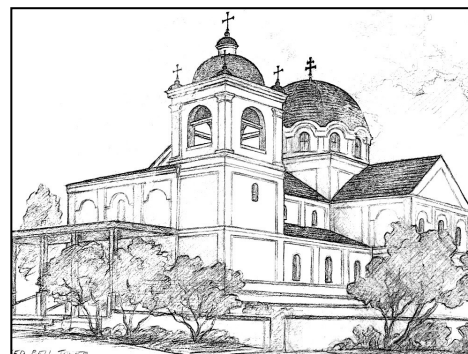


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publican & Pharisee, February 9, 2020



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD, Tone One:

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, also thou righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, who also granteth unto us the Resurrection

- KONTAKION OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE, Tone Four:

Let us flee the Pharisee's conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican's humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

- KONTAKION OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD, Tone One:

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sat., Feb. 8: | 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the Church</i>
4:45 PM, Panikhida
5 PM, Great Vespers & Confessions |
| Sun., Feb. 9: | 8:30 AM, Matins
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
1 PM, Church School Teacher Meeting |
| Tues., Feb. 11: | 5 PM, Jesus Prayer, in the Protection Church |
| Wed., Feb. 12: | 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank Distribution
6 PM, Vespers, Potluck meal and Talk — <i>Fast Free Day</i> |
| Fri., Feb. 14: | 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions in Protection Church
<i>Fast Free Day</i> |
| Sat., Feb. 15: | 3:30 PM, Catechism: <i>On Holy Baptism</i>
4 PM, Youth Choir
5 PM, Great Vespers & Confessions |

Sun., Feb. 16: 8:30 AM, Matins (Prodigal Son Sunday)
 10 AM, Divine Liturgy (Bishop Daniel will preside)
 11:30 AM, Church School
 Noon, Agape Meal

• NEXT SUNDAY:

His Grace, Bishop Daniel will be with us next Sunday, February 16. Since it is not a feast day, and since we will not have additional Subdeacons and Deacons, His Grace will serve without the preliminary vesting ceremony. We will begin the Liturgy at 10 AM.

• BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION—SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE:

The Orthodox Church uses many different books and collections of hymns in the Divine Services. On the *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee*—this Sunday—we begin to use the Lenten hymn book called the *Lenten Triodion* (it contains many three-ode hymns). The magnificent collection of hymns were composed by saintly hymnographers from the 3rd–18th centuries, among those whom we can identify are St. Romanos the Melodist (6th century), St. Kosmas the Melodist, Bishop of Maiouma, St. John of Damascus and St. Andrew of Crete (all three from the 8th century), and the 9th century Leo the Emperor and nun St. Kassiani. The earliest hymn in the book, *Beneath thy compassion, we take refuge, O Theotokos...* can be traced to a Coptic manuscript dating from about 250 AD. Much of the material contained in the *Triodion* was compiled and arranged by St. Theodore the Studite in Constantinople during the course of the 8th–9th centuries.

There is a pious tradition from the Greek island of Zakynthos regarding the “opening” of the *Triodion* at the Vespers of the Publican and Pharisee. The *Triodion* book is placed on a table under the icon of Christ, to the right of the Royal Gate on the iconostasis. Following the Resurrection hymns of “Lord, I Have Cried,” a priest takes the *Triodion* from its place and gives it to the bishop, who is standing at his episcopal throne. From there it is handed over to the lead chanter, who after venerating the book opens it and begins chanting the appropriate hymns, thus inaugurating the *Season of Repentance*.

• MISSION PARISH RETREAT IN PORTLAND:

Fr. Lawrence will be in Portland Tuesday–Thursday attending the Diocesan Mission Retreat.

• PARISH ANNUAL MEETING:

Last Sunday we gathered after the Divine Liturgy for our annual parish membership meeting. We congratulate those who were elected to serve on the Parish Council: Serge Anderson, Michael Dovey, Alexander Stameroff, Peter Tennyson, and for our *Alternates*: Joseph Marino, Adriel Scarborough. They join those who have one more year on their term: Debbie Buse, Freddie Myles, Kathleen Rhodes, Daphne Russell and Karen Werder.

• MEMORY ETERNAL:

It was with deep sorrow, but with hope in the power of the Resurrection of Christ, that we learned of the sudden repose of George Khader Husary, on Monday, February 3. Mr. Husary is the father of Susan Dechant, and was a faithful and founding member of All Saints Antiochian Orthodox Church in Rohnert Park. In the late 1980s and early 1990s he was a member of our parish. The Funeral and Mercy meal were held here on Thursday. May his memory be eternal, and great consolation given to George’s family.

• FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS – March 1, 1:15 PM:

On Sunday, March 1 we will serve the *Vespers of Forgiveness*, following the usual Sunday Agape Meal. This Vespers, which ushers in the Great Fast, begins at 1 PM. After the hymn, “O Joyous Light” we will sing: “Turn not Thy countenance from Thy servant, for I am afflicted, hearken to me speedily, attend to my soul, and deliver it.” During that slow and compunctionate melody, the gold covers on all the icon stands will be changed to the Lenten purple—a royal and rich color, yet darker and more mournful too. From that point on we are in Great Lent, and the choir will be singing the Lenten melodies. At the end of this unique Service we will ask forgiveness of each

other, each person approaching the priests, then each other. Those who can, do a prostration before one another; those who cannot, simply ask forgiveness; either way is just fine. We say: “forgive me” and answer back, “forgive me. God forgives.” The important thing is to *ask* for forgiveness and then *give it*. In a Parish—and the longer you are in it the more this is true—there are things to forgive which we might not even know about, as well as things for which we must ask forgiveness (being equally blind to those things). The act of forgiveness is **not** one in which we expect all interpersonal difficulties will be erased or resolved, it does, however, have the potential to remove the poison of sin and resentments from our “spiritual blood stream.” It’s a beginning to our Fast.

I hope you understand that I am urging you, in the strongest, most emphatic and pastoral way I can, to attend this Vespers, to set it as something essential in your own life—crucial to a good beginning of Lent—and thereby participate in the act of mutual forgiveness. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• ON HUMILITY:

If there is a moral quality almost completely disregarded and even denied today, it is indeed humility. The culture in which we live constantly instills in us the sense of pride, of self-glorification, and of self-righteousness. It is built on the assumption that man can achieve anything by himself and it even pictures God as the One who all the time ‘gives credit’ for man’s achievements and good deeds. Humility—be it individual or corporate, ethnic or national—is viewed as a sign of weakness, as something unbecoming of real man. Even our churches—are they not imbued with that same spirit of the Pharisee? Do we not want our every contribution, every ‘good deed,’ all that we do ‘for the Church’ to be acknowledged, praised, publicized? But what is humility? The answer to this question may seem a paradoxical one for it is rooted in a strange affirmation: God Himself is humble! Yet to anyone who knows God, who contemplates Him in His creation and in His saving acts, it is evident that humility is truly a divine quality, the very content and the radiance of that glory which, as we sing during the Divine Liturgy, fills heaven and earth. —*Father Alexander Schmemmann, from the book **Great Lent***

• COMPARISONS:

Before approaching the chalice in order to receive the Eucharist, each one of us makes the same confession as we collectively share the same preparatory prayer: “I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first.” The very point of this public confession is that we are not comparing ourselves with others, but confessing to our own sinfulness before God. If analyzed comparatively, such a prayer would be reduced to a kind of empty rhetoric. Compared to the great villains of history and the great sinners that fill our news stories, we again come off as good, decent human beings. But that does not mean that we are in less need of the saving grace of the Gospel. Do I need “less grace” than the great sinners of history and contemporary life because I am comparatively not as bad? Hopefully, the absurdity of such a question is more than immediate. The only way that we can effectively prepare for the approaching Lenten season is to open our minds and hearts to the Gospel lessons of humility, repentance, conversion, the fruits of repentance and a renewed love of God and neighbor. We do this by listening to each Gospel passage as a direct call from Christ: “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!” —*Fr. Steven Kostoff*

Blini Brunch






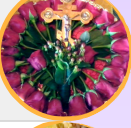



Complete with sour cream, lox, herring,
and caviar...and of course, butter, syrup, fruit
and bacon!!

Church Hall
Sunday, February 23,
Noon

Please come enjoy Blini with us as we prepare
to enter that wonderful time of Lent.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2020

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th		<i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and troubled. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16th		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Do you have a morning Prayer Rule. Use up meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:9-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Contemplate your repose. Use up dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 1st FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:5 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Forgiveness Vespers at 1 PM. Ask each other forgiveness. Turn off the TV for Lent. Avoid Social Media.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th		<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32:12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Attend the Clean Week Services
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Make time for the Jesus Prayer each day
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Practice self-denial and affirmation of God
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 5th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Plan to attend the Great Canon on Thursday and the Akathist on Friday
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 12th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 17th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Keep Silence as best you can
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 19th NO FASTING!		<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with the words: "CHRIST IS RISEN!"