

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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March 18, 2007

SUNDAY/MAR. 18th (Tone 7) wine & oil
4th Sunday of Great Lent: St. John of Sinai

9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours
 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour
 End of the 4th & beginning of the 5th week of the
 Great and Holy Fast
 4:00p.m. Deanery Vespers with Metropolitan
 Herman at Holy Assumption Church
 In Clifton

MONDAY/MAR. 19th

7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/MAR. 20th

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confession

WEDNESDAY/MAR. 21st (wine & oil)

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Passion; Confession
 7:00p.m. Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

THURSDAY/MAR. 22nd (wine & oil)

6:30p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

FRIDAY/MAR. 23rd (wine & oil)

7:00p.m. Compline with Akathist to Theotokos;
 Confession

SATURDAY/MAR. 24th (wine & oil)

Laudation of Theotokos
 9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours
 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/MAR. 25th (fish, wine & oil)

**5th Sunday of Great Lent: St. Mary of
 Egypt; Annunciation Feast**

9:10a.m. 3rd and 6th Hours
 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour
 Church School; Q. & A. Period
 End of the 5th & beginning of the 6th week of the
 Great and Holy Fast
 4:00p.m. Deanery Vespers at Annunciation
 Church in Brick



He who has united his heart to prayer
 will not easily be raided by spiritual thieves

LENTEN HYMNS

The most beautiful of seasons is at hand;
 The much-praised day of abstinence has
 dawned.

Let us make hast, brethren, to be cleansed, that
 we may appear in purity before our Maker and
 share in His beauty, through the intercessions of
 her who bore Him, the only pure Mother of God.

O Lord, Thou hast granted us to reach the light
 of the present day;
 And soon we shall come to the holy week of the
 dread raising of Lazarus from the tomb.
 Count us Thy servants worthy to walk in Thy
 fear, and to complete the whole course of the
 Fast.

Visit, Lord, my wounded and humiliated soul, O
 Physician of the sick,
 Storm-free haven of the hopeless.
 For Thou art the Deliver of the world, and hast
 come to raise the fallen from corruption.
 In Thy great mercy raise me also, for I kneel
 before Thee.





The Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion

Should be received by all the faithful in this time of Great Lent (Feb. 19-Mar. 31). Please examine the March Bulletin for the many opportunities for Confession, or you may make other arrangements by calling Fr. James.

The Holy Mysteries of Confession & Communion for Great Lent

Will be brought to those that are shut-in the week of March 19th-23rd. Please call Fr. James to schedule a visitation if you are home-bound.

An Opportunity for Matching Funds

A Parishioner has asked the Parish Council to present to the faithful, the opportunity to match funds up to \$2,500 for an IRA (retirement fund) for the parish rector. Anyone desiring to make any offering is requested to speak with the treasurer, Robert Smith. Any gift needs to be given by March 25th.

Offerings for the week of March 18th

Olive Oil - in memory of Emilia; in memory of Michael; for the health of Marcel; for health and in thanksgiving by Laurentiu and Liliana; in memory of Floarea, Gheorghe, Alexandru, Ssainca, Maria, Margareta, Elena and Anastasia; in memory of John Rosocha and for health of Joan.

Wine - in honor of St. Edward; in memory of Joan.

Let's Help Our Neighbors - Fire Victims Here in Manville - 2 blocks from church

On March 12th a devastating house fire killed a young mother (age 27) and two of her children, Tubal (age 5) and Angelina (age 4). The father and a 2 year old boy managed to escape. Lives and property were lost. Our prayers for the deceased and the remaining father and son.

The Poor Basket in the center of the church for March 18, 25 and April 1 will be earmarked for the family. Check may be made to Ss. Peter & Paul Church.

The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Vincent Chwat (40th day - March 21st) Feb. 09
John Jackowlew (40th day - March 25th) Feb. 11
Mar. 18, 1942 John Hrihorchuk
Mar. 18, 1981 Metropolitan Ireney
Mar. 19, 2004 Anna Lesneski
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

Lenten Charities

The Poor Basket in the center of the church. What is collected is used by our parish St. Philaret Society for needful parishioners and non-parishioners.

OCMC Boxes support Mission work in the USA and abroad. Pick-up a box from the vestibule stand and return by Palm Sunday, April 1st.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalen in Jerusalem is helped by our parish every year on Palm Sunday. Please use the special envelope attached to this Sunday's Bulletin.

The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

O Lord and Master of my life, take from the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power and idle talk. (prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant. (prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother, for Thou art blessed unto all the ages. (prostration)

O God cleanse me a sinner. (12x with bows)

(Prayer is repeated as a whole with one prostration). The Prayer is said Sunday evening thru Friday evening, not on Saturdays or Sundays.

Namesday Greetings

St. Daria/Mar. 19th: Daria Parsells, Many Blessed Years!

Holy Unction Service

Thursday, March 29th. Those wishing to receive the Holy Oil must have been to Confession and Communion prior to this date in Great Lent

Living in an Insecure Age

Archbishop Demetrios, Greek Orthodox Church of America

February, 2007

Our consideration of the topic of security is a growing one in our contemporary age. Before elaborating upon this important topic, we should ask some fundamental questions: First, how do we understand the notion of security? Second, how do we work as communities to maintain it? In our contemporary world, the notion of security is understood by a variety of terms: economic security, personal security, national security, global security, and so on. In our country, the most recent addition to this list of terms is the term "homeland security." Throughout history, nations have maintained these various dimensions of security through a framework of laws, and they have addressed, through diplomatic or military alternatives, conflicts that have impeded upon their security. As Greek Orthodox Christians, we stand in a remarkable position to enhance the concept of security as it is understood today from an added perspective which is equally grounded, valuable, and informed. This perspective is the religious perspective, which understands notions of security from a theological vantage, and seeks to maintain levels of security by looking first to the Church as an unshakeable fortress of protection in times of need.

One of the more explicit examples of this perspective is the manner by which our Orthodox Church to this day continues to look toward the protection of the saints as persons who offer us a very real and ever-present shelter in times of uncertainty and stress. Our theology teaches us that saints are persons who exhibited characteristics of holiness in their lives due to their unwavering faith in God and love for others. As such, they are persons who have opened their hearts and minds to the power of the Holy Spirit, serving as instruments of God's grace on earth. For this reason, the Church affords the saints a place of prominence in Her collective memory on specified dates whereupon we, the living faithful, pray for their intercessions before God.

Many of the saints throughout the ages have been specifically accorded the role of "protector." One of these saints includes Saint George the Great Martyr, a Christian soldier of the Roman Empire in the late 3rd century, a time when Christians faced heavy persecution. Saint George died for his Christian faith and is venerated widely throughout the Christian Church as a Great Martyr. Another of these saints is Saint Demetrios of Thessaloniki, a Christian officer and teacher of the early 4th century Roman Empire who is venerated as a Great Martyr of the Church and who met death under similar circumstances. These two saints are venerated so widely throughout the Christian Church that some cities and nations have even declared them as their official patron saints, thus recognizing that some states have acknowledged, to some degree, the role of the saints as protectors of the homeland.

Throughout history, Christians have asked these saints to intercede before God for protection from enemies of all kinds: protection in war, protection from invasion, protection from civil unrest, and protection from the spread of disease. In our modern world, we continue to face these threats, even though they may have altered in their form. Some of these threats include nuclear arms proliferation in the world, continued instability between rival nations, border and land disputes, the development of organized cells of terrorists, the continued rise of deadly diseases, crimes of genocide, and ongoing strife in the Middle East. Also included among these threats are some very troubling potential realities for the future, such as the

widespread use of biological warfare, potential conflicts in developing nations over such fundamental resources as water, and the frightening consequences of global warming and climate change.

In the face of these alarming realities and potentials, it may be argued that what is needed now more than ever is, among other things, concentration in proper state action, wise diplomacy, and increased funding for sound scientific research. While this is certainly true, our faith as Greek Orthodox Christians informs us that what is also needed so urgently now is an intensification of our prayer to God by invoking the tremendously powerful interceding action of the saints for protection and security. This has always been a cornerstone of the teaching of our Church. Of course, no discussion of security would be complete without due reference to the Theotokos, the Mother of God, who is par excellence the invincible Protectress of us all. Also integral to any discussion of security from a theological vantage is the important role that the angels play as protectors in our lives. The role of the Theotokos and the angels warrants considerable attention in its own right, and therefore will be explored in separate reflection pieces.

Our contemporary world is longing for a genuine and lasting security. Though the notion of security has been understood and maintained differently over time; the world has always longed for this security, and indeed we feel the need for it more palpably now than in previous days. It is my belief and prayer that, through the intercessions of the saints, this security will assuredly prevail and permeate our world. I ask as you read and share this reflection piece that you offer prayers to our God, asking in particular for the intercessions of the saints in your daily prayers so that our world may realize this very real, sacred, and permanent kind of security, which ultimately God grants and maintains in His wisdom and in His love for us.

+ DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

