

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MARCH 31, 2019

SUNDAY/MARCH 31 *Wine & oil*

Third Sunday of Great Lent – Holy Cross

St. Innocent of Alaska (+1879)

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Ch. School; Q. & A. Period

4:00p.m. Vespers at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, So. River

5:00p.m. Presentation at St. Simon Mission, N. Brunswick

MONDAY/APRIL 01

7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/APRIL 02

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 03

9:20a.m. Akathist to Cross; Confessions

6:30p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

THURSDAY/APRIL 04

3:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

FRIDAY/APRIL 05

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

SATURDAY/APRIL 06 *Wine & oil*

Memorial Saturday

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

11:00a.m. Church Cleaning Day

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

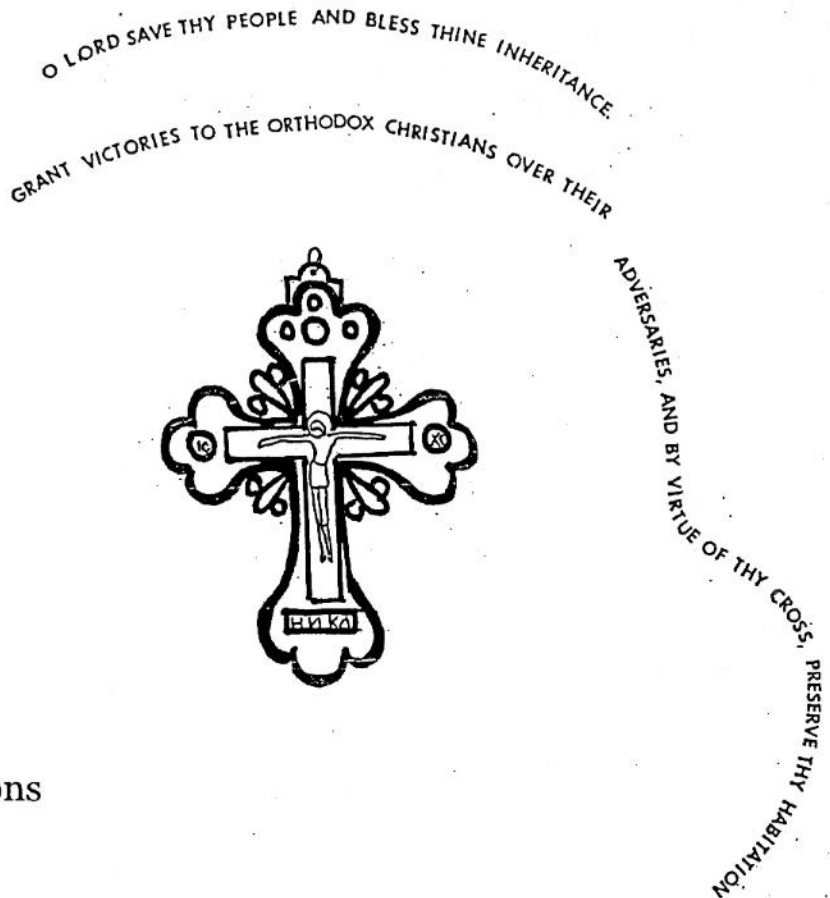
SUNDAY/APRIL 07 *Wine & oil*

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

St. John of Sinai (+649)

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Food Basket Day
Church School

4:00p.m. Vespers at St. Spyridon Church,
Perth Amboy



Offerings Week of March 31

Relics candle: in honor of St. John Maximovitch; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, Anastasia and Ivanna; in memory of Nicholas, Eleanore, Jerome, John, & Ann Marie.

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for the health of Daria & Mindy and Nicholas (birthdays).

Wine: for the health of Corneliu, Crenguta, Anna, Antoniu, Alexandru & Adrian.

Flowers: in honor of the Holy Cross.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Mar. 31, 1931 George Andrejko
Mar. 31, 1985 Alexander Rudzina
Apr. 01, 1966 John Huzinec
Apr. 01, 1974 Thomas Wytovich
Apr. 02, 1917 Ignatius Shevchuk
Apr. 02, 1928 Elias Zhak
Apr. 02, 1972 Eugenia Kiryluk
Apr. 02, 1987 Michael Mahalick
Apr. 02, 2003 Stephanida Kozura
Apr. 04, 1957 Joseph Yarik
Apr. 04, 1959 Helen Hnatuk
Apr. 04, 2013 Mildred Mock
Apr. 05, 2011 Helen Macinko
Apr. 06, 1974 Gregory Tscherwinski
Apr. 06, 1977 Eva Marchuk
Apr. 06, 1992 Stephen Mock
Apr. 06, 1995 Anne Burd

Coffee Hour Schedule

From March 17 thru Apr. 21

No meat, fish or dairy products

Mar. 31 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei,
Erkman & Stone
Apr. 07 Kita, Keller, Turri, Torrisi
& Kachek

Counters Schedule

Mar. 31 Peter B. & Ciprian C.
Apr. 07 Katrina G. & Ekaterini M.

