



# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese  
Ecumenical Patriarchate  
10201 Democracy Blvd  
Potomac, Maryland 20854  
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www.holyresurrection.com  
www.facebook.com/groups/hroc25  
YouTube: HROC Media



Very Rev. Peter Zarynow, Pastor  
Protopresbyter John Fedornock

Subdeacons Anastasios Davis & Michael Vaporis Reader Stephen Sudik

**09 March 2025**

**First Sunday of the Great Fast/Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
**First and Second Findings of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist**  
Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 11:32-12:2  
Gospel: John 1:43-51

Tone Four

## **The Schedule of Divine Services for the Week is as Follows:**

**09 Mar (SUN) 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**

Chanting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour 9:15am  
Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great 9:30am  
Coffee Social to Follow  
Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers @ St Katherine, Falls Church  
5pm

**12 (Wed) 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Great Fast**

Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts 7:00pm  
(fast from 3pm if receiving Communion)

**14 Mar (Fri) 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the Great Fast**

Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts 9:30am

**16 Mar (SUN) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**

Chanting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour 9:15am  
Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great 9:30am  
Sunday School/Coffee Social/ Annual Meeting to Follow



## **Announcements:**

**Confessions** be heard after all weekday/night Divine Services and by appointment. Please contact Fr Peter to schedule. All faithful are encouraged to come to the Sacrament every 8-10 weeks, on average, to help maintain spiritual health. Plan ahead-the final opportunity to have your confession heard before Pascha will be after the Sacrament of Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday evening, 16 April.

The Annual Meeting of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church will take place Sunday 16 March following Divine Services. All members in good spiritual and financial standing will have a voice and a vote at the meeting. ***This is your parish, plan to stay and participate.*** All newly elected Officers will take their Oath of Office on Sunday 23 March, immediately following the Gospel Reading This is the second of three official announcements

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers will be held at St Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA on Sunday 09 March. Divine Service begins at 5pm, followed by a dinner reception. This year's guest speaker will be Metropolitan Tikhon of the OCA. We will also be joined by Met. Apostolos of the GOA and Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. It would be great to have some HROC representation at the Vespers!!

There are still cards available for our Lenten Prayer Friends. You may now pick extra cards, if you so desire.

**During the Great Fast all offerings at the Coffee Social need to be fasting foods with at least one Strict Fast option!**

A few of the 2025 Sponsorships for the Bulletin and the Parish website are still available. Please use the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board and hand in your sponsorship asap. Make sure you fill in the special intention column so that Father does not have to contact you last minute to fill it in. Thank you!

If there are any additions or deletions to be made to the parish prayer list, please notify FrPeter by Wednesday afternoon. Updates are needed from time to time, and it's been a while since one was completed.

The 2025 ACRY Annuals have arrived. ACRY member are asked to see Faith Breno after Divine Services to pick up their copy. If we do have extras, they may be purchased from the ACRY.

# CANDLE OFFERINGS

**Eternal Light:** Happy Birthday Jeanne Delasko-Lois (*Many Years!*)

## **Vigil Candles Offered For the Living- (*Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!*)**

- 2-for health-love Mom & Dad  
*Jonathan & Lara; Stephanie*
- 1-health of Melanie-love Alex
- 1-health of Alex-love Melanie
- 1safe travel for family-Alex & Melanie
- 1-special intention Stephanie-love Mom & Dad
- 1-health & Special intention John & Marie Smith,  
Georgene & Ray Ammon, Fr Peter & Pa i Bernadette,  
Alex Zarynow, Marie Skasko, Fr John & Pa i Marge  
Fedornock, Lois Erhard, Charlie & Debi Myers, Chris  
Fallon, Barbara Homick, All parishioners of HROC-Carol  
Miller
- 2-for health-Sheila  
*HROC parishioners; Family members*
- 3-special intention-Sheila  
*Fr. Peter & family; Diocesan Priests & their families;  
OCMC Missionaries*
- 1-health of children & grandchildren-Tom & Amy
- 1-health of Chris Fallon-Michael, Kathleen, John & Anna
- 1-health of cousin George Hazuda-Greg & Debbie  
Yakubik
- 2-special intention-brother George  
*Archbishop Michael; Barbara & Harold Harrington*
- 1-special intention Metropolitan Gregory-George  
Dahulich
- 13-for health-George Dahulich  
*Archbishop Michael; Fr. Tom Kadlec; Fr. Jim Dutko;  
Chris Fallon; Charlie Myers; Barbara Harrington; Pañi  
Kathy Dutko; Alex Zarynow; Emily Dzubak; Katherine  
Chow; Psa. Diana Acsente; Fr. John & Pañi Marie  
Brancho; Georgia Wimberly*
- 3-happy birthday-George Dahulich  
*Sarah Hetzler; Steve Ellis; Jeanne Delasko*
- 1-health of Savannah, Chloe, Caroline, Christopher,  
Natalie, Cole-love Grandparents
- 16-health & special intention-John & Marie Smith  
*Irene Dzubak; Melanie Samson; Carol Miller; Barbara  
Homick; Marie Skasko; Georgene & Ray Ammon; Fr  
Tom & Pañi Linda Kadlec; FrJohn & Pañi Marge  
Fedornock; FrPeter & Pañi Bernadette; FrJohn & Pañi  
Eleanor Pribish; Eleanor Breno; Charlie Myers; Lois  
Erhard; FrJohn & Pañi Marie Brancho; Pañi Jean  
Hutnyan; Chris Fallon*
- 1-safety & peace Ukraine & Israel and their people-John  
& Marie Smith
- 6-special intentions-the Breno Family  
*Breno Family; Fedornock Families; Peart Family;  
Nakonecznyj Family; Zankey Family; Fabian Family*
- 1-prayers for a blessed Lent-the Breno Family
- 1-helath of all who are ill-the Breno Family
- 2-specail intention-Mom & Dad  
*Brian, Angela & Dominic; Stephen*
- 11-for health & special intention-Mark & Marie  
*Nancy Shields; Mike Czap; Skeets & Beth; Irene  
Dzubak; Carol Miller; Ray & Georgene Ammon;  
Eleanor Breno; FrJohn & Pañi Marge; FrPeter & Pañi  
Bernadette; Chris & Mike Fallon; Susan & Dan  
Zelensky*
- 4-for health-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey  
*Skeets; Jessica; Carol Miller; Irene Dzubak*
- 2-specail intention Jacob & Joey-love Mom & Dad
- 1-health & healing Hayley, Bob, Peggy and Bruce, Carol  
Miller, Chris Fallon, AnneMarie, Pa i Jean, Ray Ammon,  
Tom Delare, Irene Dzubak, JordanLNancy Hall-Lois
- 1-for health Savannah & baby, Caroline, Natalie, Karen  
K, Jeanne Delasko, Barbara Homick, Georgene, Debbie  
Delare-Lois
- 1-special intention Georgene-Lois
- 1-health and wellbeing of Artem-Olga Vovk
- 1-health and wellbeing of Andrey, Lidia and Tatiana,  
Natalia, Konstantin, Eva, George, Michael, Lubov,  
Anastasia, Maxim and Ivan-Olga Vovk
- 1-health and wellbeing of Sofia, Sergey, Eva, Matthew,  
Tomothy, Yuliia, Alex, Dru, Irina and Dennis-Olga Vovk
- 1-happy birthday Craig Chick-Lois
- 5-for healing-Rose Plowchin  
*Ray Ammon; Ivan Pulaski; Nancy Hall; Elaine Koval;  
Susan Koval*
- 2-birthday blessings-Rose Plowchin  
*Steve Ellis; Jeanne Delasko*
- 2-for health-Pa i Jean Hutnyan  
*Muhlenberg Family; Hutnyan Family*
- 1-special prayer-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-special intention all my children-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-for a blessed Lenten season-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-health all who are ill-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-health of Eric-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-safe trip Ariana-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-health & wellness Vladislav, Irina, Dennis & Alla-Irina  
Panfilov

## **Vigil Candles In Loving Memory: (*Memory Eternal! Vicnaja Pamjat!*)**

- 1+in loving memory of Les-love Carol
- 1+in memory Mother & Father. Carol Miller
- 1+In loving memory of Chris Hudack, Grandparents,  
Bettie Searfoss, Myrtle Miller, John Hudack,  
John Hrapchak, John Homick, Marge Tomasevich-Carol  
Miller
- 1+in loving memory of Tom, Ann & Chrysa Thear-Taina &  
Craig
- 2+loving memory-the Fallons  
*Bishop Matthias & Pañi Jeannette;  
Anna & John Luchok*
- 1+in memory of parents Helen & Larry Rowland-Diane
- 1+in memory grandparents Helen & Peter Sedlar-Diane
- 1+Memory Eternal Parents/Grandparents-Koval Family
- 1+Memory Eternal Uncle George, Aunt Marge & Uncle  
Tony- Koval Family
- 2+Memory Eternal-love Alex, Melanie  
*parents Michael & Elaine; parents John & Katherine*
- 6+in memory-Sheila  
*John; Dad Kraynok; Mom Kraynok; Charles Hrapchak;*
- Anna Hrapchak; Evelyn Hrapchak*
- 1+In loving memory of Metro-Love, Joan and Family
- 1+in loving memory of parents Peter & Ann Dahulich-  
love son George
- 1+loving memory of Nikolai Mushegian-love Mom & Dad
- 1+loving memory of Vladmir, Irina, Sergey, Nina, Rafael,  
Germina, Maxim, Anna, Irena, Lidia, Pavel, Tatiana,  
Natalia, Olga-Olga Vovk
- 1+loving memory of Leonid, Anna, Izot, Natalia, Afanasii,  
Anastasia, Lidia-Olga Vovk
- 1+in memory of Mom-Mark & Dorothy Sudik
- 2+in memory-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey  
*Grammy; Aunt Dorothy*
- 3+in memory-Pa i Jean Hutnyan  
*Fr Andrew; Mom & Dad; Andrew & Helen Hutnyan*
- 2+in memory-Pa i Marge Fedornock  
*Parents; Brother & Sister*
- 1+in memory of Marge Tomasevich & Mildred Sukal-Lois

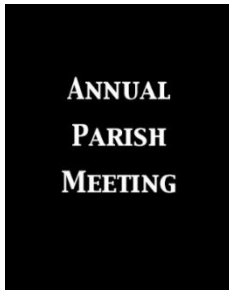
## **Vigil Candles for our Lenten Prayer Friends: (*Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!*)**

- 1-Sofia Sabirova-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Allen Dzubak-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Sarah Hetzler-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Amy Koval-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Alexa Fitzgerald-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Bryan Bilanin-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Valdislav Panfilov-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Joan Kondratich-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Reader Stephen Sudik-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Marie Sudik-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Ray Ammon-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Julia Fitzwater-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Janet Yakubik-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Katelin Alfaro-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Diane Rowland-Your Lenten Prayer Friend
- 1-Christopher Dzubak-Your Lenten Prayer Friend

# PARISH ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 16, 2025

Join us at our Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 16 from 11:30 to 12:30 pm. Be involved in planning for next year and the future by sharing your thoughts and ideas! All members who are in good spiritual standing (see Fr. Peter for questions) and up to date on your financial obligations (see Debi Myers for questions) may have a voice and vote at the meeting

Slate of candidate nominees for Council officer elections: Vice President - Joann Medvigy, Financial Secretary - Debi Myers, Curator - Mark Sudik, Trustee - Matthew Delcher, 2 Auditors - Tom Koval and Andrey Taveira DaSilva.



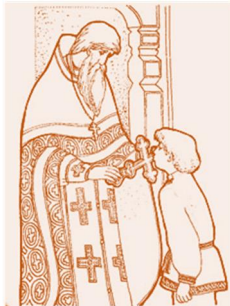
Meeting Reports from Council: Two weeks before the meeting Fr. Peter will email the Council reports which will be discussed at the meeting. They include the Agenda, Minutes of the 2024 meeting, Unaudited 2024 Treasurer's Report, Proposed 2025 Budget, Yearly Net Gain or Loss report, Parish Goals for 2025, and the Master Plan Committee report.

Annual Activity Reports: A second set of reports comes from the pastor, president, membership, spring and fall bakes, Capital Improvement committee, Senior and Junior ACRY,

Outreach & Retention Ministry, Social Concerns Ministry. These reports will not be discussed at the meeting; however, if you have a question on a report, it will be answered at the meeting.

Parishioners will receive the two emails from Fr. Peter on or about March 2. If you do not receive the emails, please contact Father Peter. See you at the meeting and bring your ideas for the future!

## Prayer For The Priesthood



O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our **Metropolitan Gregory**, and our spiritual fathers who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Remember also, O Lord, our priests and deacons, especially **Fr Edward Pehanich, Fr John Pribish & Fr Deacon Art Steinstra and our Diocesan Seminarians Dn. Peter Sodini, Nicholas Laliberte, Ignatios Leonardo, an Alexander Hurtsellers.** Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God who loves us, and to You we

give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

## Easter Candy are being taken!!

Orders for Easter Chocolates from Sarris Candies is open until **midnight 13 April**. Place your order online and your order will be shipped directly to you. Shipping is now at \$7.00 per order. Ground shipping is free for orders over \$100. Orders usually ship within 72 hours

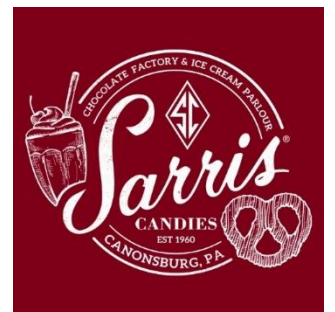
Go to: [www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com) and click on line ordering. Go to Easter Fundraising. All items on the website, if available, are also eligible for this program.

Make sure that you give our full name:

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

Our customer number is 10-2493.

Proceeds from the sale goes to benefit our Camp Transportation Fund.



*Did you know that the parish has a grocery gift card*

*program?* If you shop at Giant grocery stores, you can assist the parish, too. Every time you purchase a gift card our parish receives 5% of the proceeds. See Marie or Mark Sudik after Divine Services to purchase cards. The cards are available in increments of \$20, \$50 & \$100



The Wise Thief's whole life had been one of theft and crime. But evidently his conscience had not died, and in the depths of his hearth something good remained. Tradition even hold that he was that very thief who, during Christ's flight into Egypt, took pity on the beautiful Baby and forbade his accomplices to kill Him when they attacked the holy family. Did he perhaps recall the face of that Child when he looked upon the face of the One hanging next to him on the Cross? + St. John the

Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco, "Why the Wise Thief Was Pardoned"



**Please pray for the following:** Metropolitan Gregory; Fr. Frank & Pañi Connie Miloro; Pañi Betty Jean Baranik; Fr Michael Rustik; Fr. Mark Leasure; Fr. John Fencik; Fr. Paul Stoll; Fr. Robert & Pañi Peggy Teklinski; Dn. Peter Skoog & family; Fr James & Pañi Kathy Dutko; Fr. Gregory Allard; Pañi Linda Barriger; Fr. James Gleason, Fr. Luke Mihaly; Fr. Ted & Pañi Marjorie Mozes; Hieromonk Michael; Fr Thomas & Pañi Linda Kadlec; Fr Stephen Krivonak; Fr David & Pañi Donna Smoley; Pañi Annamarie Slovesko; Pañi Patricia Duranko; Fr John & Pañi Cindy Zboyovski, Fr. Jonathan & Pañi Marsha Tobias, Pañi Sharon Holowaty; Pañi MaryMargaret Conjelko; Fr John & Pañi Eleanor Pribish; Fr John Mikitish; Pañi Karen Miklos; Pañi Marie Brancho; Pañi Jean Hutnyan; Fr David & Pañi Paula Kossy; Fr Edward Pihanich; Pañi Betty Baranik; SGT Joey Myers; SPC Alexander Zarynow; Beth & Ed 'Skeets' Williams; Carol Miller; Irene Dzubak; Dorothy Mastronicola; Tony Zanke; Justin Popek; Florence Gregoric, James & Melody Peyton; Carol Blum, Alexi Williams, Missy Johns, Susan Buckley, Constance Amey, James Lazor, Debbie Dell; Grace Yoon; Michael Dinneen; Joan Detwiler; Joan Kondratick; Irene Dzubak; Barbara Homick; Jim David & Jeanne Delasko; Melanie Samson; Laura Gary; Richard & Wendy Sulich; Wendy Taylor; James Durachko; Randi Calle, Hayley Marshall, Jon Green, MaryJane, Kyle & Rosie Brant, Alicia, Lisa Cherno, Stephen Brancho; Emily; MaryMargaret; Leslie Perez; Thomas & Deborah Delare; Diana Hannan; Bridget Myers; Devan Merrill; Bob Fitzurka; Olga Vovk; Lela; Carly; Robert; Vic Fitzwater; Taina Ferguson; Olya Romanova; Luke Griffith; Richard Durachko; Jennifer Haire; Mary, Simon, Alla; Artem Vovk; Charles Arnhold; Danielle V; Debbie Aumen; David Bulko; Bill Finken; Angelo Taveira-DaSilva, Andrew S.; Natalie Z; Stephen Hutnyan; Barbara Drillock; Dayton Naugle; Cassidy Riselvato; Phillip Trivett; Camila Bonilla; Hilary Soperak; Robert Knowlton; Ray Rushnak; Christine Sakmar; Joel F, Frank, Jordan, Ruth Moore; Hudson Kennedy; Ray Ammon; Eric R; Stephan B, Maria H & baby

***May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand!!***

# CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2025

*The Time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! Registration is now open!!*

## Dates for the Summer Camping Program

Week 1: Sunday, July 20 ó Saturday, July 26, 2025 ó Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Washington D.C., and Tri-State Deaneries

## Register Online Starting March 1, 2025 @ 6pm (EDT)

Register at ó [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org)

Registration for Camp will be on a First-Come First-Serve Basis!! Once capacity for a given week is filled, all other campers will be put on a waiting list.

Cost for Camp ó Diocesan \$370/child, Non-Diocesan \$420/child

**\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!!!**

(one-time only, not per week)

*No child should be prevented from attending Camp because of cost. If a campership is needed, please contact Fr Peter*

## Must Register & pay by May 1, 2025!!!!

Online Registration **MUST** be complete AND payment must be submitted by May 1 in order to qualify for the Early Bird Discount.

**Registration will close on June 15, 2025 @ 12pm!**



Along with the announcement for Camp, if your children are attending Camp for our Deanery session 20-26 July, and you are needing a ride to Camp, notify FrPeter as soon as possible. We will once again be renting a van, having room for 11 campers. Space is limited, so let him know early! No child should be restricted from attending Camp because of finances. *Camperships are available for those who are in need of financial assistance. Please contact FrPeter for more information or to apply*



## Spring 2025 Bake Days

The Bake Days for the Spring of 2025 are as follows:

- Saturday 15 March beginning at 8am
- Tuesday 25 March (Breads only) beginning at 9am
- Saturday 29 March beginning at 8am

Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so at we know how to prepare for lunch. The work load will be stretched over the three sessions so that the work can be completed in a timely manner, folks can still have a good part of their day when the work is complete and that we do not leave so tired. We need everyone to come and help as much as possible.



## Native Plant of the week:

Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

Also known as indigo weed, rattleweed, rattlebush, and horsefly weed. It's a bushy, robust perennial with blue-purple, pea-like flowers in dense, upright spikes. Native Americans and early settlers used it as a substitute for true indigo (*Indigofera tinctoria*) for dyeing fabrics.



It's a drought-tolerant, deer-resistant plant that can grow in various soil types. *Baptisia australis* prefers full sun and is quite drought tolerant, but also does well in partial shade.

Blue False Indigo attracts many pollinators and is also a host plant for the Frosted Elfin, Wild Indigo Duskywing, and Hoary Edge butterflies as well as 17 other species of butterflies and moths

## ALL SOUL SATURDAYS

The remaining All Soul Saturdays for 2025 will be observed on 22 March and 7 June. *If there are any additions to make to your family list (or if you need to begin a family list), contact Fr. Peter as soon as possible.* Please come and pray for the departed of your family and our parish family. Divine Liturgy and Panachida will be at 9:30am on each of these Saturdays. (Note: This year we are observing 3 of the 5 All-Souls Saturdays in the hope of boosting attendance at these Divine Services)



## Social Concerns Ministry Canned Food Drive 2025

The Social Concerns Ministry is again organizing a canned food drive for Manna Food Center of Montgomery County. Listed below are the categories of items that are needed. **Please stick to the list!** All items must be recent purchases. Do not use this as an opportunity to clean out your pantry! Also, most important, if you would not serve that item or brand at your table, do not get it for someone else! Finally, no glass containers. If glass breaks, not only does it cause a mess, but it can also be dangerous.

Boxes will be set up in the hall for the various categories. Each time you go to the grocery or order from the grocery, get an item or two (or three or four) to help the drive. The last day for the drive will be St Mary of Egypt Sunday (6 April). We hope to make a delivery before Holy Week to Manna at their warehouse in Gaithersburg



**CEREAL    RICE/PASTA    VEGETABLES    PEANUT BUTTER**  
**PROTEIN (CHICKEN, TUNA, SALMON)    SOUP/RAVIOLI/CHILI**

If there are any questions, please see/contact Georgene Ammon or FrPeter. Thank you, in advance, for your support of this worthwhile project.

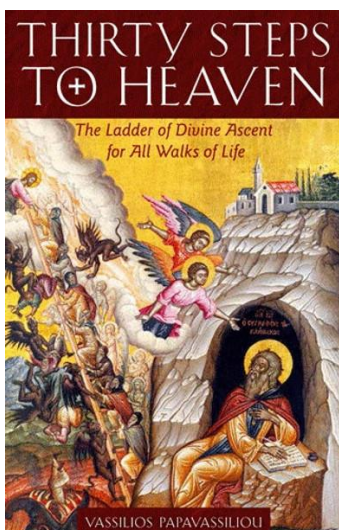
Along with the food drive, if any of our own parish family needs any assistance with food because of recent job loss, please contact FrPeter to come by the hall during the week, anonymously, and take anything you may need,



## CHURCH CLEANING/WORK DAY Saturday, 05 April

Attention Parish Family: Come and help clean our church in preparation for Pascha! Join us on Saturday 05 April at 9am and going until everything is done around mid-afternoon. Sign the "I am coming to clean on 05 April" sign-up sheet on the hall bulletin board to let us know you are coming so we can plan for a continental brunch, lunch, and cleaning supplies.

OR – IF YOU CAN'T COME ON THAT DATE, you can still help by doing one of the items at a time that is convenient to you before 12 April. Just write your name next to the item on the Church Cleaning flyer located on the hall bulletin board. After you clean, check it off to indicate completion. If you have questions, talk to Mark Sudik, Curator. Thank you for helping to keep our church beautiful! (because of scheduling we are having cleaning day one week earlier this year)



## HROC BOOK CLUB & LENTEN READING

### *Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life* by Vassilios Papavassiliou

Mark your calendar to meet on March 9. We'll meet upstairs in the church after we have a quick cup of coffee. Please continue reading the *Thirty Steps to Heaven* to the end of the book. Bring your list of particular topics in the book that you would like the group to discuss.

For Lenten Reading is suggested to continue reading where you left off last year. If you are looking for another book, please contact FrPeter

## The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

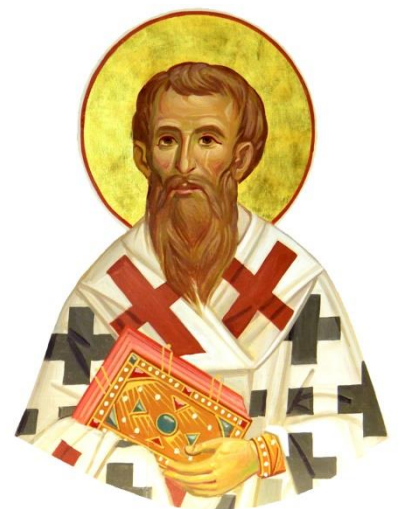
At one time, this form of the Eucharist was the ordinary one used on Sundays and feast days according to the usage of Constantinople. Over the centuries, its use in the churches of the Orthodox Church became restricted to:

- ❖ a morning celebration of the Eucharist on
  - the five Sundays of the Great Fast
  - the feast of the Nativity (December 25/7), if the feast falls on a Sunday or Monday
  - the feast of the Theophany (January 6/19), if the feast falls on a Sunday or Monday
  - the feast of Saint Basil the Great (January 1/14)
- ❖ an evening celebration of the Eucharist on
  - the evening of Great and Holy Thursday
  - the evening of Great and Holy Saturday, the eve of Pascha
  - the evening of December 24/January 6, the eve of the Nativity, if December 25/7 January falls on Tuesday through Saturday
  - the evening of January 5/18, the eve of Theophany, if January 6/19 falls on Tuesday through Saturday

When the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated in the evening, it is combined with Vespers to form a Vigil Divine Liturgy.

The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil, as celebrated today, is very similar to the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, differing primarily in the priest's prayers, and in the use of a different hymn to the Theotokos at the end of the Anaphora. Since the priestly prayer of the Anaphora is longer in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, the musical settings for the people's responses are usually more ornate as well.

Although the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil is longer, and associated in the minds of the faithful with the Sundays of Lent, it is not a penitential liturgy. Rather, it is a more conservative order of service, which also emphasizes and expands on the whole story of salvation history. This accounts for its use in the Great Fast (which is very old-fashioned, liturgically speaking), and for evening services at which baptisms were traditionally performed (Holy Saturday, and the eves of the Nativity and Theophany).



## SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

**This sermon was first given on the Sunday of Orthodoxy 1903 in the San Francisco Cathedral during Saint Tikhon's tenure as Bishop of the Aleutian Islands and North America**

This Sunday, brethren, begins the week of Orthodoxy, or the week of the Triumph of Orthodoxy, because it is today that the Holy Orthodox Church solemnly recalls its victory over the Iconoclast heresy and other heresies and gratefully remembers all who fought for the Orthodox faith in word, writing, teaching, suffering, or godly living.

Keeping the day of Orthodoxy, Orthodox people ought to remember that it is their sacred duty to stand firm in their Orthodox Faith and to keep it carefully. For us it is a precious treasure: we were born and raised in it. All the important events of our life are related to it, and it is ever ready to give us its help and blessing in all our needs and good undertakings, however unimportant they may seem. It supplies us with strength, good cheer and consolation, it heals, purifies and saves us.

The Orthodox Faith is also dear to us because it is the Faith of our Fathers. For its sake the Apostles bore pain and labored. Martyrs and preachers suffered for it. Champions, who were like unto the saints, shed their tears and their blood. Pastors and teachers fought for it. And our ancestors stood for it, whose legacy it was that to us it should be dearer than the pupil of our eyes.

And as to us, their descendants - do we preserve the Orthodox Faith, do we keep to its Gospels? Of yore, the prophet Elijah, this great worker for the glory of God, complained that the sons of Israel had abandoned the Testament of the Lord, leaning away from it towards the gods of the heathen. Yet the Lord revealed to His prophet, that amongst the Israelites there were still seven thousand people who had not knelt before Baal (3 Kings 19). Likewise, no doubt, in our days also there are some true followers of Christ. "The Lord knoweth them that are His" (2 Timothy 2:19). We do occasionally meet sons of the Church, who are obedient to Her decrees, who honor their spiritual pastors, love the Church of God and the beauty of its exterior, who are eager to attend to its Divine Services and to lead a good life, who recognize their human failings and sincerely repent of their sins.

But are there many such among us? Are there not more people, "in whom the weeds of vanity and passion allow but little fruit to the influence of the Gospel, because of the increase of their sins, who renounce the gift of the Lord and repudiate the grace of God" (a quotation from the Service of Orthodoxy). I have given birth to sons and have glorified them, yet they deny Me, said the Lord in the olden days concerning Israel. And today also there are many who were born, raised and glorified by the Lord in the Orthodox Faith, yet who deny their Faith, paying no attention to the teachings of the Church, they do not keep its injunctions, do not listen to their spiritual pastors and remain cold towards the divine services and the Church of God.

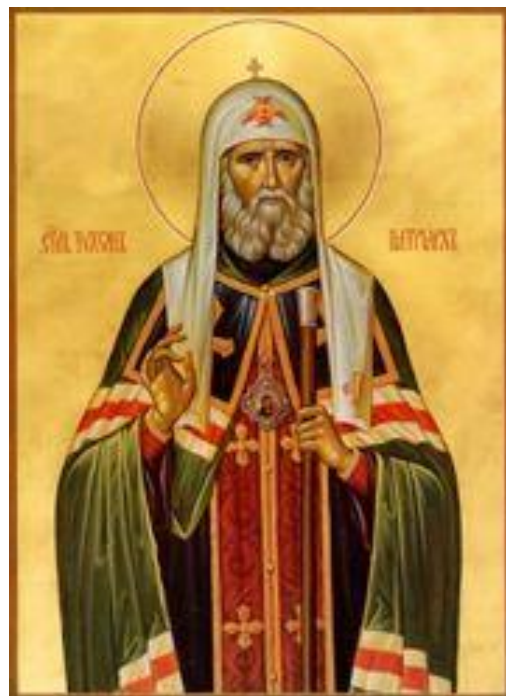
How speedily some of us lose the Orthodox faith in this country of many creeds and tribes! They begin their apostasy with things which in their eyes have but little importance. They judge it is "old fashioned" and "not accepted amongst educated people" to observe all such customs such as praying before and after meals, or even morning and night, to wear a cross, to keep icons in their houses and to keep church holidays and fast days. They even do not stop at this, but go further: they seldom go to church and sometimes not at all, as a man has to have some rest on a Sunday ... in a pub! They do not go to confession, they dispense with church marriage and delay baptizing their children. And in this way their ties with the Orthodox Faith are broken! They remember the Church on their deathbeds, and some don't even do that!

To excuse their apostasy they naively say: "this is not the old times, this is today, and consequently it is impossible to observe all the demands of the Church." As if the word of Christ is of use for the old times only and not for always. As if the Orthodox Faith is not the foundation of the world. "Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel into anger" (Isaiah 1:4).

If you do not keep the Orthodox Faith and the commandments of God, the least you can do is not humiliate your hearts by inventing false excuses for your sins! If you do not honor our customs, the least you can do is not to laugh at things that you do not know or understand. If you do not accept the motherly care of the Holy Orthodox Church, the least you can do is to confess you act wrongly, that you are sinning against the Church and behave like children! If you do, the Orthodox Church can forgive you, like a loving mother, your coldness and slights, and will receive you back into her embrace, as if you were erring children.

Holding to the Orthodox Faith, as to something holy, loving it with all their hearts and prizing it above all, Orthodox people ought, moreover, to endeavor to spread it amongst people of other creeds. Christ the Saviour has said that "neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candle stick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matthew 5:15). The light of Orthodoxy was not lit to shine only on a small number of men. The Orthodox Church is universal. It remembers the words of its Founder: "Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Luke 16:15), "Go ye therefore and teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19). We ought to share our spiritual wealth, our truth, light and joy with others who are deprived of these blessings, but often are seeking them and thirsting for them.

Once "a vision appeared to Paul in the night, there stood a man from Macedonia and prayed him, saying, come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9), after which the apostle started for this country to preach Christ. We also hear a similar inviting voice. We live surrounded by people of alien creeds. In the sea of other religions, our Church is a small island of salvation, towards which swim some of the people, plunged in the sea of life.



*(continued on next page)*



(Sunday of Orthodoxy sermon, continued)

Are we to remain deaf and insensible to them? God save us from such a lack of sympathy. Otherwise, woe unto us, "for we have taken away the key of knowledge, we entered not in ourselves, and them that were entering in we hindered" (Luke 11:52).

But who is to work for the spread of the Orthodox Faith, for the increase of the children of the Orthodox Church? Pastors and missionaries, you answer. You are right! But are they alone? St Paul wisely compares the Church of Christ to a body, and the life of a body is shared by all the members. So, it ought to be in the life of the Church also. "The whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).

At the beginning, not only pastors alone suffered for the faith of Christ, but lay people also, men, women and even children. Heresies were fought against by lay people as well. Likewise, the spread of Christ's faith ought to be near and precious to the heart of every Christian.

In this work every member of the Church ought to take a lively and heartfelt interest. This interest may show itself in personal preaching of the Gospel of Christ. And to our great joy, we know of such examples amongst our lay brethren. Needless to say, it is not everybody among us who has the opportunity or the faculty to preach the Gospel personally. And in view of this I shall indicate to you, brethren, what every man can do for the spread of Orthodoxy and what he ought to do.

The Apostolic Epistles often disclose the fact that, when the Apostles went to distant places to preach, the faithful often helped them with their prayers and their offerings. Saint Paul sought this help of the Christians especially. Consequently, we can express the interests we take in the cause of the Gospel in praying to the Lord that He should take this holy cause under His protection, that He should give its servants the strength to do their work worthily, that He should help them to conquer difficulties and dangers, which are part of the work, that He should not allow them to grow depressed or weaken in their zeal! that He should open the hearts of the unbelieving for the hearing and acceptance of the Gospel of Christ, that He should impart to them the word of truth, that He should unite them to the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church! that He should confirm, increase and pacify His Church, keeping it forever invincible.

We pray for all this, mostly with lips, but seldom with the heart. Don't we often hear such remarks as these: "What is the use of these special prayers for the newly initiated (the catechumens)? They do not exist in our time! let them pray for such where there are any! As to us, such prayers only needlessly prolong the service which is not short by any means, as it is." Woe to our lack of wisdom! Woe to our carelessness and idleness! Offering earnest prayers for the successful preaching of Christ, we can also show our interest by helping it materially. It was so in the primitive Church, and the Apostles lovingly accepted material help to the cause of the preaching, seeing in it an expression of Christian love and zeal. In our days, these offerings are especially needed, because for the lack of them the work often comes to a dead stop. For the lack of them preachers cannot be sent out or supported, churches cannot be built or schools founded, the needy amongst the newly converted cannot be helped. All this needs money and members of other religions always find a way of supplying it. Perhaps, you will say, these people are richer than ourselves. This is true enough, but great means are accumulated by small, and if everybody amongst us gave what he could towards this purpose, we also could raise considerable means.

Accordingly, do not be ashamed of the smallness of your offering. If you have much, offer all you can, but do offer, do not lose the chance of helping the cause of the conversion of your neighbors to Christ, because by so doing, in the words of St James, you "shall save your own soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:20).

Orthodox people, in celebrating the day of Orthodoxy, you must devote yourselves to the Orthodox Faith not in word or tongue only, but in deed and in truth.



## 1ST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11/24), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14/27). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes. In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.







Sunday of Orthodoxy 2025

## Encyclical

Dearly beloved faithful in Christ,

Each year on the first Sunday of Great Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we lift our voices and our hearts in joyful remembrance of the restoration of the holy icons to their rightful place in the life of the Church. Today, we celebrate triumphally and with humility the resulting Unity of the Orthodox Church manifested through this decision of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council that met in Nicaea in 787, under the aegis of Byzantine Empress Irene and, subsequently, the definitive Restoration of Holy Icons in Constantinople on the First Sunday of Great and Holy Lent in 843, henceforth known as Orthodoxy Sunday, under the patronage of the Byzantine Regent, Saint Theodora, and, the Ecumenical Patriarch, Saint Methodios the Confessor. Now, here in the United States of America, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops is tasked with preserving, manifesting, and promoting this same mystery of Unity exemplified and confessed with courage by the Saints so long ago. Thus, inspired by the same sense of joy, witness and responsibility “Assembly of Bishops Sunday” is now recognized throughout the country in conjunction with the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul cries out across the ages with a message that still speaks to our hearts today: “I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10). This powerful pericope crossed with the example of restoration celebrated on the Sunday of Orthodoxy inspires us to always rise above division and to stand together in the unshakable love of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Indeed, the restoration of the holy icons is the restoration of unity through the victory of faith over fear, of salvation over condemnation, of a God incarnate over an unknown deity. Unity prevails when we all open up our hearts and minds in selfless love, transformed by grace in the mystery of Christ. Just as we venerate icons, we too become icons to one another, united in one body, that is the Church, just as the Saints of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Centuries chose to stand firm, witnessing God’s glory. Thus, let us be challenged by Saint Paul’s words by being “united in the same mind and the same judgement.” Let us not harden our differences but rather embrace what unites us in Christ.

As we celebrate Assembly of Bishops Sunday – along with the Sunday of Orthodoxy – we encourage you all to learn about the Ministries of the Assembly as well as to support our sincere efforts for Orthodox Christian Unity through the steadfast and generous gifts of your time, talent, and treasure.

With Paternal love in Christ and prayers for a blessed Lenten journey, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2025.

  
**Archbishop Elpidophoros**, Chair  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

  
**Metropolitan Nicolae**  
Romanian Orthodox Church

  
**Metropolitan Saba**, Vice-Chair  
Antiochian Orthodox Church

  
**Metropolitan Joseph**  
Bulgarian Orthodox Church

  
**Archbishop Michael**  
Treasurer

  
**Bishop Saba**  
Georgian Orthodox Church

  
**Metropolitan Gregory**  
Secretary

  
**Metropolitan Tikhon**  
Orthodox Church in America

  
**Bishop Irinej**  
Serbian Orthodox Church



*Icons are to be Venerated;  
God alone is to be served in Faith*



### SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: A DAY OF TRIUMPH

The importance of the use and veneration of icons by the Orthodox Church is well-documented today. There was a time, however, when their use was forbidden. Those who opposed the use of icons were referred to as "iconoclasts," which literally means "image breakers." This controversy raged for over 100 years, and was seemingly settled at the 7th Ecumenical Council, which convened in Nicea in 787 A.D. The Church Fathers decreed that the veneration of icons was a long standing tradition of the Church, and that this practice was not, in any way, in conflict with the Second Commandment, which directs us "not to make unto ourselves any graven image."

The 7th Ecumenical Council, however, did not completely settle

this issue. The conflict over icons continued until 843 A.D. when a local council, led by Patriarch Methodios of Constantinople, established the 1st Sunday of Lent as a day of celebration of the "Triumph of Orthodoxy" and the return of holy icons to their rightful place in churches everywhere.

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is a celebration of all of the faithful men and women who struggled for the Faith in times of persecution. On this great day, all Orthodox Christians are called upon to remember the example of these holy ones and to renew our own commitment to Christ and His Church. We proudly proclaim today that the rich Orthodox Faith that we possess is truly "THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES . . . THE FAITH OF THE FATHERS . . . THE FAITH WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED THE UNIVERSE."