

NO. 2024:2 | FEBRUARY 2024

# THE DELIVERER

A Monthly Newsletter of St. George Upper Darby



## Presentation of Christ

by Fr. Thomas Hopko

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 sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna (Lk 2.22–36) is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Lk 2.26) and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took Him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vespers service:

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## FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 2:** The Presentation of Christ

**February 25:** Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee; Triodion begins

*Before Great Lent begins, four Sunday lessons prepare us for the Fast. Humility is the theme of the first Sunday, called the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Lord's parable in Luke 18:10-14 teaches that fasting with pride is rejected by God. For this reason, there is no fasting the week following this Sunday. (antiochian.org)*

**February 26 - March 3:** Fast Free Week

### Looking Ahead:

**Saturday, February 9:** Saturday of Souls & SKW Book Club



(Continued from page 1)

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel (Lk 2.29-32).*

In the service of the feast of the Meeting of the 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.

[Read More](#)

(Source: oca.org)

## February Greeters and Readers

### February 11

**Greeter:** Emma Ibrahim

**Reader:** Michael Solomon

### Interested in being a Greeter?

Contact the Office Administrator at  
[office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org)

### February 18

**Greeters:** Aemon H. & Jonas L.

**Reader:** Brigid San Chirico

### Interested in being a Reader?

If you're interested in becoming a reader for the Epistle on Sunday, please contact the church office.

### February 25

**Greeter:** Naomi Cardell

**Reader:** Alex Paskalis

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special celebration by hosting a Coffee Hour.

The last Sunday of the month is our potluck Coffee Hour.

**The February Potluck Coffee hour is February 25**

## Long-Term Planning: The Future of Our Parish for Generations to Come

By: Joseph Solomon (the Younger)

*One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:24-25)*

I was baptized by Fr. Dan at St. George in 1998. I went on to serve as an altar boy for most of the early 2000s. I can still remember all the way back then in the Stone Ages when the entire congregation would park on the muddy front lawn. And it doesn't take much to remember when the men's room was just 1 stall in what is now a broom closet. Where will be in another 25 or 30 years? Long-term planning is focused on the future of our parish for generations to come.

We are blessed at St. George to have a wonderful home, one that we've been worshiping in for 50 years (in Upper Darby, at least!), in a building that is nearly 100 years old. Any homeowner knows, though, that to live in a home for 50+ years, you're going to deal with a lot of maintenance and improvements. The Long-Term Planning (LTP) Committee at St. George is dedicated to staying ahead of the changing dynamics of our parish life. We have been blessed with an expansive congregation in recent years under the leadership of Fr. Joel, and we are taking the challenges of expansion head-on.

So what does Long-Term Planning do? Simply put, our concern is with planning for longer term capital projects and improvements to the community that will make parish life as fruitful and fulfilling as possible. In 2016, LTP oversaw the expansion of our parking facilities; in 2019, the replacement of the church's roof. This past year, 2023, LTP oversaw a major bathroom renovation to benefit the growing number of young families and parishioners coming to liturgy each week. All of these projects were months or years in the making, based on feedback from parishioners and Parish Council, and budgeting for capital funds to make these improvements.

As many of you were here to see over the past ~15 years, our parish has, by the grace of God, grown from a small parish to the thriving community that we have today. And with this blessed prosperity, we must adapt to the growing needs of our community. For example, the 2024 LTP committee will be looking into expansions of our parking lot and Sunday School classrooms to accommodate our ever-increasing family in Christ. We also have our eyes set on improving St. George's handicap accessibility and upgrading our Great Hall to become more friendly and modern. We see all of these improvements as ways to improve our ability to serve the community at-large, grow our congregation, and, as I've said before, prepare our parish for generations to come.

