

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, March 9, 2014

- TROPARION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Tone Two:

We venerate Thy most pure icon, O Loving Lord, asking Thee, O Christ our God, to pardon our transgressions. For of Thine own will wast Thou well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver from the bondage of the enemy those whom Thou hast fashioned. Therefore, in thanksgiving, we cry aloud to Thee: Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, when Thou camest to save the world.

- KONTAKION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Tone Eight:

The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, and He has restored the sullied image to its ancient glory, filling it with divine beauty. This our salvation we confess in deed and word, and we depict it in the holy icons.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, March 8: 5 PM, Vigil for Sunday of Orthodoxy and Forty Holy Martyrs / Confessions
- Sunday, March 9: 9 AM, Baptism (weather permitting)
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Procession with the Holy Icons at the conclusion of the Liturgy
Photos of entire congregation after Procession
Noon, *Agape Lunch*
12:45 PM, Sisterhood Meeting with elections
- Tues., March 11: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Wed., March 12: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
5 PM, Confessions
6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy, meal and spiritual reading to follow
- Thurs., March 13: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Friday, March 14: 10 AM, Presanctified Liturgy
6 PM, Akathist to the Theotokos

- USHERS TODAY:

Ryan Panteleimon Duval and Joseph Anderson. The Ushers ask that the Narthex walk-thru be kept clear.

- SISTERHOOD MEETING TODAY:

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 PM, and will focus on election of Sisterhood officers: President (Lisa Moroz has completed her term of office), Treasurer and Secretary (Juliana and Cathy Veenis have also completed their terms of office). We sincerely hope for participation of all the parish women.

**** UPCOMING VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN ****

His Eminence plans to visit us on Wednesday, March 12, and will serve the Presanctified Liturgy, beginning at 6:15 PM. He will offer a few remarks regarding Great Lent at the meal after the Liturgy.

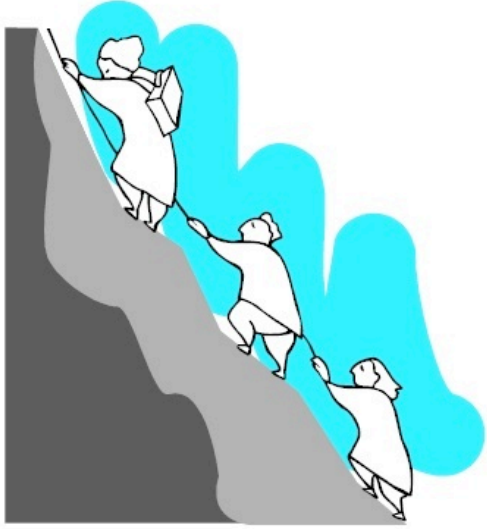
• SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY:

After the exercise of Clean Week, the wisdom of the Church grants us a rest in the joy of Triumph of Orthodoxy Sunday. In the eighth century, a persecution arose against the holy icons and those who venerated them. Churches were desecrated, and the faithful were tortured and martyred. In the year 842, the empress Theodora put an end to the persecution and established the first Sunday of Great Lent as a day of thanksgiving to God for the restoration of the veneration of icons. Our joy arises both from triumph over heresy and from the realization that we have been granted the gift of membership in Orthodoxy. In the words of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, "Today, we proclaim and we glorify first of all our unity in Orthodoxy. This is the triumph of Orthodoxy in the present age. This is a most wonderful event: that all of us, with all our differences, with all our limitations, with all our weaknesses, can come together and say we belong to that Orthodox faith, that we are one in Christ and in Orthodoxy. We are living very far from the traditional centers of Orthodoxy. We call ourselves Eastern Orthodox, and yet we are here in the West. And yet, don't we have the feeling that something of a miracle has happened, that God has established us here. That He has sent us as apostles of Orthodoxy, so that this faith, which historically was limited to the East, now is becoming a faith which is truly and completely universal." May the joyful cleansing and spiritual reality of Lent be a blessing on us all this year, as it is every year. Disregarding every apparent challenge, practical or spiritual, may we enter into the prescribed lifestyle of Lent to the best of our ability, in community and counsel, without comparing or despairing, and may our hearts (most importantly!) be inclined towards God, in all places and with all people, that every aspect of our life be sanctified in a manner that propels us into the light of the Resurrection.