Ushers Schedule

Mar. 31 ?
Apr. 07 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Readers Schedule

Mar. 31 Peter G. / Apr. 07 Austin K.

Pussy Willows

Please deposit in our hall. Thanks.

Check On-Line Calendar on website

Apr. 06/Sat. 11:00a.m. Church Cleaning
Apr. 07/Sun. 4:00p.m. Vespers at St. Spyridon Church in Perth Amboy
Apr. 14/Sun. 4:00p.m. Vespers at Holy Cross Church, Medford with Archbishop Michael
Apr. 21/Sun. Palm Sunday (Western Easter)
Apr. 22/Mon. Great & Holy Week Begins
Apr. 26/Fri. Youth Good Friday Program, 6:30p.m to 9:00p.m. (supper, reading, crafts)
Apr. 28/Sun. Holy Pascha (Orthodox Easter)
Apr. 29/Bright Mon. Festal Parish Gathering after 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
May 01/Wed. 7:00p.m. Paschal Vespers with Abp. Michael at Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus
May 06/Mon. 6:30p.m. Paschal Memorial at cemetery (Rain date: Tues. 6:30p.m.)
May 11& 12/ Sat. & Sun. 225th Anniversary of Orthodoxy in America – Rocky Hill Church
May 16/Thurs. Parish Council Meeting 7:00p.m.
May 24-27/ Fri. – Mon. 115th Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Monastery of St. Tikhon
June 01/Sat. 10:00a.m. Workshop for Parish Council Members at Ss. Peter & Paul, So. River
June 1&2/Sat. & Sun. Archbishop Michael Visitation to our parish

2019 Lenten Charities

- St. Philaret Poor Basket: for local charitable needs.
- OCMC Mission boxes: for mission work throughout the world.
- St. Andrew's Camp Offering: for new building of our NY-NJ Diocesan Camp.

Our Vestibule Stand Has a Variety of New Religious Items

Before or after a service check them out. You may speak with Katherine Mantzafos.

Registration Is Now Open for Orthodox Summer Camps

- St. Tikhon's: July 7-13 (one week)
info@sttikhonscamp.org
- St. Andrew's: June 30-August 03
www.saintandrewscamp.org
 - Art Week: June 30 – July 06
 - Horse Week: July 07- July 13
 - Music Week: July 14- July 20
 - Ecology Week: July 21- July 27
 - Teen Week: July 28- Aug. 03

50th Anniversary of Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) – Opening Symposium May 11-12 You Are Invited!

The Church of the Mother of God in Rocky Hill will host a symposium celebrating the 225th Anniversary of the Missionaries from Valaam Monastery of America and the kickoff of the 50th Year of Granting Autocephaly to the OCA. Metropolitan Tikhon of Washington and Bishop David of Alaska, will be make presentations.

On Sunday, May 12th, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Michael and Bishop David; after a banquet will be held. You are invited to these events. **To reserve your seat for banquet (\$55), please see Pam Oliver with your payment and choice of menu offering.**

(Be mindful that this is also "Mother's Day")

In Regard to Service Dogs & Therapy Dogs in the Church

A question had been raised about dogs in the church. The rules (canons) of the Church forbid this. (When they were written centuries ago there was no idea of dogs being of service). Archbishop Michael has instructed the clergy of our diocese that Certified Service Dogs may be allowed in the church (but not on the ambo). Therapy dogs and other therapy animals are not permitted, even if prescribed by a therapist. Particular concerns in this regard, talk to your priest.

Sunday/April 7th: Items for Manville Food Pantry

In addition to regular food items the following are sought especially: pancake mix, pancake syrup, butter cookies (in tin), self-sustainable can hams (i.e. no refrigeration needed). Also Walmart Gift cards for families with children to purchase clothing and Easter holiday gifts.

Lenten Retreats Taking Place In NJ

Information on the days and places of these retreats are posted on the Hall Bulletin Board.

