



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church

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Rev. Myron Badnerosky – Pastor Emeritus

Liturgical Schedule

for the Week of March 5, 2017

Saturday, March 4 ~ Vigil of the First Sunday of the Great Fast – the Sunday of Orthodoxy

5:30 PM Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
For the Parish Family of OLPH

Sunday, March 5 ~ First Sunday of the Great Fast – the Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great +George Lutzanick by wife Theresa

Wednesday, March 8 Theophylact – Bishop Confessor
7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

For the Deceased Faithful

Friday, March 10 ~ Condratus & Others - Martyrs
Noon Lenten Moleben

Saturday, March 11 ~ 2nd All Souls Saturday

8:30 AM Liturgy for the Deceased and the reading of the Hramoty

Vigil - Second Sunday of the Great Fast

5:30 PM Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
For the Parish Family of OLPH

Sunday, March 12 ~ Second Sunday of the Great Fast

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great +Evelyn Stroh by Margaret Churilla
Followed by Coffee Social



OUR LENTEN THEME
Jesus Christ Son of God
Have Mercy
on Me a Sinner

LENEN WRISTBANDS – Last weekend almost 300 of our Lenten theme wristbands were distributed. More have been ordered arrived so you will be able to pass them out and share our Lenten message. Thank you for your enthusiastic response.

The Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian



O Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power and idle chatter. Instead, grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brother; for You are blessed now and ever and forever. Amen

Offertory – February 26, 2017

Sunday Offering	\$1,662.00
Candles	\$30.00
Building Fund	\$20.00
	\$1,712.00

Attendance - 89



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Begins Sunday, March 12

Remember to “Spring Forward” next Saturday before you go to bed or you’ll be late for church.

HALL KITCHEN CLEAN UP

on Saturday, March 11, following the All Souls Liturgy there will be kitchen clean up.



Please plan to stay after the Liturgy and Help out.

Coffee Social – Our Next Coffee Social will be on Sunday, March 12 following the Divine Liturgy. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance of the church if you wish to bring anything.

2017 LOTTERY CALENDARS

Margaret Churilla still has 2017 Lottery Calendars for sale at \$20.00 per calendar. Every night a possible winner based on 3 digit PA Evening Daily Number. Prizes vary from \$20 to \$200.

Liturgy Intentions – During the Great Fast the Divine Liturgy for Sunday will have an intention. Fr. Ed will schedule these from the requests we have recently received. The Saturday evening Liturgy will be for the intention of the Parish Family. The Presanctified Liturgies will also have an intention. If you have a request, let Fr. Ed know.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, April 8

Following the 8:30 Divine

Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday

Volunteers needed to clean up the grounds of OLPH to make it attractive for Easter. Bring your rakes, brooms, shovels and whatever you like to use for yard work. **PIZZA FOR LUNCH!**

Remember OLPH

It's not a topic we are very comfortable talking about or even thinking about. Maybe that's why over 60 percent of Americans die without a will. And yet a will is one of the deepest expressions of love and commitment we can leave behind. It is the way we let family and friends know how much we truly treasure them. It is also a way to ensure that our parish will continue to prosper



after we are gone. Your bequest to OLPH is a wonderful way to thank God for the place our parish has had in your life. Please complete a will for your own sake and for your family's sake after you are gone. Please consider OLPH in your estate plans.

A special thank you to Joseph Pieszala for his work and coordination in making our first FASHENGY a fantastic success. Thank you to Matt Rayner for the music. Also that you to all who helped to set up clean up. More parties to come!



First Sunday of Lent The Sunday of the Holy Images

Lent was in origin the time of final preparation for candidates for baptism at the Easter Vigil, and this is reflected in the readings at the Liturgy, today and on all the Sundays of Lent. But that basic theme came to be subordinated to later themes, which dominated the hymnography of each Sunday. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent.

Teaching about icons was defined at the Seventh Ecumenical Council of 787, which brought to an end the first phase of the attempt to suppress icons. That teaching was finally re-established in 843, and it is embodied in the texts sung on this Sunday.

“We have moved forward from unbelief to true faith, and have been enlightened by the light of knowledge. Let us then clap our hands like the psalmist, and offer praise and thanksgiving to God. And let us honor and venerate the holy icons of Christ, of his most pure Mother, and of all the saints, depicted on walls, panels and sacred vessels, setting aside the unbelievers' ungodly teaching. For the veneration given to the icon passes over, as Basil says, to its prototype. At the intercession of your spotless Mother, O Christ, and of all the saints, we pray you to grant us your great mercy. We venerate your icon, good Lord, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God. For you freely willed in the flesh to ascend the cross, to rescue from slavery to the enemy those whom you had formed. So we cry to you with thanksgiving: You have filled all things with joy, our Savior, by coming to save the world.”

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the

Eastern Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Eastern faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Eastern churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Eastern Christian home is complete without an icon corner, where the family prays.

Icons are venerated by burning lamps and candles in front of them, by the use of incense and by kissing. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative; it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry.

Although the theme of the victory of the icons is a secondary one on this Sunday, by its emphasis on the incarnation it points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

**DON'T BE SHY,
SAY HELLO.**

SAY HELLO If you see someone in church that you do not know – stop and say hello and welcome them to OLPH. Your friendly greeting will help them to decide to make OLPH their spiritual home. Make sure you introduce newcomers to Fr. Ed. Don't be shy!

The Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

During the period of holy and Great Lent, the prayer written by St. Ephrem is said frequently. It is truly a prayer on which each and every one of us should carefully mediate, as in many ways it reflects the pattern of our own everyday lives. Allow the prayer into your heart and mind, meditate upon it, and it will inevitable speak to you in some way or another. In fact it is a like a

warning to us; we need to spiritually be on our guard, avoiding the temptations that each day brings, and making amends for our failings, first by recognizing them, and then bringing them before our Lord God with humility and contrition.

All of us should now take part in this richly rewarding prayer, reflecting upon it spiritually, and asking ourselves how we can overcome our weaknesses and faults. In most cases each of us can relate to this prayer, allowing it to raise such issues in our hearts as, for instance: Have I been, perhaps, impatient? Have I allowed my mind to wander off into dangerous or forbidden thoughts? Or the prayer can illuminate the state of our relationships by making us realize “I did not really show love to my brother, who is indeed also the servant of our Lord, and is precious in the sight of the Lord, just as we are precious in the sight of the Lord also, as His servants.”



How many of us have fallen into the trap of judging others, even our own brothers - whether our own family, our relatives, our neighbors, our friends, our church, and even our priest? We are truly quick to judge as individuals, and what this prayer of St. Ephrem expresses so well is that we must not judge our brothers, but rather to forgive them. When we do so (in humility, recognizing our own faults) we are then blessed by our God, and can truly offer up humble prayer before Him, living up to the virtuous pattern for our lives that He has shown us.

It is true, too, that so often we have become slothful, and even faint-hearted, in our prayers, meditations and readings. This season of Great Lent reminds us to be awake, alert, concentrating anew on the Glory and that has been revealed to us. There is a similar danger that we might have been led into seeking to be “more important” or “more influential” - even “lording it” over our brothers and sisters! Isn't it so easy, and so displeasing to our Lord God, for us to fall into

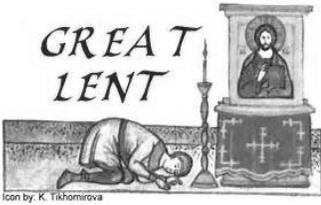
idle talk and gossip? These and similar things act like a block before us, preventing us from seeing that what we should really be doing, during this period of Holy and Great Lent, is seeking to overcome these faults, and learning to be loving Christians! Now you have read this, the block has been removed and the truth has become obvious! Let us all take advantage of this rich period of time given to us, by going to Church to pray, and praying steadfastly at home. Let us all, with great love in our hearts, go to Church more frequently - as the Church offers for us more services during this time of the 40-day fasting period, and Holy Week, eventually leading up to the joyful celebration of our Lord's Holy Glorious Resurrection, which is celebrated on April 16.

This is not only a period of time to pray in Church, and to pray at home, but also to reflect upon the spiritual writings of the Church. There is such great wealth here for us, starting with reading the Holy Scriptures, then the lives of the saints and martyrs of our church, and the teachings of the Holy Fathers. It really is a high time to read the spiritually rewarding materials available from our Church, putting aside secular books and shutting off the T.V. Stop and reflect on that which will help us understand more about our Lord God and His Church.

Then again, Great Lent is also a time to go to both Holy Confession and Holy Communion. The Church has frequent Liturgies during this period to help us to prepare ourselves. Finally all through Holy and Great Lent there is the emphasis on fasting, in which we not only watch what goes into our mouths, but just as importantly what comes out! Watch how we speak to one another - it is with love, or is it with faint-heartedness, lust for power and influence, with nothing but idle talk? Or do we have spirit of chastity, and humility? Do we act with patience, and have love for each other? This is a time to look at our own errors, and not to judge one another, but instead to love each other, and give due honor in glorifying our Lord God in prayer, and seeking out humbly our repentance. What a blessed time this is for us all! Let us now begin humbly, and with love to pray.

NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 19 - Following the Divine Liturgy
All parishioners are welcome to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – OUR LENTEN & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, April 5

7:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Fridays, March, 10, 17, 24, April 7 – Noon – Lenten Moleben

Saturdays, March 11, 18 – 8:30 AM

All Souls Liturgy & Reading of the Hramoty

Saturday, March 25 – 8:30 AM

Divine Liturgy Feast of the Annunciation

Wednesday, March 29 – 7:00 PM – The Great Canon of Andrew of Crete

Friday, March 31 – Noon – Akathist to the Mother of God

GREAT & HOLY WEEK

Great & Holy Wednesday, April 12 – 7:00 PM – Presanctified & Holy Anointing

Great & Holy Thursday, April 13 – 7:00 PM – Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil

Great & Holy Friday, April 14 – 7:00 PM – Burial Vespers & Procession

Great & Holy Saturday, April 15 – 7:00 PM

Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy (all one service) followed by the blessing of baskets

The GREAT Day – Easter, April 16

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by the blessing of baskets