

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## April 3, 2016 ~ Veneration of the Cross

### • ON THE CROSS:

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged. Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection.... The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us... Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal. (*borrowed*)

### • PARISH TO-DO LIST and NEEDS:

- Pick up “Glendi fencing” by east ditch (again)
- ~~mow vineyard and mound~~ (thanks to Zosimas Marino)
- the Ride Ministry needs volunteers (see Deanna Panages)
- someone to clean offices and library
- move the pile of parking stops and bricks (see Fr Lawrence)
- maintain playground equipment (scrub stains off plastic slide, tighten bolts, fill in gravel, etc.)
- weekly tasks: clean up playground and porch of all garbage, plates and cups after Sunday lunch.

### • TROPARION OF THE CROSS, Tone One:

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

### • KONTAKION OF THE CROSS, Tone Seven:

The fiery sword no longer guards the gate of Eden, for in a strange and glorious way the wood of the Cross has quenched its flames. The sting of death and the victory of hades are now destroyed, for Thou art come, my Savior, crying unto those in hades: “Return again to Paradise.”

### • INSTEAD OF THE TRISAGION:

Before Thy Cross, we bow down, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, April 2: 3:30 PM, Catechism *On Confession*  
5 PM, Great Vespers  
6 PM, Talk on the Orthodox Church in Norway
- Sunday, April 3: 9 AM, Matins with the bringing out of the Cross  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape luncheon in Hall
- Tues., April 5: 8 AM, Matins  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Wed., April 6: 8 AM, Matins  
5 PM, Confessions, 6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy
- Thurs., April 7: 8 AM, Matins  
Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship

- Friday, April 8: 8 AM, Matins
- Saturday, April 9: **9 AM–3 PM, Women’s Retreat (see Flyer)**

• USHERS TODAY:

Thom Stewart and Alexander Stameroff.

• BRINGING OUT OF THE CROSS:

The third Sunday of the Great Fast is called the “Sunday of the Veneration of the Precious Cross.” At the end of the Vigil on the third Sunday of Lent, during the solemn singing of the hymn Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us the Precious Cross, decorated with flowers, is brought to the center of the Church and venerated. Since we are doing Matins each Sunday morning (rather than on Saturday evening at Vigil), the procession of the Cross from the Altar to the center of the Church will be on SUNDAY MORNING. Hopefully, our entire congregation will be present for this key moment in Great Lent. Look for the following sequence to occur:

Matins begins at 9 AM this week. The “Six Psalms” are read—during which, the church Tradition advises, no one moves about or sits. These “Six Psalms” done every day at Matins, express the whole range of experience and prayer in the Christian life. They alternate between confidence in and gratitude towards God for His salvation and deliverance, and desperate outcry to God from those in distress, darkness, bondage, and affliction. The themes thus alternate between actualized salvation and potential salvation, and the overarching mood is penitential. Following this will be the usual Troparia, the Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes, the Resurrectional Gospel, the Canon, the Psalms of the Praises (148–150), and the Great Doxology, with the solemn Holy God and bringing out of the Precious Cross.

The procession of the Cross from the Altar to the center of the Church occurs at the end of Matins. We will sing, as usual, the Great Doxology —“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace good will among men...” The Doxology ends with the singing of a solemn and slow “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal...” All kneel as the Cross is brought out. We then sing *O Lord, save Thy people* and the hymn *Before Thy*

*Cross...*and we venerate the Holy Cross. The Divine Liturgy will begin immediately after this. “Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.” Please, make time to arrive early and receive what the Church has to offer on this day. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• ORTHODOX CHURCH IN NORWAY:

Fr. Theodor will offer a talk with slides on the Orthodox Church in Norway, following Great Vespers on Saturday, April 2, approximately 6 PM.

• PARISH COUNCIL:

The monthly meeting will take place not on our usual third or fourth Thursday of the month, but on Tuesday, April 5, at 7 PM.

THE SENIOR/RETIRED LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:

Noon on Thursday, April 7.

• MASTER PLANNING :

The meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 7 at 7 PM is postponed. TBD.

• YOUNG ADULT GROUP:

Meets again on Saturday, April 9, following Great Vespers, in the library.

• CARMINA CHROMATICA:

The April 10 concert has been postponed. Date TBD.

• GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW and LIFE OF ST. MARY:

On Thursday, April 14, 9 AM, we will serve the Matins of the Fifth Thursday of Great Lent, in which we once again sing the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. This hymn is a very long meditation using scripture, teaching us the meaning of sin, repentance and how the Lord constantly seeks and loves His creation. The Life of Saint Mary of Egypt will be read, as is prescribed, during this service.

• CHOIR REHEARSAL:

Note to all Choir members—our annual mandatory *Fifth-Saturday-of-Lent Rehearsal* will be on Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 AM. We will rehearse music for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha.