

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 14, 2010

**PRESENTATION of our LORD,
JESUS CHRIST**

To the TEMPLE —SRETENJE

The title of this feast is **SRETENJE** that signifies "Meeting", for the Presentation is in fact the first meeting of the Lord with His people. The birth of Christ, the adoration of the shepherds and wise men had been confined to the small circle of the Holy Family's abode. Today, Christ appears in the midst of His people, for Simeon and the Prophetess Anna represent the elect. Christ, being an infant at the time acted through his Mother. Mary's miraculous motherhood placed her above the Mosaic Law, yet she chose to obey it. Forty days after the birth of her Son, she went to Jerusalem in order to offer the prescribed sacrifice a lamb, or if the parent's means did not permit it, two doves or two young pigeons. The Church has maintained until the present day the meaningful ceremony of "churching" in Baptism Service.

TROPARION

HAIL WOMAN FULL OF GRACE, Virgin and Mother of God; from you has arisen the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who stand in darkness. You too, just Elder Simeon, rejoice, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, our Resurrection.

KONTAKION

O Christ our God who through your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have now blessed the arms of Simeon, today You have come to save us. O Lord, when wars prevail, keep your people in peace and strengthen our Public Authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

NOTE: The Great Holiday—**SRETENJE —THE PRESENTATION of OUR LORD** always falls on February 15th. Since this year February 15th falls on Monday, which is the first week of Great Lent; the celebration is TODAY Sunday, February 14th 2010 in accordance with the Typicon of our church.

CHEESE- FARE WEEK

TODAY is FORGIVENESS SUNDAY- This is a time to make peace with our friends, neighbors, relatives and others. As we move into Great Lent, we set our eyes on the Risen Christ whose Resurrection we will celebrate at the end of the journey. This is a time of repentance, reflection and redirection in life. Our efforts need to be against sinning and toward prayer. Participation in the Holy Sacraments should be part of our plans. This is time for spiritual joy and purification. Take time to help others, take time to help those who need help the most. **The fall of our first parents, Adam and Eve, and their expulsion from Paradise are commemorated on this day.**

THE LITURGIES OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS will be served on Friday, February 19th and EVERY FRIDAY during Great Lent. The Service of Hours will begin at 9:00 a.m. Holy Confession will be heard at 9:30 a.m. and the Presanctified Liturgy will follow.

ST. THEODOR'S SATURDAY —is Saturday, February 20th. Holy Confession will be heard at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. We urge all Church School Children along with their parents to prepare themselves for receiving Holy Communion this first Saturday of lent.

ON THIS SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS as we are ready to ask for forgiveness, to give forgiveness and to begin the Great Lent I beg you my dear parishioners, that you forgive me if I in any way have offended you, or disappointed you. If I didn't have enough time or patience for you or if I might have, through a spoken or written word (sometimes too strong) brought you to the feelings of anger, and for all else FORGIVE ME. May God, who knows everything and sees everything, but who also loves everyone, forgive us all. *Fr. Stevan*

KOLO MEETING FOR TOMORROW IS CANCELLED, WEATHER PERMITTING IT IS RESCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND AT 7:00 P.M.

Schedule of Lenten Services for 2010

TODAY CHEESE-FARE SUNDAY- HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL PITTSBURGH, 5:30 P.M.
Fr. Stevan Stepanov will offer the Homily

February 21	1 st Sunday of Orthodoxy	TO BE ANNOUNCED			
February 28	2 nd Sunday of Great Lent	St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church	Aliquippa	5:30 pm	Fr. Rade Merick
March 7	3 rd Sunday of the Holy Cross	St. George Serbian Orthodox Church	Midland	5:30 pm	Fr. Rodney Torbic
March 14	4 th Sunday of St. John the Ladder	St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church	Monroeville	5:30 pm	Fr. Dejan Obradovic
Friday, March 19	SECOND VIGIL SERVICE AKATIST	St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church	Aliquippa	6:00 PM	
March 21	5 th Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	St. George Serbian Orthodox Church	Masontown	5:30 pm	Fr. Milan Pajic
March 28	PALM SUNDAY	Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral	Pittsburgh	5:30 pm	Fr. Miladin Blagojevic

Love comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

~Timothy 1:5~

