

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ✧ Come to Church as a family to celebrate the Feast Day.
- ✧ Read the Scriptural References and describe to your children how Christ fulfilled the “Law of Moses” (Lev 12).
- ✧ Candles are blessed on this feast. This is to remind us that Christ, in the words of St. Simeon’s Prayer, is “the light that enlightens” all mankind. Bring a candle to Church to be blessed. It can be used at evening meals during the post-feast period.
- ✧ Read or sing the Festal Troparion before or after each of your meals during the post-feast period.
- ✧ Discuss with your children the idea that Christ is the “light of the world.” Use this truth and this feast as an opportunity to explain the reason for lighting our candles in Church. Encourage your children to light their own candles at each service.
- ✧ Incorporate “St. Simeon’s Prayer” into your daily prayers during the post-feast.



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# COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST: THE MEETING OF THE LORD





## THE MEETING OF THE LORD CELEBRATED ON FEBRUARY 2

Forty days after Christ was born He was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well, His mother Mary underwent the ritual purification, and offered the sacrifice as prescribed in the Law (Lev 12)... It is at the Temple that the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna, filled with the Holy Spirit, confirmed that the infant was the new-born Messiah Who would “cause the fall and the rising of many in Israel.”

In the service of the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God, through Whom the world was created, now is held as an infant in Simeon’s hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now Himself fulfills the law, carried in arms as a human child...

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Church is not merely an historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own “meeting” with the Lord, and so also can witness that they, too, can “depart in peace” since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of His Christ (Fr. Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith: Volume 2, Worship*).

## THE MEETING IN SCRIPTURE AND HYMNS

**Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17**

**Gospel: Luke 2:22-30**

**Old Testament: Leviticus 12:2-8**

**Vespers, “Lord, I Call,” Sticheron 2**

*Receive, O Simeon, Him Whom Moses once beheld in darkness granting the Law on Sinai, and now Who has become a child subject to the Law. This is He Who spoke through the Law. This is He Who the prophets heard, Who for our sakes has taken flesh and saved man. Let us worship Him.*

**Vespers, Prayer of St. Simeon**

*Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel” (Lk 2:38).*

**Matins, Canon of the Feast, Ode 5, Sticheron 1**

*The aged servant of God, Simeon, seeing the Word of God held in the arms of His Mother, understood that this was the Glory revealed to the Prophets; and he cried: “Rejoice, O Holy Lady, for as a throne you carry God, Lord of the light that knows no evening and King of Peace.”*

**Divine Liturgy, Troparion, Tone 1**

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness! Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder; you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the Resurrection.*

**Divine Liturgy, Kontakion, Tone 1**

*By Your Nativity, you sanctified the Virgin’s womb! And blessed Simeon’s hands, O Christ God. Now You have come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!*

