

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN MARCH 26, 2017

SUNDAY/MARCH 26

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

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

Coffee Hour & Question/Answer Period

5:00p.m. Vespers in Perth Amboy

MONDAY/MARCH 27

7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/MARCH 28

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 29

9:30a.m. Passion Akathist; Confessions

7:00p.m. Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

THURSDAY/MARCH 30

6:30p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

FRIDAY/MARCH 31

7:00p.m. Matins & Akathist to Theotokos
Confessions

LAUDATION SATURDAY/APRIL 1

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

10:30a.m. Church Cleaning II

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

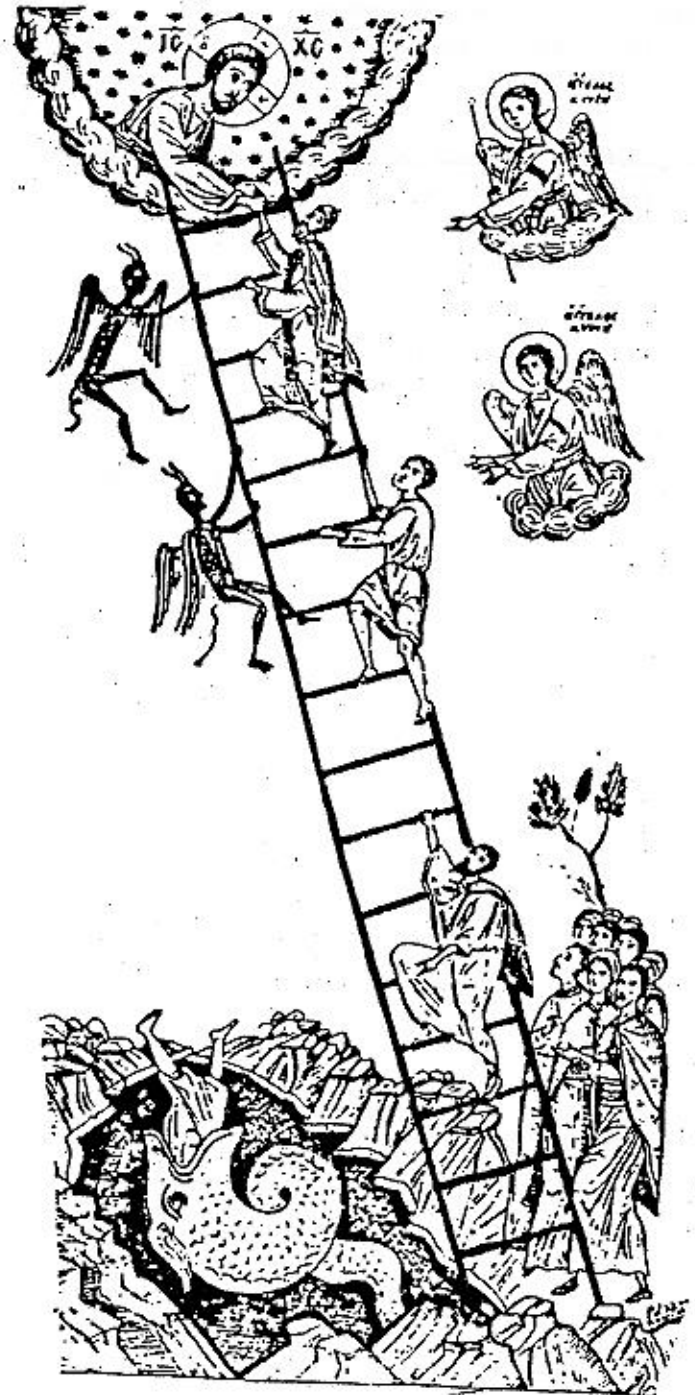
SUNDAY/APRIL 2

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

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

Coffee Hour; Church School & Teen Class

5:00p.m. Deanery Vespers & Supper
hosted by our parish



Offerings Week of March 26

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia and Anastasia; for the health of Mark (birthday); in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for the health of Emma (names day); for the health of Mindy and Daria (birthdays).

Wine: for the health of Rachael.

Flowers: for the health of Reader Samuel and Robert.

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Mar. 27, 1971 Anna Shwhala

Mar. 27, 1985 Steven Pawlik

Mar. 29, 1942 John Kudelko

Mar. 29, 2007 Anastasia Kornacki

Mar. 30, 1959 Julius Kisel

Mar. 30, 1968 Pauline Bulat

Mar. 31, 1931 George Andrejko

Mar. 31, 1985 Alexander Rudzina

Apr. 01, 1966 John Huzinec

Apr. 01, 1974 Thomas Wytovich

Coffee Hour Schedule

- Coffee Hour Hosts are reminded to prepare foods that are simple enough that you leave the church only after Communion.
- Coffee Hour Hosts, please place trash in the garbage cans outside, or if the cans are full, on top of the cans, but not on the ground.

No meat, no fish & no dairy products at Coffee Hour during Great Lent

Mar. 26 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Stainia & Sarchisian

Apr. 02 Wypych, Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue

Apr. 09 *Fish Permitted*

Apr. 09 Peterson, Bakaltetz, Mattei, Erkman & Stone

Counters Schedule

Mar. 26 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

Apr. 02 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

Apr. 09 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Ushers Schedule

Mar. 26 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Apr. 02 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Apr. 09 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Sunday Readers Schedule

Mar. 26 – Daniel T. / Apr. 02 John Z.

OCCM – Orthodox Christian Mission Center – Lenten Coin Boxes

Every Great Lent our parish undertakes this project to help Orthodox Mission Projects around the world. Please take a box and return in on Palm Sunday, April 9th.

The Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion in the 40 Day Great Lent

All the faithful should receive these Holy Mysteries during the period of the 40 Days. They are ample times offered for Confession during the week. During the Great and Holy Week (April 9-15), Confessions are not scheduled, please make your Confession before Palm Sunday (April 9). College students can make arrangements for Confession during Great and Holy Week if they are presently away at school.

Names Day Greetings

St. Larissa/Mar. 26: Larissa Mattei

Many Blessed Years!

Sign-Up Sheets for Great & Holy Week: April 9-15

- 1) Various Tasks that need to be accomplished in Great & Holy Week.
- 2) Reading (Vigil Watch) on Great & Holy Friday and Saturday.

Please sign-up and help out when and where you can.

The Mystery of Holy Unction – April 6th

On this Thursday evening we will perform this Mystery of Healing. Those who desire to receive the Oil, must have gone to Confession and Communion prior to this date in the time of Great Lent.

Be In the Know

- Read your Sunday Bulletin carefully;
- Check the Parish & Diocese Websites;
- Subscribe yourself on our parish e-mail;
- Join us on Face Book: Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church.

FASTING IN OUR LIFE

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus discusses the most basic spiritual practices of His day: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. He tells us to “*pray to your Father in secret*” (Matthew 6:6), and to act in such a way that “*your almsgiving may be secret*” (Matthew 6:4). And He also tells us how to fast:

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.” (Matthew 6:16-18)

Jesus Himself fasted for forty days before beginning to teach, as Moses fasted for forty days before proclaiming the Ten Commandments to the people. The Church continued the practice from its earliest days. The Apostles fasted before appointing presbyters (Acts 14) and people were directed to fast before baptism: “*Before a baptism, let him who baptizes and him who is baptized fast, and any others who may be able to do so. And command him who is baptized to fast one or two days beforehand*” (Didache 7:4). This second-century instruction also instructs all believers to fast twice each week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

What Is Fasting?

Fasting simply consists of ***not eating or drinking anything*** for a specific period of time. Christians fast before a special encounter with God, as in the Eucharist.

During ***fasting seasons***, people may fast for a certain part of the day – until noon, for example – and then, when they do eat, eat only the “***Food of Paradise***” (the fruits of the earth given for our use according to Genesis 1:29) and avoid animal products (meat, fish, dairy) and alcohol, which appear only later in Biblical history.



God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; they shall be your food.”

(Genesis 1:29)

- Fasting becomes a **burden** when people focus on the negative elements: not eating, or avoiding certain foods.
- Fasting becomes **uplifting** when people concentrate on its positive aspects:
 - It **anticipates encounter with God**, saying that "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).
 - It affirms that **our true nature and purpose is communion with God**, given in Paradise along with the fruits of the earth. "**Let us enter a second Paradise, full of the virtues of the holy Ascetics. Let us taste with joy the living and life-giving fruits which grow there, and with faith let us sing their praises.**" (Matins, Saturday of Cheesefare)

When Should We Fast?

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have fasted before Pascha, as well as on every Wednesday and Friday, remembering the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ. Traditionally our Church observes the following fast periods:

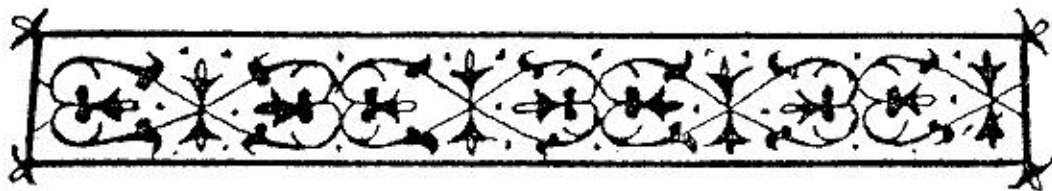
- ⊗ **Every Wednesday and Friday** (except during the weeks immediately following Pascha, Christmas, Theophany, the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, and Pentecost);
- ⊗ **The Great Fast** (forty days before the Great and Holy Week);
- ⊗ **The Great and Holy Week** (commemorating the Lord's Passion);
- ⊗ **The Christmas Fast** (November 15 through December 24, although some Churches shorten it, beginning on December 10 or 12);
- ⊗ **The Fast of the Theotokos** (August 1 to August 14);
- ⊗ **The Fast of Peter and Paul** (the day after All Saints Sunday through June 28).