—*Fr. Thaddeus Hardenbrook*

• WHY WE VENERATE ICONS:


Of old, God the incorporeal and uncircumscribed was never depicted. Now, however, when God is seen clothed in flesh, and conversing with men, I make an image of the God whom I see. I do not worship matter, I worship the God of matter, who became matter for my sake, and deigned to inhabit matter, who



SATURDAY MARCH 15
ADDICTION AND
RECOVERY FROM AN
ORTHODOX
PERSPECTIVE

9am – 3pm
Retreat Schedule will include lunch and
Akathist service in monastery church

With Floyd Franz



OCMC missionary
Director and founder of
St. Dimitrie Basarabov
Program
Addiction Education and
Counseling in Romania

No fee – freewill offering

Limited capacity – RSVP!

HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY
1519 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515
(707) 942-6244
holyassumptionmonastery.com

worked out my salvation through matter. I will not cease from honoring that matter which works my salvation.

—*St John of Damascus*

- FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE — MARCH 9:

Today the Church commemorates forty Roman soldiers who, in the early fourth century, were stationed near the Armenian town of Sebaste when their commander, discovering that they were Christians, ordered them to renounce their Faith or suffer torture and death. They refused this order and were stripped naked and marched out onto a frozen lake where they were forced to spend the night. A warm bath and bonfires were set up at the edge of the lake to entice the soldiers. One soldier did eventually relent and made for the edge of the ice, but fell down dead before he could reach the shore. The remaining thirty-nine soldiers sang hymns and prayed, until one of the pagan soldiers assigned to guard them was so moved by the strength of their Faith that he flung off his uniform and ran out onto the ice, praying “Lord God, I believe in Thee, in Whom these soldiers do believe. To them add me also, and esteem me worthy to suffer with Thy servants.” In the morning, the Forty were found still to be alive. They were rounded up, their legs were broken, and all forty men were burned. The funeral-pyre burned out leaving only the martyrs’ bones. Knowing that Christians would collect these relics to the eternal glory of the martyrs and their God, the judges ordered them to be thrown into the nearby river. That night, however, the holy martyrs appeared to the blessed bishop of Sebaste and told him to recover the bones from the river. Together with some of his clergy, the bishop went secretly that night to the river where the bones of the martyrs shone like stars in the water, enabling them to be collected to the very last fragment. So also do the holy martyrs shine like stars in the world, encouraging and inspiring believers everywhere to be faithful to Christ even to the end. Thus they finished the good course of martyrdom in 320, and their names are: Acacius, Aetius, Aglaius, Alexander, Angus, Athanasius, Candidus, Chudion, Claudius, Cyril, Cyrion, Dometian, Domnus, Ecdicius, Elias, Eunoicus, Eutyches, Eutychius, Flavius, Gaius, Gorgonius, Helianus, Herachus, Hesychius, John, Lysimachus, Meliton, Nicholas, Philoctemon, Priscus, Sacerdon, Severian, Sisinius, Smaragdus, Theodulus, Theophilus, Valens, Valerius, Vivianus, and Xanthias.

- TROPARION OF THE FORTY MARTYRS, Tone One:

Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Friend of man.

- KONTAKION OF THE FORTY MARTYRS, Tone Two:

Having left every military array on the world, ye cleaved unto the Master Who is in the Heavens, O Forty Prizewinners of the Lord; for having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones, ye rightly received glory from Heaven and a multitude of crowns.

- ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT IN SAN FRANCISCO, Saturday, March 15:

Fr. James Jorgenson, who frequently assists at the Divine Liturgy, will be the speaker at the ***Holy Trinity Cathedral Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 15***. Topic: “The Emergence of the Liturgical Cycle and the Development of the Lenten Period in the Early Church.” Fr. James is a retired priest, having served at St. Paul’s Orthodox Cathedral in Dearborn Heights, MI for twenty years, and as Professor of Church History and Greek at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. Call Holy Trinity Cathedral to register for the Retreat: 415-673-8565. The retreat begins at 9 AM with continental breakfast and concludes at 3 PM following closing prayers. Parking is available at St. Brigid Catholic Church on Van Ness and Broadway (enter on Broadway).

