

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, March 8th 2020

Sunday of Orthodoxy | Tone 5

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 | Gospel: John 1:43-51

Throughout Lent, all are invited to join a **book group** from **9:00-9:30 before Liturgy**, reading through **the Lenten Homilies of St. John of Kronstadt**.

Throughout Lent, Wed. Night book club “Walking with Moses,” following pre-sanctified Liturgy, starting second week of Lent (See Calendar)

The Lenten Schedule is now available on the Church Website Calendar; printed copies are also available in the back of the Church. **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**; Changes will be shared as early as possible in Sunday Bulletins. Please also see flyers for upcoming retreats and events.

Great Lent is a time for forgiveness, both of others and ourselves. Be sure to schedule a time for individual confession with Father John. As a healthy part of repentance, confession during the Lenten season is expected as a prerequisite to communing at Easter/through Pentecost.

See flyer in the back regarding Sarris Candy Orders.

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

See posted Calendars, subject to change

Tonight, @ Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.; Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (North Hills area-off McKnight Road)

Wed March 11th, 6:30 P.M. @ Holy Resurrection in Belle Vernon—Pre-sanctified Divine Liturgy, followed by “Walking with Moses” Book Study

Friday Evening—Prayer service for the departed

Vigil Offerings Sun. March 1

Mary Behanna—(Virgin Mary Kiot) in memory of parents Andy & Petrina / blessings for a safe trip

Dimitri & Pauline Petro—God’s blessing upon Priscilla Kaluponov on her birthday / God’s blessings upon Jim Hays on his birthday / for health and safe trip for Kyra / for health of Adam, Luke, & Noah / for health of Christina and Alexandra / for health of Fr. Igor / special intentions

Steve Tomovich—health of sister Michele

Ken Behanna—health & welfare of our Church

Fr. Igor—in blessed memory of memory of beloved Matushka Irene

Bill Priatko—God’s healing hand be with the afflicted in our parish / blessed memory eternal to my beloved Katrinka

Debbie & Dan Priatko—in memory of our beloved mom / in memory of sister-in-law Dottie / for health of all parishioners / health of Aunt Dorothy Dutka / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of all parishioners / God’s blessings upon our parish

Debbie Priatko—God’s blessing upon my family / God’s blessings upon our country/

for health of Dorothy Petrinka

Vladimir Kash— in memory of Ann O’Brien

Fr. Igor—in blessed memory of beloved Mat. Irene

Mark Soroka—for health of father, Fr. Igor

Sandy Klizaz—in memory of Stephen & Helen Drake / in memory of Frank & June Drake / birthday blessings for grandson

Pauline Aitken—in memory of departed son Kevin, grandson Nicholas, and Husband Lee / special intentions / health of granddaughter Amanda

Sandy Aitken—in memory of dad Lee / health of mother Pauline, Fr. Igor, Fr. Patrick, Aunt (?) and uncle Ron, sister Natalie and niece Amanda

Mike Horan—memory eternal to my loving wife, Becky / for safe trip for Cindy

Tom & Elaine Backstrom—special intentions / in memory of mom & dad / God’s healing hand be upon sister, Michele . God’s healing hand be upon brother-in-law Paul / God’s blessing on grandchildren, Sydney, Luke, Freddy, and Madison

Grace and truth have shone forth.

The predictions of old have been clearly fulfilled.

Behold, the Church adorns herself with the form of Christ incarnate!

The icons of the new creation transcend the adornments of the old.

As the Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God,
so now the icons reveal the presence of the One we adore.

By honoring them we will never go astray.

It is our glory to fall down and worship Christ in the flesh.

Come, O faithful, venerate His image and cry out://

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Advancing from false doctrine to true faith,

illumined with the light of knowledge,

let us clap our hands and offer grateful praise to God in song!

With due honor let us venerate the holy icons of Christ,

of the all-pure Virgin, and of all the saints,

depicted on walls or panels or sacred vessels,

rejecting the godless teaching of the heretics!

For as Saint Basil says:

“The honor shown to the image passeth to its prototype.”

By the prayers of Thy pure Mother and of all the saints,//
we beseech Thee, O Christ our God, to grant us great mercy!

-Selected From Vespers

Canon of St. Andrew: A Chronicle of Our Soul...

...the Bible is not merely a history of the people of Israel. It is also a great chronicle of the soul of mankind, of the souls which would repeatedly fall and stand up again before the face of God, which repeatedly fell into sin and repeatedly repented. If we were to examine the lives of those mentioned in the Bible, we would see that each of them is presented not so much as a historical figure, an individual that did such and such, but as an individual standing before the Living God. The person's historical or other accomplishments are accorded second place. What remains is what is most important: did that person remain faithful to God, or not. If we read the Bible and the Great Canon with that frame of reference, we will see that much of what is said about the righteous ones and sinners of antiquity is nothing less than a chronicle of our soul, of our repeated falling and rising, of our repeated sin and repentance.

One should not imagine that repentance consists of rooting around in one's personal sins, engaging in self-flagellation, and striving to expose in oneself as much evil and darkness as possible. To truly repent is to turn from the darkness to the light, from sin to righteousness, to understand that our life has been unworthy of its high calling, to confess before God how insignificant we are, and confess that our only hope is God Himself. True repentance is when, standing before the face of God, Who, as the Apostle Peter says "hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light," (I Peter 2: 9), we understand that life was given to us so that we might become children of God, so that we might commune of the Divine Light.

True repentance is reflected not so much in words as in deeds: in readiness to come to one the aid of others, to be open with our neighbors, and not become too focused onto oneself. True repentance is understanding that, while we do not possess the power to become true Christians, God is capable of making us so. As it says in the Great Canon "wheresoever God wishes, the order of nature is overcome." That is to say, where God so wishes, supernatural events occur: Saul becomes Paul, Jonah is brought out of the belly of the whale, Moses crosses the sea on dry land, the dead Lazarus is resurrected, Mary of Egypt is turned from a harlot into a great righteous one. For, according to the Savior "with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19: 26).

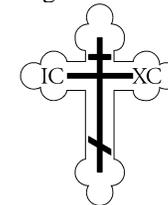
--Archpriest Victor Potapov



"Triumph of Orthodoxy... is not the triumph of the Orthodox over anyone else; it is the triumph of God over people. The triumph of His truth, the triumph God in the lives of people."—Met. Anthony Bloom

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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Organized 1916



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Deacon ROBERT MOTICHAK (Attached)
Dr. DIMITRI PETRO, Choir Director

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