St. John Chrysostom's Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew "On How Christ Identifies with Us and Loves Us"

I am a *father* for you, a *brother*, a *bridegroom*, and a *home*, a *nurse*, and a *dress*, a *root*, and a *cornerstone*. Whatever you want, I am for you. I don't want you to be in any need. I will serve you, because I came not to be served but to serve.

I am a *friend*, and a *member*, and a *head*, and a *brother* and a *sister*, and a *mother*. I am *everything* for you.

Only be in contact with me. I have been *poor* for you and a *wanderer* for you. I have been on the *cross* and in the *tomb* for you. High above with the Father I *mediate* for you. Down here I arrived as an *ambassador*, sent by the Father to you. You are everything to me, a *brother* and a *co-heir*, a *friend* and a *member* of My Body. What more do you desire?

The Mysteries of Holy Confession and Holy Communion During the Forty Days of Lent

All the faithful – adults as well as children of Confession age – ought to have partaken of these two Holy Mysteries in this Great Lenten Season. Confessions are not scheduled in Great & Holy Week (April 21-27). Confessions should be made no later than Lazarus Saturday, April 20th. College students, returning home from out of State, may make arrangements any time for their Confession, including Great & Holy Week.

HAVING COME TO THE MIDPOINT OF THE 40 DAY GREAT AND HOLY FAST... LET ME REFLECT...

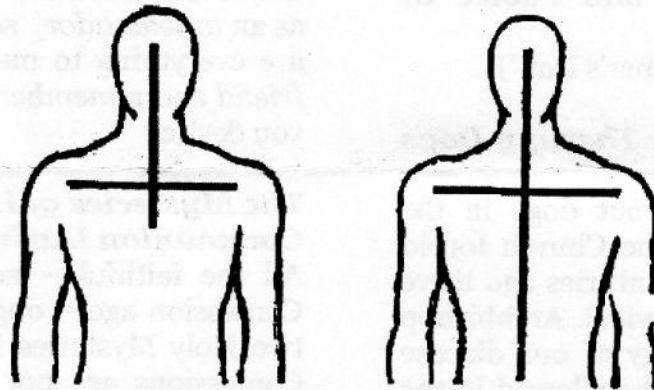
- ❖ Have I accepted Great Lent as a "gift" from God, with thanksgiving?
- ❖ Have I spent the last three weeks in a meaningfully different way?
- ❖ Have I participated in the lenten services that are held during the week, Monday through Friday?
- ❖ Have I used the lenten prayer of Saint Ephraim in my morning and evening prayers, and at other times throughout the day?
- ❖ In addition to the Holy Scriptures, what kind of spiritual reading have I done? Have I learned more about my Faith? Have I read spiritual works which can help me in my prayers, dealing with others, and spiritual faults and needs?
- ❖ Am I preparing myself to make a good, honest, and humble Confession? Do I really believe that I am confessing my sins to Jesus Christ? Am I aware that the Lord sees my inner heart and will know if I only recite my sins, instead of being truly sorrowful and deeply committed to avoid repeating them?
- ❖ In what ways will I struggle in the second part of Great Lent that I have so far left unattended?
- ❖ What price am I willing to pay in order to die and live in Christ? Am I willing to trade the earth for heaven? Am I willing to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Him to His heavenly Kingdom?



one must comment on a most strange, incomprehensible, and completely impermissible distortion found in all textbooks we have seen so far. This distortion concerns the sign of the cross. In these textbooks it is said that the sign of the cross is made with the right hand thus: from the forehead, to the chest, then from the right to the left shoulders.

Imagine thus, that in the course of many years one has incorrectly made the sign of the cross. Instead of that victorious sign of Christ's victory over the devil, the Cross of Christ, one has distorted this holy sign. This can only be to the joy of the demons.

This drawing gives a complete visual explanation:



In the sacred book, the Psalter, from which Orthodox people were educated from ancient times, it is said in the "Brief Instruction": "about how it becometh the Orthodox Christian, according to the ancient tradition of the Holy Apostles and Fathers, to form on himself the sign of the cross... I shall state: first on our foreheads, which touches the highest part of the cross, second on the stomach, which touches the lowest point of the cross, third on our right shoulder and fourth on the left, by which the crossbeam is signed by the extended arms of the cross, on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, His hands extended to gather all the nations scattered to the ends of the earth into one."

May the Lord preserve us from even the slightest deviation from the authentic Orthodox faith of Christ!

