



SAINT WILLIBRORD ORTHODOX CHURCH

*A Missionary Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese of North America,
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

His Eminence, SABA, Metropolitan of North America

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of
Toledo and the Midwest

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Schlueter, Pastor



**DIVINE LITURGY FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2024
PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

WE at Saint Willibrord Orthodox Church welcome you. We are pleased that you have joined us today in worshiping God, the Holy Trinity.

If you are an Orthodox Christian, you are welcome to receive the immaculate Body and precious Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ if you have properly prepared yourself through prayer, fasting, and recent sacramental confession.

If you are not Orthodox, we invite you to worship with us, ask questions, and learn about our parish and the Orthodox Christian faith. Although you may not receive Holy Communion, you are welcome to receive some of the blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

**DIVINE LITURGY FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2024
PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ

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 elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

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.

THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:7-17)

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal

requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, “Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:22-40)

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel.” And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

Megalynarion of the Presentation

Tone 3

*O Theotokos, * thou hope of all Christians; * keep and shelter and preserve * them that set their hope in thee.*

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful contemplate a prefiguring: Every male child that openeth the womb is holy unto God. Therefore, do we magnify the first-born Word, the Son of the Father Who is without beginning, the first-born Child of a Mother who hath not known wedlock.

Koinonikon (Communion Hymn) of the Feast

Tone 8

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.



CALENDAR

Saturday, February 10

1:00 PM – Baptism / Chrismation
[NO classes or Vespers]

Sunday, February 11

8:30 AM – Matins
10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Confessions may be made before or after services or by appointment.

FUTURE PRIEST FUND PROGRESS

2024 Goal: \$15,148.14 | **Year-to-date:** \$250 | **To-go this year:** (\$14,898.14)

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