

March 6, 2022

First Sunday of the Great Fast, Sunday of Orthodoxy



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 8, pg. 161, First Sunday of Lent: pp. 220 – 222
Typica: pp. 16-17, Beattitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MAR. 6 **FIRST SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, Sunday of Orthodoxy**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil, blessing of icons**
+ **Joseph Olack 5th year after passing**, offered by wife, Mary Elizabeth Olack

(4:00 P.M.) At St. Mary, Sunday Evening Vespers for the Great Fast)

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, March 9, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

FRI., MAR. 11 **SECOND FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST**
6:00 P.M. **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

SAT. MAR. 12 **SECOND ALL SOULS SATURDAY**
9:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY Panachida, Hramoty**

Members of the family are encouraged to attend the services on the All Souls Saturdays for by their presence and by their personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and indeed keep their memory everlasting!

SUN. MAR. 13 **SECOND SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, St. Gregory Palamas**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil**
+ **Philomena Rossi**, offered by Florence Leisky

4:00 P.M. **SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS for the GREAT FAST**

Preterpivj za nas strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas.

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

March 10: Richard Mudron, March 11: Kenneth Futato, March 12: Betsy Mraovich

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

Ann Trombulak – **Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074)

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

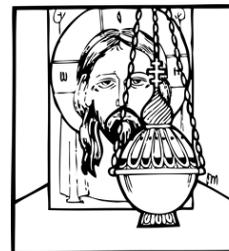
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – Mar. 6: Joanne Futato – Mar. 13: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Mar. 6: R. Mudron – Mar. 13: J. Yurosky



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

March 6 - 12, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ **Joseph Olack**

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Wife, Mary Elizabeth

O Theotokos, the indescribable Word of the Father became describable when he took flesh from you. Our soiled image was restored to its original form, commingled with divine beauty. This is the very salvation we profess, depicting it in word and deed.

The Kontakion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy



Please, remember to turn your clock 1 hour ahead this Saturday, March 12th, before you go to bed. Daylight Saving Time begins.



Pirohi Sale This Week

Our next Pirohi sale will be this **Friday, March 11. We encourage all who are able to please come and help. Work days are Monday & Tuesday at 9:00 AM.** Orders should be called in by **Thursday at noon at (724) 375-6652. Thank you!**

Are You Following the Lord?

“To every thoughtful man there is a benefit” (*Proverbs 14:23 LXX*) ... and Christ implied more than this when He said, “He that seeks finds.” (*Matthew 7:8*) This is why I no longer wonder how it was that Philip followed Christ. Andrew was persuaded when he heard from John, and Peter was persuaded when heard from Andrew. But Philip, not having learned anything from anyone but Christ who said to him only this, “Follow me,” immediately obeyed and did not go back. In fact, he even became a preacher to others. For he ran to Nathaniel and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Laws and the Prophets wrote.” Do you see what a thoughtful mind he had, how assiduously he meditated on the writings of Moses, expecting the advent? For the expression “we have found” belongs always to those who are in some way seeking. (*St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on the Gospel of John*)

Rediscover prayer

The Great Fast is a time of changing our ways (repentance). One of the areas of our life we are called to examine is prayer. How often do we pray? What is our prayer like? How comfortable are we at the thought of praying? Some people say that they don't pray because it's too hard. Other people might wonder at that – after all, we know the Lord's Prayer by heart. What's so hard about saying it? But sincere people want their prayer to be more than repetition. The problem is that they don't know what to say to God. For prayer to satisfy our hearts it should consist of (a) adoration, (b) contrition, (c) thanksgiving and (d) supplication. We begin with adoration or worship: praising God for who He truly is – our Creator, our Savior, the Source and Sustainer of our life. In contrition we express sorrow for our sins and failings which distance us from God. In prayers of thanksgiving we express our gratitude to God for everything He has given us. Finally in supplication we ask God for blessings for ourselves, our loved ones and for the whole world.

Prayer of Saint Ephrem

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter.

(Prostration)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

(Prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

(Prostration)

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are now a week into the Great Fast, in which we have taken up disciplines which are intended to draw us into closer communion with our loving Lord. I recently read these words from the late French Benedictine monk, Fr. Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette, which I thought were particularly appropriate for Lent:

Many people think that the search for God is reserved for certain special people, such as monks, theologians, or priests. Saint Benedict would affirm this, saying that the search for God is the primary reason for the embrace of the monastic life. He would quickly add, however, that this is also the fundamental quest for all Christians. "Seek first the Kingdom of God," Jesus proclaimed to all.

Today, the quest for God must continue through the ordinary events of our lives: through prayer and work, through our daily pains and joys, through our relationships and interactions with others, through our human incapacities and limitations, through our silence and solitude, through our study and reading. Every occasion and every event in our lives must become an incentive to intensify this divine pursuit, which ultimately is the sole purpose for all human life, the only reason for which any of us is placed upon the earth.