- SOWING OF THE VIRTUES:

Great Lent is a great gift of God for the salvation of our souls. The first week is the sowing of the virtues, and the entire fast is the patient and careful cultivating of them. The last week is the harvest, and the feast of the Pascha of Christ is the time of tasting the fruits of our bodily and spiritual labors performed during the fast. We cannot

become perfect after a single Lent, but we can and must come closer to perfection, if only by a step, after every Lent. The fast from foods is according to the strength of each Christian, but the measure of austerity is different for different people. The ability to fast comes with time from one Lent to another. The fast should not become the source of arguments in a family, when one of the spouses has not yet come to see a need for fasting while the other fasts sincerely. The fast should bring joy, and not sorrow. Prayer during the fast, combined with meekness and patience, can raise the relationship between spouses to a new level. Attending the Lenten services, which are so touching and contrite, is not so much an obligation as the demand of a repentant soul. But, of course, there should never be any conflicts at work or home because of them.

—*Archpriest Vasily Mazur, rector of the St. Sergius Church in the regional hospital of Cherson*

• CONFESSIONS

The Parish priests commend those who come to the Holy Mystery of Confession with such seriousness, contrition, preparation and frequency, and thank God for this. We encourage all of our faithful to make frequent confession—**at least once a month, if not more**—not only as a required preparation for Holy Communion, but in order to seek God's help in overcoming and conquering our sinful passions, and finding purity of heart. Confessions are heard:

- **Saturday, Before the Vigil/Vespers, from 4–5 PM.** If there is a non-serving priest present, then he will hear Confessions *during the Vigil* (or Vespers) at various times, depending on the liturgical action (for example, not during the Six Psalms or the Gospel). Confessions will also be heard after Vigil/Vespers.
- **Sunday from 9–10 AM.** Once the Divine Liturgy begins priests are expected to be in the Holy Altar. Although we have not observed this rule, we will, over the next few weeks, work toward this end. The priests thank you for understanding that the Liturgy takes precedence over all other activities in the Church.
- **Tuesday–Friday after Matins,** or call to set an appointment for after 12 noon or in the evening.
- **Wednesdays before Presanctified, starting at 5 PM,** and then during the Service until the reading of the Old Testament, provided there is a non-serving priest present. After *Let My Prayer Arise...* confessions may be heard until the priest needs to enter the Altar for Holy Communion.

NEXT LIVE CALL-IN BROADCAST SUNDAY, MARCH 09

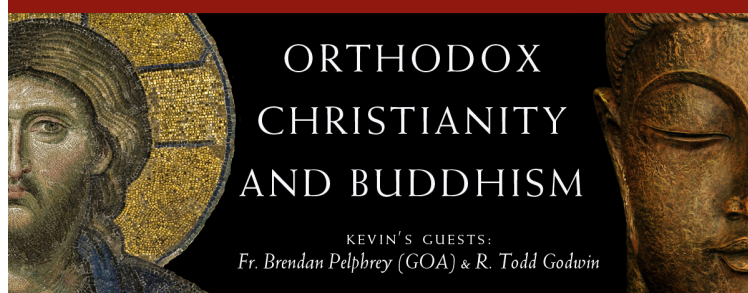
T†ODAY

WITH KEVIN ALLEN

CALL IN LIVE AT 8 PM EASTERN/5 PM PACIFIC

Buddhists in the US are double the number of Orthodox Christians, and most American Buddhists are Western, not raised in Buddhist traditions. Kevin and his guests Fr. Brendan Pelphrey (GOA), an ex-missionary in Asia who has had dialogue with the Dalai Lama, and R. Todd Godwin, ex-Buddhist and Orthodox Christian, will discuss the attractions of Buddhism, as well as its key teachings and practices, in comparison with and in contrast to those of Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

www.ancientfaith.com



The call-in number is:

1-855-AFRADIO (1-855-237-2346)



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