

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church"

BULLETIN MARCH 20, 2016

SUN/MAR. 20

First Sunday of Great Lent

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour; Church School

12:30p.m. Procession with Holy Ghost Church

1:00p.m. Vespers at St. Grigol Church; followed by

Luncheon at Holy Ghost Church

End of 1st and beginning of 2nd week of the Great and Holy Fast

MON/MAR. 21

6:30p.m. One Year Memorial for Sophie Olszyk

7:00p.m. Vespers

TUES/MAR. 22

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confession

WED/MAR. 23

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Passion; Confessions

6:30p.m. Pre-sanctified Liturgy

THURS/MAR. 24

7:00p.m. Matins of the Annunciation Feast

FRI/MAR. 25

ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS

9:30a.m. Vespers and Liturgy

SAT/MAR. 26

Memorial Saturday

9:30a.m. Akathist for Departed; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUN/MAR. 27

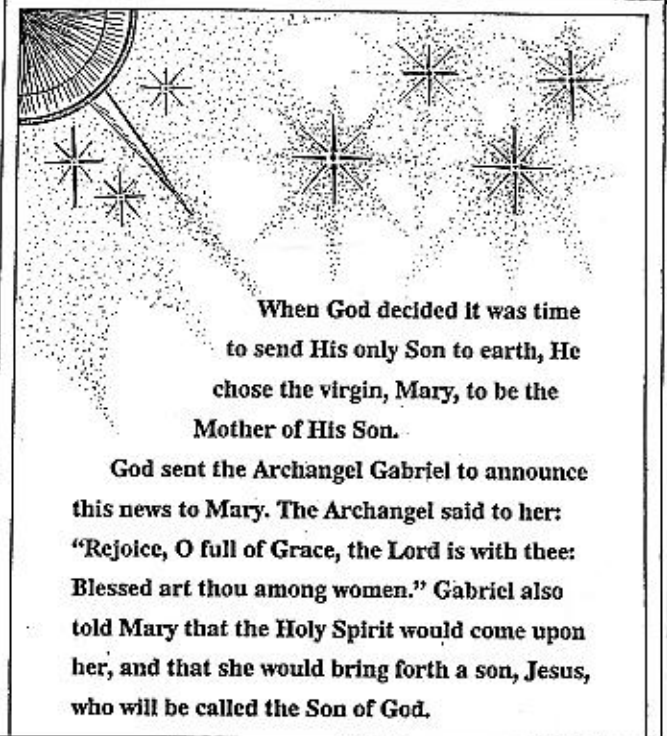
Second Sunday of Great Lent

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour; Church School; Q & A. Period

4:00p.m. Deanery Vespers at Mother of God Church in Princeton

End of the 2nd and beginning of the 3rd week of the Great & Holy Fast



Mary was humble, and she obediently accepted God's will. She said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; Be it unto me according to thy Word."

Offerings Week of March 20

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Anastasia and Rosalia; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of John and for the health of Vera; in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Elena, Grigore, Maria, Valeria, Elena, Alexandru, Mihaila, Anicuta, Alexandru, Maria, Aurelia, Ilie and Ion.

Wine: in honor of St. Edward.

Flowers: for the health of Mark Kulick (birthday) for the health of Evdokia, Theodoti, Helen, Nikandros, Sergio and Sophia.

The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Mar. 20, 2000 Theodore Adamchak
Mar. 20, 2015 Sophie Olszyk
Mar. 21, 1991 Eugenia Kozlov
Mar. 23, 1925 Peter Chabra
Mar. 23, 1975 Anna Yalsh
Mar. 24, 1959 Alexander Gromack
Mar. 24, 1970 Julia Zorzi
Mar. 24, 1974 Xenia Poletelo
Mar. 25, 1954 John Holovach
Mar. 25, 1984 Stephen Szwahla
Mar. 26, 1931 Anna Mogilevsky
Mar. 26, 1958 Henry Knaff

Coffee Hour Hosts

Mar. 20 – *No meats, dairy or fish:*
Kita, Nevitt, Keller & Turri
Mar. 27 – *No meats, dairy or fish:*
Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona
Apr. 03 – *No meat, dairy or fish*
Torrise, Kachek & Stone

Usher Schedule

Mar. 20 Dennis F. & Peter B.
Mar. 27 Edward S. & Kahka K.
Apr. 03 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Counters

Mar. 20 Inga G. & Peter B.
Mar. 27 Ekaterini M. & Ciprian C.
New Schedule Being Prepared

Sunday Readers Schedule

Mar. 20 Ciprian C./Mar. 27
Daniel T. / Apr. 03 Zachary S.

