

THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE



Icon of Saint Theodore the Tyro -- February 8th

February 6, 2011
37th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of Zacchaeus
Tone 4

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7 – FEBRUARY 13

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH – FEAST OF ST. MELETIUS

6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH – SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

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**☪☪ Remember in your prayers ☪☪**



Please remember in your prayers those members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.

Remember especially the following:

Katherine Andrus, Sr. Marie Arendes, Susan Avant, Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Susie Boyko, Sonya Cronin, Helen Davis, Maria Hughes, Natalie, Maria Leskiw, Lesya Loznycky, Nadia Popov, Orysia Rosul, David Rowe, Peter Rutman, Sonia Shashkewych, Sophia Skop. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone else who should be remembered.

**Remember Those In The Armed Forces**



Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving their countries in the Armed Forces: Mark Belcher, Gratian Fredricks, Carl Haines, Jr., Adrian, Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Oksanna Hirniak, Andrew Hrynkiw, Zenon and Susan Keske, Michael Lopes, Vasyl Lylak, Thomas Orr, Paul Richelmi, Michael Stefanyshyn and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the Liturgies to Fr. James.

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**GOD'S COFFEE**

*From an anonymous source*

Recently a friend sent me an email that grabbed my attention. It was about a group of college alumni, well-established in their careers, who began talking at a reunion about the impact that a professor of theirs had made on each of their lives. They decided to go visit their old professor, who was now retired. During their visit their conversation turned into complaining about the stress in their work and lives.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the alumni had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said, "Notice that each of you took one of the nicer-looking cups. You didn't take any of the plain ones. While it is normal for you to want the best for yourselves, that has become the source of your problems and stress. The cup itself adds nothing to the quality to the coffee. What all of you really wanted was

coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...and then you began eyeing each other's cups. You compared the quality of your cup with the quality of a friend's cup."

The professor continued, "Now consider this: Life is the coffee; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life. The style of cup one has does not define or change the quality of life an individual lives. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything."

Here is the lesson for today: God brews the coffee, not the cups. Enjoy your coffee! Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Joyfully give thanks to the Father. Spend time with God...over coffee.

"Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father." (Col 1:11-12a)

## CANDLEWAX AND HEDGEHOGS – GROUNDHOG DAY

*Adapted from an article by Fr. Stephen Freeman*

Candlewax and Hedgehogs—a peculiar way to entitle an article, I'll admit. But both have their associations with the second day of February. The first is more important so we'll begin there. The second day of February is one of the 12 great feasts, and is also celebrated by Christians in the West. The feast is the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, described in the second chapter of St. Luke's gospel.

There we are told that the Christ child was brought by his mother into the temple in fulfillment of the law, 40 days after his birth (February 2 is 40 days after December 25). The Old Testament Law commanded that "every male that opens the womb (the first born child) shall be holy to the Lord." Thus the child was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem and an offering made on His behalf in thanksgiving to God for his birth.

The Most Holy Mother of God certainly kept this teaching of the Law. We are told that she brought her child to the Temple to make offering (and to receive her purification—another required rite of the Temple). There she was met by two people, one a woman, another a man, and both of them prophets. The woman, Anna the Prophetess, spoke to her concerning her child. The aged prophet Symeon, saw the mother and Child and exclaimed in words we repeat at every Vespers:

*Now, O Master, You have kept Your promise, let Your servant go in peace. With mine own eyes I have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: a Light to reveal You to the gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel!*

This prophecy of St. Symeon has as its key phrase the description that Christ would be a "light

to enlighten the gentiles." It is the emphasis on light that brings these words each evening to the service of Vespers, when we give thanks to God for the Light He has given us. It is also for this reason that candles are blessed on this holy day. The candles of the Church (and especially those to be taken home and used by the faithful) are blessed on this day, because they remind us that Christ is the "light of the world."

The associations of this feast with light is also where the hedgehogs come in. Christian cultures have usually never let the feasts of the Church stay within the Church itself, but have exported them to the house and farm. So it was that in Europe (particularly Germany) there arose a folk custom that on the Feast of the Presentation (also called "Candlemas" because candles were blessed on that day) that if a hedgehog [badgers in some areas] should come out of his burrow and see the light (and thus his shadow) he would return to his burrow because winter would last six



more weeks.

German immigrants brought this folk custom to America in the 1800's. There being no hedgehogs in North America, the groundhog was drafted to take its place. Thus the secular calendar in America celebrates "Groundhog Day." But only the faithful Christian knows and understands the secret of the Light that shines on February 2nd. Not the light of the sun, frightening a furry creature back into his hole, but the Light of Christ, which frightens all the evil powers that would do us harm.

For an interesting theological meditation on Groundhog Day, I suggest you rent and view the movie by that title. Bill Murray finds redemption as he lives his way through a near eternity of Groundhog Days. But I will spare you.





**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer  
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

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***The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Tyro***

Saint Theodore, the fourth century martyr, is one of the most famous soldier-saints of the East. He was from Amasia of Pontus. When he entered the army, the persecution of Christians began under the Emperor Maximian (286-305). Theodore was called "tyro," from the Latin *tiro* meaning "recruit" because he was newly enlisted.

When it was reported that he was a Christian, he boldly confessed Christ. The ruler, hoping that he would repent, gave him time to consider the matter more completely and then give answer. Theodore gave answer by setting fire to the temple of Cybele, the "mother of the gods."

Legend has it that he was thrown into prison and left to die of starvation. While in prison, the Lord appeared to Theodore and encouraged him saying:

"Fear not, I am with you. Do not partake of earthly food and drink anymore, for you will be with Me in the other world in the heavens – eternal and everlasting."

There then appeared a multitude of angels in the prison. The guards seeing the angels became terrified. Saint Theodore was taken out, tortured and condemned to death. He suffered a martyr's death by fire.