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February 4, 2007

SUNDAY/FEB. 4th

Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Tone 1)

Postfeast of the Meeting of our Lord

9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour;
Book-for-the-Month from the
Parish Library

6:30p.m. Compline & Akathist to
St. Theodosius of Chernigov
(Feb. 5th)

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 7th

9:30a.m. 40th Day Memorial Service for
Ann Wasitowski

SATURDAY/FEB. 10th

Memorial Saturday; St. Charalampus

9:30a.m. General Memorial Service;
Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/FEB. 11th

Meat-Fare Sunday (Tone 2)

9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour;
Church School (Young Class);
Teen Discussion

12:00p.m. Annual Parish Meeting

Meat Fare Week: Feb. 12th – 18th

Begins on Monday, March 12th. During this week
there is a fast from meat, but fish, dairy, wine and
oil are permitted on all days.

Wednesday (Feb. 14th) and Friday (Feb. 16th) are
days of lenten liturgical order. The Divine Liturgy
may not be celebrated on these days. At the
services and in our homes, the Lenten Prayer of
St. Ephrem the Syrian – “O Lord and Master of
my life...” is recited.

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)



In this parable told by the Lord, the son of a wealthy landowner takes his inheritance and wastes it. When his wealth is gone and he is “down and out”, he recognized his error and returns to his father, hoping for a position as the lowest of servants in his father’s house. The father greets him with joy, and welcomes him without reservation: he is given his old position – a son of the manor! The elder son, who had never gone away and had always done as his father asked, is resentful.... The father lovingly sets him straight: “you are always with Me, and it is fitting to be glad and to rejoice with your Father. For this son of mine was dead in sin, and he has been revived by repenting over what he committed...”

Pre-Lenten Considerations

What are the Lenten Rules of Fasting?

How can I fast so as that it will be of spiritual profit?

What kind of lenten lifestyle will I strive to keep?

Will there be an increased measure of prayer and spiritual reading?

Am I at peace with others, so I can enter into Great Lent with a pure heart?

Do I understand that Great Lent is a gifted time?

Annual Parish Meeting – Feb. 11th

At 12:00p.m. If necessary – due to weather – the meeting will be held on the following Sunday, Feb. 18th at 12:00p.m. All reports to be presented should be submitted to the rector no later than Jan. 31st.

Namesday Greetings

St. Charalampus/Feb. 10th: Charles Dunaenko
St. Valentina/Feb. 10th: Valentina Gorbunova
Many Blessed Years!

Boiled Wheat is Sought

For the following services:

Memorial Saturday, Feb. 10th, 9:30a.m.

St. Theodore Day, Feb. 23rd, 6:30p.m.

Memorial Saturday, Mar. 3rd, 9:30a.m.

Memorial Saturday, Mar. 10th, 9:30a.m.

Please let Fr. James know if you can prepare the wheat. Cups, spoons and napkins will be provided by the church.

Entrance into the Season of the Great and Holy Fast of 40 Days

Begins with the Vespers and Rite of Forgiveness On Sunday evening, Feb. 18th at 6:30p.m. This wonderful service we ought to participate in.

Pirohi Dinner – Feb. 16th, Fri. 5-7:30p.m.

This annual pre-lenten dinner will be held at our parish center. Advanced tickets (before Fe. 9th) are \$9 and at the door, \$10. To purchase tickets or for more information please call Susan Gorbaturk (908-722-7849).

February OCA Mission Appeal

You are asked to use the Mission Envelope to be found in your bi-monthly packet of envelopes. The offering will be distributed directly to a number of OCA mission parishes by the parish council. It is important that we are supportive of mission growth in our USA.

Winter Weather Cancellations

Will be posted on the parish website at least one hour before the scheduled service or event. You may also call the rectory.

