenwell, Daniele Laman, Olena Bankston

Finance Council:

Al Aparicio, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Bob Greenwell, Paul Washicko

Bless, O Lord, the worship and Stewardship of your faithful servants:

Adult tithes: \$885.00; Loose Change: \$92.00; Non-Parishioner: \$325.00 Church Usage: \$200.00;

Total: \$1502.00

Vocation Icon: This week: Washicko Family
Next week: John Barnes

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

SUBSCRIBES TO THE
*Charter for the Protection of
Children and Young People*

adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.

For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:

*Fr. Dcn. Michael Hanafin
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Cell: (480) 307-5182 -- email: vac@ephx.org*

- or -

*Sbdcn. Paul F. Kilroy
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Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 205 -- Cell: (480) 745-0316
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