

Publican and
Pharisee
Forefeast of the
Meeting

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2 Timothy 3:10-15  
Luke 18:10-14

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Homily by
Dn. Kevin Dougherty

Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Mellors / Komar

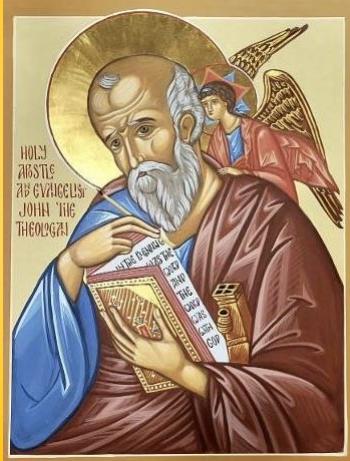
St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, February 1, 2026

And the Days Following

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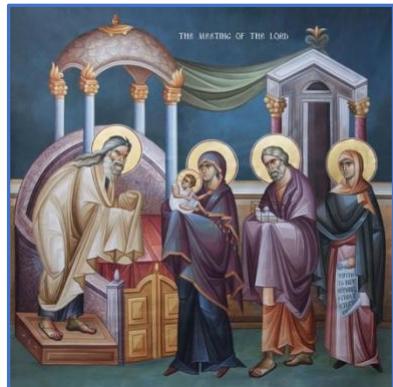


*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

### Feast Days and Services

**Meeting of the Lord in The Temple**  
**February 2, 2026**

**Great Vespers – 6:15pm, February 1, Sunday Evening**  
**Divine Liturgy – 6:15pm, February 2, Monday Evening**



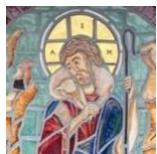
The **Meeting of the Lord in the Temple** (also called the **Presentation**) is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on Feb 2. In the Gospel of Luke 2:22-40, Mary and Joseph took the infant Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem. He was received in the arms of the elder Simeon, who then prayed, “Now let Thy servant depart in peace... for I have seen Thy salvation.” This was one of the things that Mary “pondered in her heart”—the fact that others recognized that her Son was the Messiah.

### Parish Events and News

#### **Podcast Interview with Fr. Marc Dunaway by Billy Tjernlund**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/tell-your-story-alaska/id1669937204?i=1000746133064>

Father Marc Dunaway serves at St. John’s Orthodox Church in Eagle River, AK and is a part of the Lausanne Orthodox Initiative which is an effort to bring Evangelicals and Orthodox believers together to better understand their similarities and differences. We discuss some of those differences, why Orthodoxy is growing in Alaska, how Evangelicals and Orthodox believers can learn from one another, what should we make of the iconography in the Orthodox Church, and according to Orthodoxy ecclesiology, can people be saved outside the Orthodox Church? My last question for Marc was “What is the gospel?” Listen to hear how he answers that question and much more is covered in this intriguing episode! I am grateful for Father Marc’s insight into these so we can better understand one another!



## *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)*

Sundays from 12:30 – 2:00pm

### **Opening the Door to Orthodox Christianity**

**Thursday, February 5, 6-7:30pm at the St. James House**  
**“Personal Prayer”**

[Updated Schedule for January, February - Opening the Door to the Orthodox Christian Faith](#)

*The Sisters of Mary & Martha*

### RETREAT SCHEDULE

|          |                                                                                        |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9a-10a   | Breakfast                                                                              |
| 10a-11a  | Session 1:<br>"The Life of St. Olga"<br>by Matushka Xenia Oleksa                       |
| 11a-12p  | Group discussion                                                                       |
| 12p-1p   | Lunch                                                                                  |
| 1p-2:30p | Session 2:<br>"Finding Community,<br>Finding Home"<br>by Ann Patras & Doreen Dougherty |
| 2:30p-3p | Q & A with Fr. Marc                                                                    |
| 3p-4p    | Group discussion                                                                       |
| 4p-5p    | Dinner + Clean up                                                                      |

### **Women's Retreat**

**February 7, 9am to 5pm**

Hello everyone! Here is the schedule for the retreat. Please RSVP by Sunday if you plan on attending the retreat. The entry fee is \$20 (all meals provided) and can be paid online through the donation link under “Other” with SMMS retreat written in the description. If you have any questions, please contact me. - Sydney Ihde (907)854-5517

16906 Whimsy Station  
Chugiak, AK 99567



### **Coffee Hour This Sunday - February 2, 2026**

**Group Matthew (1) - First Sunday of the Month**

#### **Hosts Families: Mellors / Komar**

Snacks: Abel, Amundson, Betson, Clodfelter, Culton, Curry, Dozier, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, G & J Gillquist, H Gillquist, Grasse, G & A Ihde, Haley, Hightower, D & A Jenkins, K & G Jones, Kelly, Klatt, Lamb, Lineer, K & J Medders, Mee, Moffatt, Okuley, Patras, N & M Ray, Sluz, Stallman, Stogsdill, J. Temple, Terrell, Webster