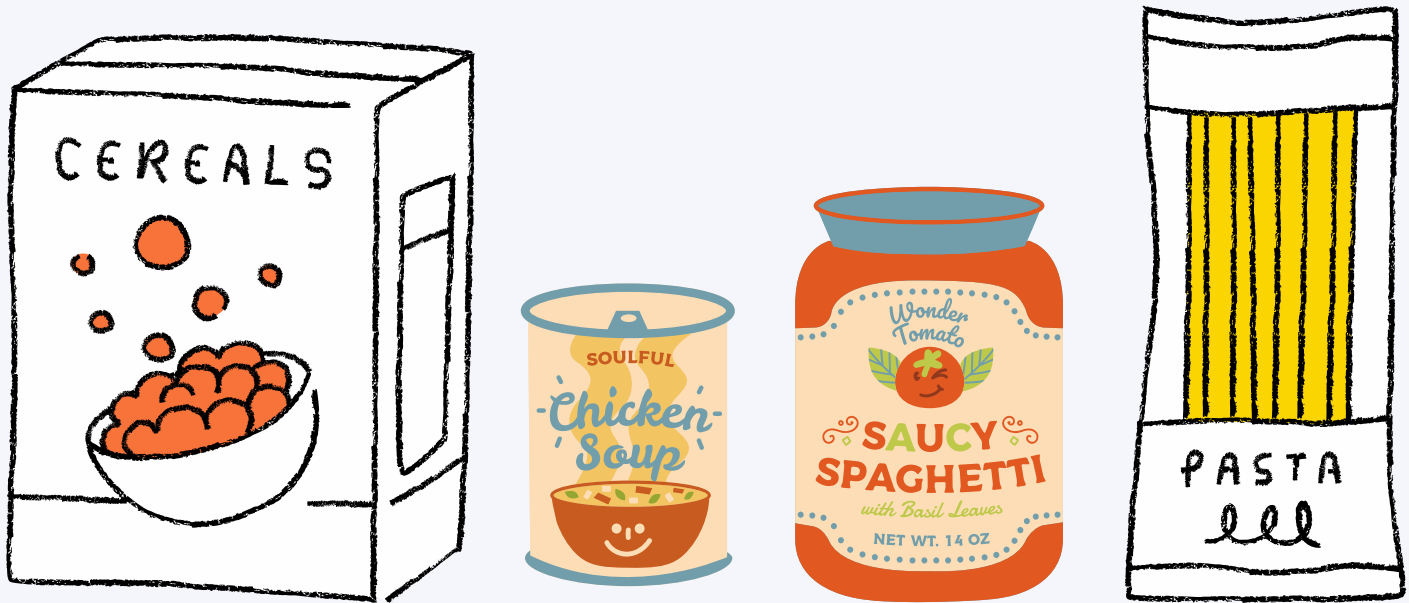
I've grown up in the parish: from being baptized, to serving in the altar, attending OCF meetings with Fr. Joel, and now leading the long-term planning committee. I welcome the day that I am replaced by a Sunday School student or OFC/Teen SOYO member reading this article now!

**St. George has been our home for over 100 years. Let's all do our best to make it our home for another 100!**

LTP 2024 Parish Survey n = 32 (results dated 2-4-24)			
Project	Average Rating	Most Common Rating	% Extremely Important
Parking Lot Expansion	4.1	5	45%
Accessibility / Elevator	4.1	5	55%
Sunday School Classroom and Facilities Expansion	3.9	4	23%
Great Hall (Basement) Renovation / Face Lift	3.8	4	32%
East Wall Icon Project	3.7	5	32%
Upstairs / Sanctuary Level Bathroom Installation	2.0	1	3%
Please participate in the survey by <b>2/10/24</b> if you have not yet done so: <a href="https://forms.gle/73uHGcDyoydvTC7XA">https://forms.gle/73uHGcDyoydvTC7XA</a>			

# Support the Upper Darby Food Bank

with a  
Shelf-Stable Food Donation



## Requested Items

Peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, juice, crackers, cookies, baked beans (meat and vegetarian), spam, canned chili, beef stew, soup.

## Additional Option: Support a Family When You go Shopping

*Buy the foods below and then that bag will be directly given to a family who comes to the pantry.  
They need all bags to be basically the same to make this fair to all families.*

