

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

Pastoral Message for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord  
February 2, 2016

*“Say, O Simeon, Whom carriest thou in the Temple in thine arms with rejoicing? Towards Whom dost thou cry, shouting, Now I have been let to depart; for I have beheld my Savior. This is He born of the Virgin. This is the Word, God of God, Who wast incarnate for our sakes, and saved man. Him let us worship.”*  
*(From the Stichera of Great Vespers for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord)*

We greet you with love and joy on this Holy Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ into the Temple. The verse from the Great Vespers of the holy feast which is quoted above transmits to us the essence of this holy feast. The law is fulfilled by the presentation of our Lord into the Temple at 40 days after His birth. The pious Simeon, who has waited patiently for the revelation which has been promised to him by God, expresses his joy in no uncertain terms. He is awestruck by the thought that he now bears in his arms the Creator of the universe, and he expresses his readiness to depart this life having been blessed by this experience.

This holy feast is also called the Meeting of the Lord in order to emphasize that the righteous Simeon now meets his Creator face to face, and holds Him in his arms. That which has been promised by God to Simeon is now fulfilled. As the righteous Simeon now meets his Lord in the Temple, let us also meet the Lord in our lives so that we can bear witness and exclaim that we too may “depart in peace” having directly encountered our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Praying that this Holy Feast will bring you joy and spiritual fulfillment, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Joseph'.

+Joseph  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*