Koliva/Boiled Wheat Is Sought For:

For the following Saturday mornings: March 26, April 2. Please let Fr. James know in advance which day you wish to make the wheat for. Thank you.

The Calendar

Mar. 27 Sun. Installation of New Parish Council
Mar. 31 Thur. Parish Council Meeting
Apr. 03 Sun. Deanery Vespers in Perth Amboy
5:00 with Archbishop Michael
Apr. 10 Sun. Deanery Vespers in Medford 4:00
with Archbishop Michael
Apr. 17 Sun. Deanery Vespers in Manville 4:00
Apr. 20 Wed. Abp. Michael in Manville for 6:30
For Pre-sanctified Liturgy

The Great & Holy Fast of 40 Days

March 14th thru April 30th. Our goals for this season are:

- 1) renewal through repentance;
- 2) Reordering our priorities according to Christ's teachings;
- 3) developing a stable, growing life in union with Christ.

3 Seeds of Growth – March

- 1) Check out a book from the Parish Library for Lenten Reading.
- 2) Be sure to arrange to receive the Holy Mysteries of Confession & Communion during the period of the 40 days of Great Lent – March 14th to April 30th.
- 3) Build upon the tripod of prayer, fasting and good deeds as they are the provisions for a good Lenten Journey.

Pussywillows Are Sought

Please bring them to the church hall.

If You Can Be of Service

- The position of Treasurer is open and on the job training will be provided.
- Ushers are sought.
- “New Readers” for the Post-Communion Prayers after Liturgy are sought. Especially to be desired are children and teens

The Church Discipline for Receiving Holy Communion

- One must be free of serious sin and have made a recent Confession. If your soul is troubled, you should go to Confession before approaching for Holy Communion.
- Attendance at the evening before service (Vespers or Vigil) is to be considered normal, and absence for a cause worthy of a blessing.
- A total fast begins at midnight from all foods and drinks.
- Medicines may be taken and do not break the fast. Questions? Speak with your priest.
- Pre-Communion Prayers found in your Prayer Book are recited the evening before Communion or the morning of. If one wishes half can be said at either periods of time.
- Post-Communion Prayers found in your Prayer Book are recited on the day we receive Holy Communion. In some churches – as in Manville – these are done publically after the Liturgy.

Lenten Retreats To Take Place – See the Bulletin Board for Flyers

- **2016 NY-NJ Diocesan Lenten Teen Retreat**, April 1-3 (grades 7-12)
- **Medford Retreat on Prayer** April 2 (all)
- **Randolph Young Adult Weekend Retreat** April. 1-3
- **Paramus Retreat on Spirituality** April 9 (all)

"Even when your body does nothing, sin can be active in your mind. When your soul inwardly repulses the evil one's attack by means of prayer, attention, remembrance of death, godly sorrow and mourning the body, too, takes its share of holiness, having acquired freedom from evil actions. This is what the Lord meant by saying that someone who cleans the outside of the cup has not cleansed it inside, but clean the inside and the whole cup will be clean (cf. Mt. 23:25-26)." ... "These three things God requires of all the baptized: right faith in the heart, truth on the tongue, temperance in the body."

—St. Gregory Palamas



"When a man despises the grace given him, and forthwith falls into the cares of the world, he delivers himself over to his lusts; and thus in the time of persecution he is offended (cf. Mt. 13:21), and becomes altogether unfruitful. Now the prophet points out the end of such negligence, saying, 'Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord carelessly' (Jer. 48:10). For a servant of the Lord should be diligent and careful, moreover burning like a flame, so that when, by an ardent spirit, he has destroyed all carnal sin, he may be able to draw near to God, Who, according to the expression of the saints, is called 'a consuming fire' (Heb. 12:29)."

—St. Athanasius the Great

If You Miss the Divine Liturgy For Three Sundays in a Row and you Regularly Receive Holy Communion every Sunday

You have broken the discipline and must go to Confession before coming to Holy Communion.

In Regard to Fasting For the Evening Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

The Holy Synod of the OCA has made allowance for those that are unable to fast for the entire day, to at least fast for Holy Communion from the time of the noonday meal.

Names Day Greetings

St. Larissa/Mar. 26th: Larissa Mattei, Many Blessed Years!