Some of these Fasts are marked by **special liturgical services** that convey the spirit of the season. Attending them helps us acquire the spirit of the feasts for which they prepare.

How Should We Fast?

To enter into the spirit and practice of the Church's Fasts:

- **Learn the current practice of your own Church** community and strive to practice it. Each self-ruling Church has its own traditions about how fast days and seasons should be observed.
- **Consult with your spiritual guide** to determine how to make the fast most fruitful for you in your current spiritual condition. Your spiritual guide may set for you a rule of minimum observance, without which you may be missing the whole blessing of the fasting season.
- Recognize that we are called to **fast spiritually as we fast bodily**, putting aside all resentments and hurtful attitudes towards others so that our fast may be an acceptable offering to God.
- Above all, **give Jesus lordship over your entire being**, so that you may receive His gifts and live to your fullest potential in His grace and in the light of His Face.



IT IS SUNDAY: WHERE ARE YOU?

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Ps. 118:24). With these prophetic words the Psalmist welcomes the Day of the Lord. Every day is made by the Lord and each day we should be glad and give Him thanks. He is the Giver of time, of daylight, of everything on earth, and of our loves. He made everything for us and our joy, but one day of the week is His day. That is Sunday, the Day of the Lord.

Every Sunday is a commemoration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's Resurrection, as St. Paul says, is the essence of our faith (1 Cor. 15:4). It is the hope of our own resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). We rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord and are glad for it, for it indeed, together with the creation, God's greatest gift to us.

In addition to the Resurrection of the Lord, on Sundays we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and on His Church (see Acts of Apostles, chapter 2). The physical Church – as a body of faithful people – was established on Pentecost Sunday, after the preaching of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 2:41). The Revelation which St. John the Apostle received on the Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10) suggests that the Second Coming of our Lord will also take place on Sunday.

Keeping Sunday holy is one of the tenants of our Orthodox Faith. We are known as Christians because we keep Sunday as our holy day. Therefore, dear Christian, if you understand the importance and meaning of Sunday for your faith, for your church, and for your salvation, then I am sure your conscience will ask you this inevitable question: ***It is Sunday morning. What do you plan to do with the Day of the Lord?***

Are you going to use His day to talk – to have a chat – with the Lord? Will you plan to take time and pray this day? The best way to pray is together with God's children in His House. In the Church our God makes Himself

available to us. He listens to our petitions, answers our requests, and rejoices in our faith, our thanksgiving, and love for Him. *The Lord is in His holy temple, says the Psalmist, the Lord is on His heavenly throne* (Ps. 12:4).

Are you going to visit the Lord on His Day, and worship Him in His church? Are you going to choose to ignore Him, or even worse, not even remember Him at all? Do you think you have better things to do: cutting the grass, perhaps, or fixing the house, or sleeping away your salvation? Let us remember we have seven days given to us by Him in which we can do all these other things. Why should we steal His day away from Him?

Are you going to partake of a meal with Him? The meal is provided by Him and it is Himself. When we partake of this meal, Holy Communion, we partake of Christ Himself. There is no excuse to refuse the invitation to the banquet which He give at the Divine Liturgy every Sunday in honor of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In one of the parables told by our Lord (Matthew 22:1-14) we hear that a King issued an invitation to attend a wedding banquet, but many refused to come. The King (who represents God in the parable) became very angry with those who refused His invitation to the banquet: *"The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city"* (Matthew 22:7). If we do not respect Sunday, God's Day, by refusing His invitation to honor His Son, should we then wonder and ask why our cities are destroyed by fire, by floods, and by earthquakes?

Let us not make light of the Lord's Day, for by so doing we make light of our God who gives us life, health, wealth, and everything we have. Let us not take Sundays for granted, for by doing so, we in fact take for granted as well as risk our own salvation and our everlasting life.

The acceptable answer to our Sunday morning question can be only one: Since today is Sunday, I plan to give this day to my Lord and God. I will sing praises to Him in His church. I will ask Him, in my lose talk with Him, to have mercy on me, on my family, on my church, on my country, and on the whole world.

-Fr. Cornel Todeasa