The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Anna Wasitowski (40th day – Feb. 7th)

Feb. 04, 1973 Mary Bolash

Feb. 04, 1975 Pelagia Grishkivech

Feb. 05, 1958 Theodore Andreosky

Feb. 07, 1931 Basil Petrovsky

Feb. 07, 1970 Tatiana Gumenuk

Feb. 08, 1953 John Andreosky

Feb. 09, 1972 Fr. Nikifor Besmertnuk
(rector 1925)

Feb. 09, 1988 Anna Karel

Feb. 10, 1962 Fr. Michael Tidik
(rector 1922)

Feb. 10, 1988 Ruth Michaelovsky

Feb. 10, 2001 Mary Spotts

Feb. 11, 1993 Josephine Hriniaik

Easter Candy Sale

Is presently under way. Each household is receiving an order form. Extra order forms will be found on the vestibule stand. Pascha and Western Easter are the same date this year, April 8th. For more information please see Sandy Filippini.

Time to Think of How One will Fast and Clean out the Refrigerator

Meat-Fare Sunday is Feb. 11th. This is the last day we partake of meat products until Pascha, April 8th. Cheese-Fare Sunday is Feb. 18th. This is the last day we partake of dairy products until Pascha, April 8th.

Diocesan Youth Retreat – Feb. 9th-11th

This retreat is for grades 7 thru 12, will be held at St. Joseph's Seminary near Rocky Hill. See posted flyer and cut-off date. For half of the fee, see Fr. James.

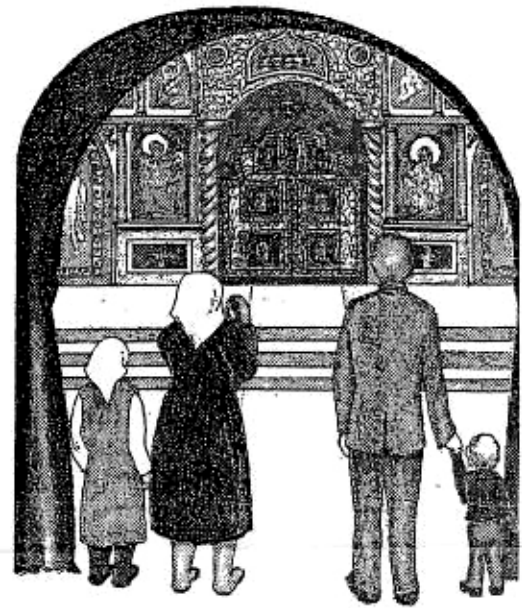
Good Order During Church Services

- 1) Cell phones off.
- 2) No hanging out in the vestibule.
- 3) Leaving before the service is over, only is necessary.
- 4) No lighting of candles when the clergy are outside of the altar (i.e. Gospel, Sermon, Great Entrance, During Communion).
- 5) Talking to God (Prayer).
- 6) Talking with Others (at Coffee Hour).

How Should We Spend Sundays?

Sundays should be spent differently from other days of the week. Because all of us constantly benefit from God's many and various blessings, and constantly feel the need for new blessings, all of us are obliged by the word of God and the demand of our own consciences to raise our minds and hearts to the Lord God in the deepest reverence toward Him, in complete devotion to Him, and in the most profound gratitude and prayer. The holy King David said: *mine eyes are ever toward the Lord* (Ps. 24:15); *his praise shall continually be in my mouth* (Ps. 33:2); and *the meditation of my heart shall be before Thee for ever* (LXX) (Ps. 18:15). And the holy Apostle Paul commands us: *Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks. . . .* (I Thess. 5:17-18), and *always abounding in the work of the Lord* (I Cor. 15:58).

But just as the greater part of the human race still stands far below this perfection, the Lord God Himself, in order to raise it up little by little to this perfection, willed to set aside one day out of each week so that all of us would dedicate this day exclusively to the Lord God, putting aside on that day all activities that are more or less necessary to maintain our earthly life. In the Old Testament, this day was Saturday, and in the New, Sunday.



