



St. Michael Youth Program

February 2016

Putting Things in Order

Home Discussion

During the month of February we celebrate **The Great Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple of Jerusalem** ("The Meeting") - February 2nd.

1. The lessons of this month teach us about putting "first things first." Mary & Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in obedience to God, just as we were brought to the church by our parents and Godparents.
2. How is attending church and praying with others in the Liturgy not the same as praying at home with our family and important to our life as Christians.
3. Discuss how each of the Gospel lessons of this month help us to understand what is most important to our life as followers of Christ.

February Lessons

February 2 - Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Jerusalem Temple - Forty days after the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, Mary & Joseph presented Him at the Temple according to the Law of Moses, where He was received by the Righteous Elder, Simeon. [read Luke 2:21-40]

February 7 - The Lesson of the Talents - God expects us to use the talents and gifts we have for good things and not to hide and not share them with others. [read: Matthew 25:14-30]

February 14 - The Canaanite Woman - [Matthew 3:13-17] Jesus responds to the faith of the lady who cries out for mercy for her suffering daughter.

February 21 - The Publican and Pharisee - The humility of the Publican is shown as a better example when compared to the pride of the Pharisee. [Luke 18:10-14]

February 28 - The Prodigal Son - [Luke 15:11-32] The son who was lost returns home and is welcomed by his father, showing us how the love of God reaches out to us when we return to Him.

Memory Verse

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
(Joshua 24:15)

Prayer on Entering the Church

I will enter into Thy house. I will worship
toward Thy Holy Temple in Thy fear.

The Communion Hymn

Receive me today, O Son of God, as partaker of
Thy Mystical Supper. For I will not speak of Thy Mysteries
to Thine enemies. Neither will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas.
But like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord,
remember me O Lord, in Thy Kingdom!

Activities

In a few weeks we will begin the season of Great Lent: a "tithe" (1/10) of the calendar year when we prepare to celebrate the "Feast of Feasts" - Christ's Holy Resurrection. Take a look at the upcoming months of March, April and May of the church calendar and begin planning how Great Lent will be a special time in the year for your family.

Count how many days and weeks there are in Great Lent that prepare us for Holy Week and Easter.

"Spring Cleaning" is done to put our things in order: to see what we need and do not need. Consider the things you are no longer using, i.e., clothes and toys, and how you can give them to those who can make good use of them.

Easter is the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, just as plants that appear to have died bloom and blossom in the Spring. Watch and observe how the plants outside your home that have appeared to have died come back to life.

Special Events

Teen Class Discussion with Subdeacon Andrew Monsue:
Topic: "Common Sense Safety." The meetings help our youth to being aware and prepared for what can be dangerous and harmful to our lives as Christians.

Preparation of the our 2016 Creative Festival Entries:
Heidi Blair will be leading workshops for art, writing, poetry and photography festival entries each Sunday in March. For more information go to: www.antiochian.org/festivals