Using the Sign of the Cross Every Day

The sign of the Cross is a great way to sanctify or bring to God every part of your busy day — whether good or bad! Here are just a few times during the day when you might want to make the sign of the Cross:

- Before you get out of bed, to thank God for protecting you through the night.
- Before you prepare a meal for your family, to thank God for His bounty. (My grandmother, Mary, said a prayer and traced the sign of the Cross with the tip of her spoon whenever she opened a new sack of flour or sugar, opened a jar of jam or peanut butter, etc.)
- Before and after meals, to thank God for the bounty He provides.
- As you leave your home, to ask God to protect you on your journey and watch over your house or apartment while you are gone.
- When you pass an Orthodox church building or monastery, to ask God to preserve it and guide its leaders.
- As you bandage a “boo-boo” or take any kind of medicine, to ask that God will heal you both in body and spirit.
- Over any new piece of equipment, tool, book, art supply, or toy, to ask God to guide you in using it wisely in His service.
- Before, during and after any meeting or conversation you have — especially with someone you know to be “difficult” — that God will help you to approach them with Christian love and understanding.
- As you begin any project, and before and after working or studying, to ask God to guide your efforts.
- As you sign a contract, lease, or any other legal agreement — or even when you make a promise to someone — that God will protect and guide all involved.
- As you mail or fax an important letter, that God will see it quickly to its destination and allow the reader to understand/not misinterpret its contents.
- When you hear news of something wonderful (to thank God), or of something terrible (to ask for His mercy and protection).
- When you witness any accident — big or small — to thank God for his protection, and ask His help in “setting things to rights” and recovering from it.
- When you pass a cemetery, or are reminded of departed loved ones during the day, to ask God to forgive their sins and welcome them into His kingdom.
- As you come through the door at night, to thank God for His protection and bounty.
- Before reading the Bible, the writings of the Church Fathers, or the lives of the saints, to ask God for enlightenment.
- Over your bed, before you get into it at night, to ask God to protect you as you sleep. (Many Orthodox prayer books include special prayers to say when blessing your bed, too!)
- If you wake up in the middle of the night, after hearing a bump or screech, or having a bad dream. ✕ NTK

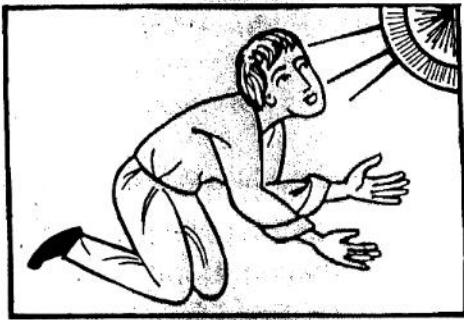


A LIFE OF REPENTANCE

The traditional milestones on our Christian Path – both the public practices of worship, fellowship and service as well as the secret practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving – can become routine and even killing without an underlying spirit of repentance.

Repentance is *not* –

- **Gloomy** - "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). "Worldly grief" looks backwards at missed opportunities and sees no hope. "Godly grief" looks forward to the forgiveness and love of God. "*Repentance is the daughter of hope and the renunciation of despair*" (St John Climacus).
- **Simply the "first" step of the Christian life** – Turning away from a life of sin and turning toward God is **initial repentance**. Ongoing repentance is a continuing process: "the rest of our life spent in peace and repentance." We are not people who *have been* converted, who *have* repented. We are people who *are being* converted, who *are* repenting.



"Repentance, rather, provides the abiding and formative structure of the whole life in Christ."

Repentance *is* –

- **Realizing That Our Way Is Far from God's Way** – Ongoing repentance means that we grow to see how much our thoughts, actions, and values are the product of a broken world and far from God.
Abba Dioscorus was once found weeping by a younger monk. When asked why he did so, Dioscorus replied, "I am weeping for my sins." The young monk knew Dioscorus had led a valiant and holy life for many years, and said, "My father, you do not have any such sins." Dioscorus told him, "Truly, my child, if I were allowed to see my sins, three or four men would not be enough to weep for them" (Sayings of the Desert Fathers).
- **Continually Redirecting Our Way of Life** – Despite this sense of separation, there is a gentle but intense joy, because "*The kingdom of God is in your midst!*" Ongoing repentance means that we come to reject the indifference to God typical of modern life. It means that we strive to live each moment conscious that the Holy Spirit "*is everywhere present and fills all things.*" It means that we change from *seeking self gratification*, our natural human tendency, to *seeking after God*.
- **Showing Forth the "Fruits of Repentance"** (Matthew 3:8) – Our lives show more focus on the things of God. We become more committed to following the Christian Path every day. We see the presence of God in the people and circumstances of our lives which we have missed before.