The Great Fast is given to us each year so that we can "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). St. Paul tells us that "the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of justice, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14.17). As we continue this season of more intensive prayer, acts of self-denial, and charity, we recognize that the Kingdom of God has already come among us (Luke 17.21). God's reign is on earth as it already is in heaven whenever we follow in his law of love.

And because he is always with us and has given us the Holy Spirit, we can follow him with certainty and continue our fast with joy!

May God be with you.

Fr. Geoff

On the first Sunday of the Great Fast we celebrate the feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy (True Worship). This is a historical feast commemorating the restoration of icons, which had been banned for several decades, to their rightful liturgical use in the year A.D. 843. The major emphasis of this feast is the victory of the true Faith, the Faith which always triumphs.

First Sunday of the Great Fast Sunday of Orthodoxy

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.

We are keeping today, as every year at the end of the first week of the Great Fast-Lent, the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. The occasion of this feast was the recognition of the legitimacy of venerating icons. By doing this we proclaim that God - invisible, ineffable, the God whom we cannot comprehend, has truly become man, that God has taken flesh, that He has lived in our midst full of humility, of simplicity, but of glory also. And proclaiming this we venerate the icons not as idols, but as a declaration of the Truth of the Incarnation.



By doing this we must not forget that it is not the icons of wood and of paint, but God who reveals Himself in the world. Each of us was created in the image of God. We are all living icons, and this lays upon us a great responsibility because an icon may be defaced, an icon may be turned into a caricature and into a blasphemy. And we must think of ourselves and ask ourselves: are we worthy; are we capable of being called “icons”, images of God?

As long as we are not capable of being such a vision to those who surround us, we fail in our duty, we do not proclaim this “Triumph of Orthodoxy” through our life, and we give a lie to what we proclaim. And therefore, each of us, and all of us collectively, bear every responsibility for the fact that the world meeting Christians by the million is not converted by the vision of God’s presence in their midst, carried indeed in earthen vessels, but glorious, saintly, transfiguring the world.

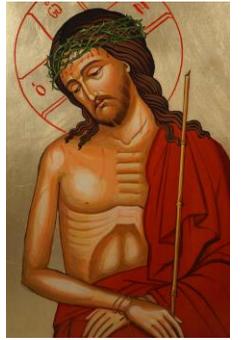
Therefore, as we continue our Lenten journey let us learn to live according to the Gospel which is the Truth and the Life, not only individually but collectively, and build societies of Christians that are a revelation of it, so that the world looking at us may say: Let us re-shape our institutions, re-shape our relationships, renew all that has gone or remains old and become a new society in which the Law of God, the Life of God can prosper and triumph. Amen.

Don't let this sacred time slip by!

Repentance, Fasting, Prayer, Alms-giving

Do Icons Work Miracles?

To put this question in proper perspective, let’s consider a few other questions: Did the Ark of the Covenant work miracles (e.g. Joshua 3:15ff; I Samuel 4-6; II Samuel 11-12)? Did the Bronze Serpent heal those bitten by snakes (Numbers 21:9)? Did the Prophet Elisha’s bones raise a man from the dead (II Kings 13:21)? Did St. Peter’s shadow heal the sick (Acts 5:15)? Did aprons and hand-kerchiefs that had touched St. Paul heal the sick and cast out evil spirits (Acts 19:12)?



The answer to these questions is: Yes, in a manner of speaking. Nevertheless, to be precise, it was God who chose to work miracles through these things. In the case of the Ark and the Bronze serpent, we have images used to work miracles. God worked a miracle through the relics of the Prophet Elisha, through the shadow of a Saint, and through things that had merely touched a Saint. Why? Because God honors those who honor Him (I Samuel 2:30), and thus takes delight in working miracles through his Saints, even by these indirect means. The fact that God can sanctify material things should come as no surprise to those familiar with Scripture. For example, not only was the Altar of the Temple holy, but anything that touched it was holy as well (Exodus 29:37). To reject the truth that God works through material things is to fall into Gnosticism.



So yes, loosely speaking, Icons can work miracles - but to be precise, it is God who works miracles through Icons, because He honors those who have honored Him.

- By Fr. John Whiteford

New Resources Today, March 6

We again have ***CATECHETICAL RESOURCES*** to share with you for the renewal of our Eastern Churches! Today we have a reflection for March: **This Kind is Only Healed by Prayer & Fasting** available for your personal formation. Kindly bring this resource and your Church bulletin home with you weekly for **deeper review** and family discussion. ***Many thanks!***

The Power of Fasting

Moses, in the season of abstinence, received the Law and proclaimed it to the people. Elijah by fasting closed the heavens; and the three children of Abraham through fasting overcame the lawless tyrant. Count us also worthy, O Christ, through fasting to attain the Feast of Your Resurrection, as we cry aloud: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies
 Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office
 Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
 Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
 Religious Education Classes September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
 St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Faith + prayer and fasting = power to overcome even the greatest of sin