Now, it is in itself obvious how we should spend, or rather dedicate or celebrate, Sunday. St. John Chrysostom says, "It was the Lord's good will to prescribe that we dedicate one day in the weekly cycle to spiritual matters." And in the book of the Acts of the Apostles we see that the original members of Christ's Church gathered on Sundays for the breaking of bread, and listened to Christ's teachings (Acts 20:7).

Thus, the first obligation that Sunday imposes on each of us is to set aside all the business that we need to engage in during the six days of the week to support our earthly lives. Fulfillment of this obligation is made the easier because the Lord God gave us six days out of every week to obtain what is necessary to maintain our earthly, physical lives. Besides, all works of charity, even though they might only effect maintenance of our earthy lives, are not prohibited even on the seventh day, Sunday, and are even ordained as an obligation, as we see from the example and teaching of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Matt. 12:11, 12).

The second obligation, which Sunday imposes even more strictly on all of us, is to turn away from all impious acts that drive from our souls remembrance of the Lord God, reverence towards Him, devotion to Him, gratitude and a prayerful disposition of soul toward Him, to wit: all iniquitous works, and also all unedifying reading, all unedifying conversations, unedifying idleness and various games during which our souls often not only lose remembrance of the Lord God, but forget even themselves, give themselves up to a spirit of impiety and are carried away by delights, of which the undoubted end after death is bitter weeping and wailing (Luke 6:25).

The third obligation that the day of Resurrection places on us is, as is apparent from the example of the first Christians, attendance at the Sunday divine services, especially the Divine Liturgy. For among us there

is not a single person on whom the Lord God has not bestowed His blessings at every moment and who could live even one minute without His blessings. For all our divine services consist in nothing else but remembrance of God's various blessings and in the expression of our reverence before the Lord God, our devotion to the Lord God, our grateful feelings toward Him, and our fervent prayer that His blessings upon us will continue. Only people with the most hardened, spiritually frozen, and dead hearts can not deeply feel and zealously fulfill the obligation for us to attend the divine services, especially the Liturgy, on Sundays. May the Lord God deliver all of us from this vile condition of soul.

The most reliable way to assure that our reverence towards the Lord God, our devotion, our gratitude, and our prayers to Him may become more alive, more sincere, more continuous, and stronger is to examine the cause of the Lord God's establishing the Sabbath in the Old Testament and Sunday in the New Testament. We must examine God's creation, and in it God's almightiness, His wisdom, and His goodness, and even more, God's ineffable love, shown to the human race by the passion and death of Jesus Christ, whereby He freed the human race from sin and death. And this is the fourth obligation that the Day of Resurrection, Sunday, imposes on us.

The first members of Christ's Church, as the book of the Acts of the Apostles shows, spent Sunday listening to the Word of God (Acts 20:7). Hearing or reading the Word of God is necessary for all of us and is the fifth obligation imposed on each of us by the day of Resurrection. For all of us without exception are obliged to live a holy life. *[God] hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him,* says the holy Apostle Paul (Eph. 1:4). But none of us can live a holy life unless we hear or read the Word of God, for only in the Word of God are shown the rules of holy life.

Many, many people who lived in the world senselessly and died without repentance would have tried zealously to live in a holy way and would not have found themselves in the torments of hell if during their lives they had practiced reading or hearing the Word of God.

Upon an attentive and zealous reading or hearing of the Word of God, each of us can quickly receive light from God with which to comprehend more soundly the Word of God and quickly see the image of a holy life in it as in a mirror, and see the vices in ourselves, especially our chief passion, which hinders us most of all from behaving blamelessly and in a holy way. By this reading or hearing, anyone may also quickly see clearly the means for extracting his soul from its dangerous state and also receive from the Lord God a firm desire and the strength to firmly adhere to a holy life.

As we must examine ourselves every day in relation to our salvation, so much the more should it be our obligation on Sundays. And this is the sixth obligation that Sunday imposes on each of us. Sunday before all other days should be a day on which we make the most attentive and detailed examination of our spiritual state in relation to salvation, and make a new, firm intention to root out from ourselves everything opposed to God and our salvation.

