



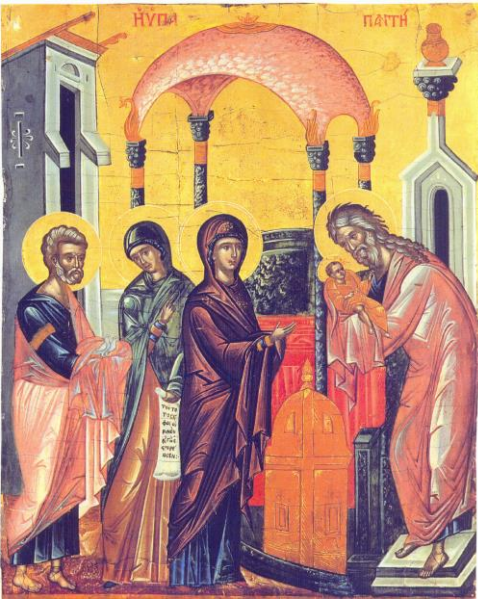
Catechist Connection

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Dear Catechists:

Welcome to the third edition of the Catechist Connection. In this edition, information for the upcoming Liturgical Year Feasts is included as well as some exciting information for future events in the Eparchy.

Sunday, February 2 is the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. This feast day is based on the Scripture Luke 2: 22-40.



When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated 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; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word for my eyes have seen your salvation, which

you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

On this Feast day, we see Jesus forty days old, carried into the temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph, to be recognized as God’s Messiah by the aged Simeon and Anna.

According to the Law of Moses, a Jewish mother and her baby came to the Temple 40 days after the birth for the rite of purification and presentation. The first born male is presented to God and the child is dedicated to the service of God.

Simeon and Anna represent the true Israel of God. They have kept the law given through Moses. They have worshiped in the holy place, the Temple, and they are alive to the unexpectedness of God's providence.

Simeon and Anna are inspired by the Holy Spirit to see in this child the Holy One of Israel, long awaited. They themselves are old and have grown old in the service of God. They have that widened perception which comes with continual praying.

WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME OR IN MY CLASSROOM

- . Make candles and take them to Church to be blessed.
- . Tell the story of the Meeting of our Lord and explain the Icon.
- . Learn the Tropar and Kondak for the Feast Day.
- . Attend Liturgy on the Feast Day as a family or as a class.
- . Have a candlelight dinner to remind each other of the True Light in our lives.
- . Learn to sing the Hymn of Simeon and teach it to the children.
- . Pray for bishops, priests, sisters and brothers who have dedicated their lives to prayer and service.

Pre-Great Fast Sundays

February 2 marks the beginning of the first pre-Great Fast Sundays, the Sunday of Zacchaeus. All information for the pre-Great Fast and Great Fast Sundays are available on the Eparchy of Saskatoon website (<http://www.skeparchy.org - Faith Learning Materials>) under Quick Links: Faith Learning Material (Sundays and Feast days) right hand side of the main page. Please feel free to use the information given there in your classes and bulletins.

Save the Date!

Catechist Workshop in Regina – Saturday March 15, 2014

Venue: St. Athanasius Parish

Theme: Catechism of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Details to follow in email soon!

Blessings, Sr. Bonnie