One box of cereal: preferably Cheerios, Corn Flakes, or Frosted Flakes

One container of oatmeal

One jar of peanut butter & One jar of strawberry or grape jelly

One jar of regular marinara pasta sauce & One box of spaghetti

One box of granola bars

One pack of juice boxes

One can of tuna

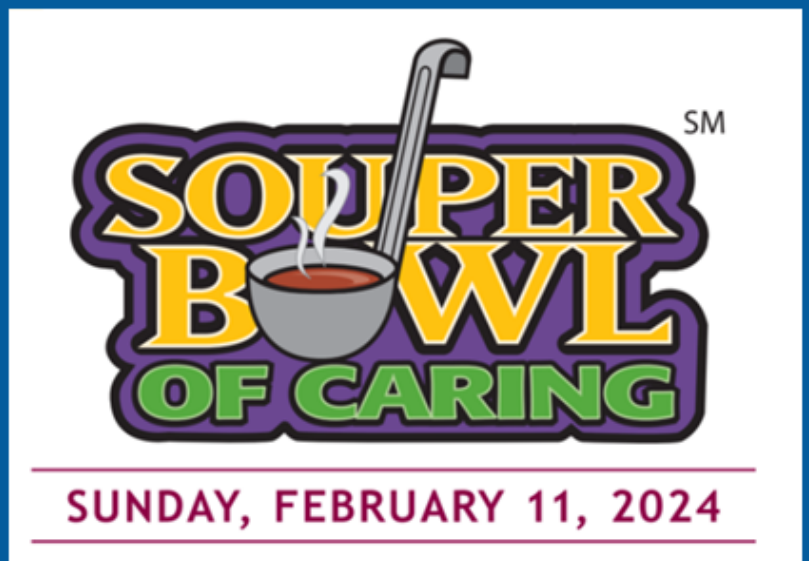
One can of fruit (peaches, cocktail, etc.)

A package of Tastykakes

One box of crackers (like Triscuits) or a bag of pretzels

## Food Donations accepted in the St. George Narthex.





**Score a Victory against Hunger in the “Soup-er Bowl.”**

On Sunday, February 11, bring a nonperishable food item for the Upper Darby Food Bank or make a donation for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities).

Please mark your donation “IOCC.”

Bring a pot of your favorite soup to share at Coffee Hour.

## ***The Way of a Pilgrim*** Reading Group

**Wednesday nights,  
starting January 24  
7:30 - 9 p.m.**



See Kerry San Chirico for information.

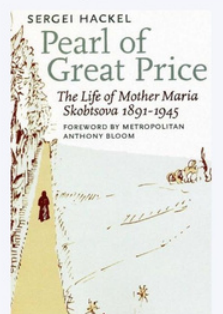
## SAINT KATHERINE WOMEN **BOOK CLUB**

**March 9, 2024  
after Saturday of Souls  
Liturgy**

**We are reading:  
*Pearl of Great Price: The Life  
of Mother Maria Skobtsova***



*Please bring a small  
brunch dish to share.*



Registration Now Open

All Invited!!

# Bringing Prayer Home!

March 15th – 17th 2024



## 2024 Spring Retreat

*Combined EDMC and AWE Retreat*  
*Plus Activities for Teen Soyo*

### **Akathist to St. Rapheal**

Join us to pray at the  
Resting Place of St. Raphael  
(weather permitting)

### **Very Rev. Ed. Hughes**

Speaking this year on:  
Bringing Prayer to the  
Home and the Importance  
of Prayer in the Home

### **Akathist to St. Thekla**

Join us for a procession  
and Akathist at the  
Shrine of St. Thekla  
(weather permitting)

Copy or Click the link below to register Now!!

<https://registration.antiochianvillage.org/LentenSpring2024>





Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee  
arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who  
are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder,  
carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who  
granteth us Resurrection.

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 8 p.m. 12 Baskets	2 9:30 a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy for Presentation of Christ	3 3:30 pm. Bible Study 5 p.m. Vespers
4 9:30a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy Sunday School 12 noon Parish Annual Mtg	5	6 9:30 a.m. Matins 6:30 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Akathist (online)	7 7:30 p.m. Reading Group "Way of a Pilgrim"	8 9:30 a.m. Third Hour	9 16	10 3:30pm. Bible Study 5 p.m. Vespers
11 9:30a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy Sunday School 12:30 Choir Parish Council Meeting	12 7 p.m. F.S.M.B.	13 9:30 a.m. Matins 7 p.m. Akathist (online)	14 7:30 pm. Reading Group "Way of a Pilgrim"	22 9:30 a.m. Third Hour	23	17 3:30 pm Bible Study 5 p.m. Vespers
18 Canaanite Woman 9:30a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy Sunday School	19 26 Presidents' Day	20 9:30 a.m. Matins 6:30 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Akathist (online)	21 7:30 p.m. Reading Group "Way of a Pilgrim"	29 NO Third Hour		24 NO Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Readers Vespers / Family Vespers
25 Publican and Pharisee 9:30a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy Sunday School 12:30 p.m. Choir St. Katherine Women	6:30 p.m. LTP Mtg (Zoom)	27 9:30 a.m. Matins 7 p.m. Akathist (online)	28 7:30 p.m. Reading Group "Way of a Pilgrim"	9:30 a.m. Third Hour		

----- 2/26 – 3/2: Fast Free Week -----