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**Next Sunday – Group Luke (2) – February 8, 2026 – Hosts: E&H Johnson / Forbes / Durand / Burkowske**  
Snacks: Agnew, Arnold, Bower, Davisson, Drennan, Dunham, Durand, Fisher, Hanna, Hoyt, J. Jenkins, M & M Jones, D & M Kendall, Komar, Layton, Lindblom, K Medders, L & M Mellor, G. Moses, Oliveria, Peters, Saur, Snider, Sturdevant, N. Temple, Tysver, Vermeylon, Villafanna, Wells

## St. James House Weekly News



### Super Bowl Party at the St. James House

Join us for the Super Bowl.  
Kick-off is at 2:30pm on February 8.  
Please bring a snack to share.

## News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [Apologetic Theology Today](#)

## Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

### "Checking In" with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)



### Bridal Shower for Alyssa Espino Saint James House – Sunday, March 1st at 4pm All Are Welcome!

In preparation for the matrimony of Jacob Goetz and Alyssa Espino there will be a bridal shower hosted at Saint James House on February 22nd at 4pm. There will be games and crafts. Food will consist of Lenten friendly snacks; anyone is welcome to bring a dish.

Please RSVP, send questions, or obtain a link to the registry by  
texting (909) 848-0480  
or emailing [ejanetworks@gmail.com](mailto:ejanetworks@gmail.com)

## Women's Tea



Thank you everyone who joined us for the women's tea! We had many women attend from the Greek church and it was great to catch up with old friends. We look forward to hosting another one in late Spring.

—Kristine Lindbom & Sydney Ihde.



## Rides Needed for Oksana Atrz to Get to Church

The church is looking for volunteer drivers to take Oksana to church for Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Please let Dn. Kevin Dougherty know which dates you can cover at [doughertykb@yahoo.com](mailto:doughertykb@yahoo.com) or 907-947-5345.

The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride: February 1, 8, 15, 22

### Dates to Remember

#### *'Moms with Little Ones' Reading Group - Wednesdays 10am*

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, contact Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.



#### *Men's Book Club - Wednesdays 7-8pm*

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, you can text Sam Lowry at 616-928-5181.



#### *Women's Reading Group - Thursdays at 10am*

We meet at 10am at the Senior Center Meeting Room, in the HUD building on the second floor. Hope to see you there! —Ann Patras

### *Birthdays This Week*

February 1 - Xenia Clodfelter

February 1 - Jay Keener

February 5 - Wesley Dunaway

*M A N Y*

February 6 - Leonid Stiehr

February 7 - Natasha Haines

February 7 - Christian Kies

*Y E A R S !*

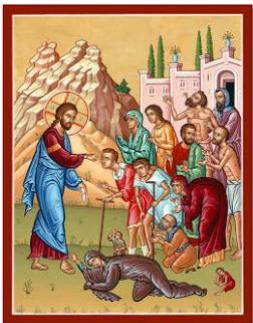


### *Anniversaries this Week*

Kasey & Jennifer Medders - February 3, 1996 (30 Years)

*M A N Y Y E A R S !*





## Remembering in Prayer...

*Mary Greene  
Zoie (Oksana's Mom)  
Arlo Northey  
Gwyn Jones*

*Jay Keener  
Krya & Skylynn Lineer  
Jan Northey*

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine  
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to  
war and for peace*

## Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- Steven Theodore Primis - February 2, 2001
- Archpriest Jack Norman Sparks - February 8, 2010
- Phyllis Isabel Webster - February 12, 1992
- Lynn Ellen Guio - February 17, 2019
- Dn. Christian Timothy Sorensen - February 23, 2000

**M E M O R Y   E T E R N A L !**

## Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **February** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, February 28**. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



### Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org) Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

## THE SYNAXARION

### Publican & Pharisee – 1<sup>st</sup> PreLent + February 1



On February 1, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we prepare to celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple; and we commemorate the Martyr Tryphon of Syria; Martyr Perpetua of Carthage and her four companions; and Basil the Confessor, archbishop of Thessalonica.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

#### *Verses*

*If you resemble the Pharisee, run far away from the Temple.  
For inside is Christ before Whom only the humble are  
acceptable.*

#### *(Verses for the Triodion)*

*O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly,  
receive from the Angels a Trinitarian song,  
And from us men a noble and reverent Triodion.*

In our Savior's parable, Jesus uses as an example for us, a comparison between two differing attributes of two different men: A Pharisee, who was regarded as virtuous leader of the synagogue in public opinion; And a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving faithful for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

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#### Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochiandiocese.org>  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson