



## **St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**

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Priest Silouan Cohen

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## **Week of February 2, 2025**

### **Sunday, February 2**

32nd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 7. The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple. Sunday of Zacchaeus.

- 8:30am** – Festal Matins
- 9:30am** – Divine Liturgy
- 11:30am** – Agape meal (coffee hour)

## This Sunday's Hymns and Readings

### *Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

### *Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

### *Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)*

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

### *Tone 1 Kontakion (Feast)*

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

### *Tones 7 & 3 Prokeimena (Resurrection & Theotokos)*

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

### *Epistles 1 Timothy 4:9-15 & Hebrews 7:7-17 (Feast)*

### *Tones 7 & 8 Alleluias*

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. - Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation!

### *Gospels Luke 19:1-1 & Luke 2:22-40*

## This Week's Schedule

*Monday, February 3.* Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Holy, Righteous Simeon the God-receiver. Holy, Righteous Anna the Prophetess. Saint Nicholas, Enlightener of Japan.

*Tuesday, February 4.* Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Venerable Isidore of Pelusium.

- **9:30am – 11:30am Fr Silouan's office hours**

*Wednesday, February 5.* Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Venerable Agatha of Palermo in Sicily.

- **2:30pm – 5:30pm Fr Silouan's office hours**
- **6:00pm – 9<sup>th</sup> hour & daily vespers**

*Thursday, February 6.* Afterfeast of the Meeting. Saint Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna. Saint Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople. Venerable Barsanuphius the Great & John the Prophet. Virgin Martyr Dorothy at Caesarea in Cappodocia & those with her.

*Friday, February 7.* Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Saint Parthenios, Bishop of Lampsakos.

*Saturday, February 8 .* Afterfeat of the Meeting. Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates "the General".

- **5:00pm Great Vespers**

## **Announcements**

### *Matins on Sunday mornings*

As it was presented at the Annual Parish Meeting, Matins will now be served on Sunday mornings **beginning at 8:30am**, replacing the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours. The Matins service (our morning service) naturally flows from the previous evening service of Vespers and leads us into Divine Liturgy. Please come and hear and pray the morning psalmody, the Biblical Canticles, and celebrate the Lord's revelation and Light.

### *House blessings*

The house blessing season is ending. Fr Silouan stated at Theophany that if you did not sign up, he would give you a small bottle of holy water and instructions on how to bless your home yourself. If you would like those items, please contact him directly.

### *Annual meeting documents*

Thank you to everyone who filled out a pledge card for 2025 (the Time, Talent, and Treasure card), and who came to the Annual Meeting last Sunday to hear and discuss all the important matters of our church, as well as the various reports from the parish council. If you did not attend, the reports of the meeting will be added to our main website very soon. Once the minutes are finalized and everything is approved by our diocesan administration, all pertinent documentation will be uploaded to our website. After that time, we will also formally present our newly elected parish council.

### *St Thomas the Apostle Mission*

Fr Silouan will be serving daily vespers, Friday, February 7, at 6:30pm at St Thomas Mission in Paris, TX, followed by Divine Liturgy, Saturday, February 8, at 9:30am. He will return to Denison immediately after the Liturgy.

### *Great Lent approaches*

Sunday, March 2, we will celebrate Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness following the Divine Liturgy. **It is extremely important that you make the effort to attend this service**, since we begin Great Lent the next day, Monday, March 3. The Lord is very clear in the Gospels that if we do not forgive our brothers and sisters, neither will our Father forgive us. The opportunity of Great Lent is that we “come to our senses” like the Prodigal and turn our entire lives back to Christ and the Light of His Resurrection. That opportunity presents itself firstly with the corporate act of forgiveness. More will be said about this as we draw closer to Great Lent. **Lastly, if you wish to look ahead at the Lenten schedule, it is posted on our website under the link “Calendar.” Simply choose the months of March & April, respectively.**

### **A Word from the Mothers**

“This day is all I ask for, O Lord. Give me the strength for the hours as they come one by one. For my sustenance let me ask for that only which I need, Thy will to fulfill. Let me have enough of the spiritual and the material so that I may help all who knock at my door and send none empty away. Show me how to share the blessings of this day with my neighbor. Teach me to fear neither the good nor the bad, to bravely live them both to the full, through both working out Thy will. Let no lack of generosity hamper my actions. Let my heart never be so small that it cannot love and forgive. Let me have the humility truly to rejoice over every minute and what it brings. I know full well how undeserving I am; yet let me seize every opportunity to turn every hour to Thy glory. Walk with me this day as Thou didst with Luke and Cleopas to Emmaus. Let Thine Angel guide me and show me what Thy demand of me is for this day. AMEN.”

- Mother Alexandra, Princess Illeana of Romania, *Our Father: Meditations on The Lord's Prayer*, “Thursday Morning: Give us this day.” (Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA, 2017).