Spring Church Cleaning Dates

Saturdays, April 9th 10:30a.m. and April 16th at 11:00a.m. Please join us in preparing the church for Holy Week and Pascha.

101 Anniversary Celebration

The weekend of October 29 and 30 will be our celebration. Please reserve this weekend on your calendar.

All Orthodox Christians Partake of the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion During Great Lent

March 14th thru April 23rd. Ample opportunities are offered for Confession as posted or make other arrangements with Father James.

THE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

By VRev. Thomas Hopko

The eucharistic Divine Liturgy is not celebrated in the Orthodox Church on lenten weekdays, since the full Divine Liturgy has a joyful character not in keeping with the somberness of the Great Fast. However, in order for the faithful to sustain their lenten effort by participation in Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served. The service is an ancient one in the Orthodox Church. We officially hear about it in the canons of the seventh century, which obviously indicates its development at a much earlier date.

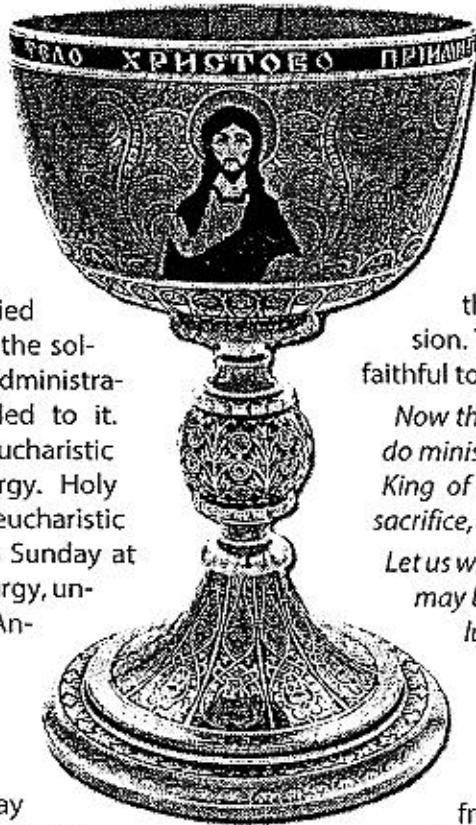
On all days of the holy fast of Lent, except on the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, and the holy day of the Annunciation, the Liturgy of the Presanctified is to be served (Canon 52, Quinisext, 692).

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is an evening service. It is the solemn lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, unless, of course, the feast of the Annunciation should intervene; hence its name of "presanctified."

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served on Wednesday and Friday evenings, although some churches may celebrate it only on one of these days. It comes in the evening after a day of spiritual preparation and total abstinence. The faithful who are unable to make the effort of total fasting because of weakness or work, however, normally eat a light lenten meal in the early morning.

During the psalms of Vespers, the presanctified gifts are prepared for communion. They are transferred from the altar table where they have been reserved since the Divine Liturgy, and are placed on the table of oblation. After the evening hymn, the Old Testament scriptures of Genesis and Proverbs

are read, between which the celebrant blesses the kneeling congregation with a lighted candle and the words: "The Light of Christ illumines all," indicating that all wisdom is given by Christ in the Church through the scriptures and sacraments. This blessing was originally directed primarily to the catechumens -- those preparing to be baptized on Easter -- who attended the service only to the time of the communion of the faithful.



After the readings, the evening Psalm 141 is solemnly sung once again with the offering of incense. Then, after the litanies of intercession and those at which the catechumens were dismissed in former days, the presanctified eucharistic gifts are brought to the altar in a solemn, silent procession. The song of the entrance calls the faithful to communion.

Now the heavenly powers (i.e., the angels) do minister invisibly with us. For behold the King of Glory enters. Behold the mystical sacrifice, all fulfilled, is ushered in.

Let us with faith and love draw near that we may be partakers of everlasting life. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

After the litany and prayers, the Our Father is sung and the faithful receive Holy Communion to the chanting of the verse from Psalm 34: "O taste and see how good is the Lord. Alleluia." The post-communion hymns are sung and the faithful depart with a prayer to God who "has brought us to these all-holy days for the cleansing of carnal passions," that he will bless us "to fight the good fight, to accomplish the course of the fast, and to attain unto and to adore the holy resurrection" of Christ.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is traditionally considered to be the work of the sixth-century pope, Saint Gregory of Rome. The present service, however, is obviously the inspired liturgical creation of Christian Byzantium.