

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, Apr. 11th 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 3. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder)

Ephesians 5:9-19 | Hebrews 6:13-20

Matthew 4:25-5:12 | Mark 9:17-31

The remainder of the Lenten season, we will be collecting canned/non-perishable food items for the Mon Valley Youth and Teen Association's food bank. Donations in the Charity box will also go to local ministry. May God bless your almsgiving in secret!

The Inter-parish book study on Tuesday nights at 7pm continues via Zoom.

During the Lenten season, I encourage you to attend the services outside Sundays – without Lenten worship, you really won't get the Lenten experience or the Joy of Pascha. If you have not done so for some time, make plans to prepare for and to give confession, and to receive holy Communion.

Services and events this week

Wednesday

5pm music rehearsal

6:00pm – Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

Friday

6:00pm – Akathist

Saturday

Great Vespers @ 4:30pm, followed by confessions

Sunday

9:00am – “Hymns of repentance” book study

10am – Divine Liturgy

Prayer list Apr. 4th

Mary Behanna – in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat (Virgin Mary Kiot)

Sandy Aitken – in memory of Dad, Lee / God's blessings for Fr. Igor for his birthday / health of mother, Pauline, Aunt Bunnie, Fr. Patrick, Jacque Rugh, Jim Hays / birthday blessings for niece Paulena & brother Ethan / memory of godfather, John Prystash

Vlad Kash – in memory of newly departed Vincent Luparello

Greg Pandrock – for health of Minnie Pandrock

Pauline Aitken – in memory of departed son Kevin, departed grandson Nicholas, & departed husband Lee / in memory of uncle John Prystash / for health of Jacque, sister Bunnie, & Fr. Igor

Matushka Sandy Motichak – health of Deacon Rodion / health of daughter Christina and son Nicholas / in memory of newly departed Erma / special intentions

Rodney Prystash – for health of parents / for health of Dianna / health of sister Jacque

Deacon Rodion – birthday blessings to Fr. Igor – God grant you many more!
Tom & Elaine Backstrom – special intentions / in memory of mom & dad / God's healing hand be upon sister Michele / God's blessings on grandchildren Sydney, Luke, Freddy & Madison / health of all parishioners

Dimitri & Pauline Petro – for health of Kyra & baby Will Ethan / for health of Nick, Christine, Alexandra & Nicholas / for health of Pauline Aitken / for health of Pauline Yuschak / for health of Natalie & Rob / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of Jim & Vera Hays / birthday remembrance of sister, Evangeline / for health of Rachel & Shelley / special intentions

Fr. Igor – In blessed memory of beloved Mat. Irene

Mark Soroka – God's blessings upon father, Fr. Igor on his birthday. God grant him many years!

Christine Milchovich – Birthday blessings of husband Nick

Nicholas & Alexandra Milchovich – birthday blessings for dad

Nick & Christine Milchovich – birthday blessings for daughter, Alexandra / birthday blessings for Fr. Igor

Altar Candles 4/11/2021

Offered by Ralph & Ina Prystash on behalf of daughter, Jacque

Holy Week Schedule

Sun. Apr. 25th 6pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday

Mon. Apr. 26th 6pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday

Tues. Apr. 27th 6pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday

Wed. Apr. 28th 6pm Matins of Holy Thursday

Thurs. Apr. 29th 9:30am Vespereal Liturgy of Holy Thursday; 6pm Matins of Holy Friday w/passion gospels

Fri. Apr. 30th 8:00am Royal Hours; 3:00pm Vespers of Holy Friday; 7pm Matins/ Lamentations w/ procession

Sat. May 1st 9:30am Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday; 9:30pm Nocturns, Matins of Holy Pascha

This period of Great Lent...

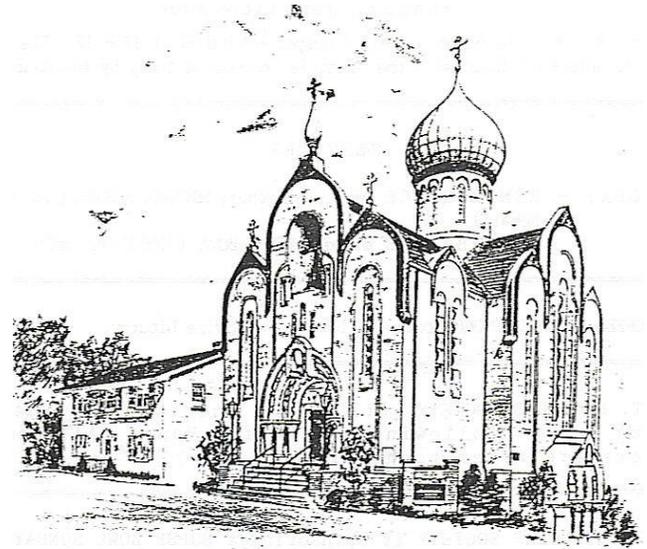
The Season of fasting is a time of work on our heart and a school of voluntary death. The way of the Lord passes through the death on the Cross and the descent into the netherworld of hell unto the life-bearing Resurrection. As we take on voluntary suffering, accepting the trials which the providence of God allows in our life without grudging and with gratitude, we explore through faith the unspeakable mystery of Divine Love, which reaches for our sake unto the depths of hell. **Our knowledge of the mystery of Christ will never be complete, if our experience does not contain also the descent into hell.**

Faith in the Resurrection of Christ and hope in our own resurrection inspire us to live in accordance with the commandments of God, dead to the will of our flesh. Thus our deep heart will emerge and we will know from experience that we have been transported 'from death to life'.

Only that work which we have wrought within our heart will accompany us into eternity. If we cleanse our heart in this life, then in accordance with the promise of God, we will see His Countenance: 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.'

The tragedy of man is that he lives outside his heart. He thinks, works, speaks, and even loves and prays, outside his heart. This period of Great Lent gives us Christians a great opportunity to enter into our heart and return to it like the prodigal son to his father's house. The vision of our inner hell in the light of the holiness of God and the fervor of His spotless love, provokes in our soul an unrestrainable desire 'to break out of the chains of our fall', and surrender entirely to the God of light and love, who comes to give life and not death. Then the voice of the Lord will resound in our heart: 'My son, give me thine heart' and the same will proclaim, 'Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.'

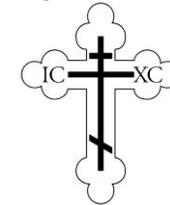
Through His living word the Lord Jesus sowed an 'incorruptible seed' and by the grace of His Spirit He granted us the gift of adoption, giving birth to the Church and making us children of His Resurrection. The victory of Christ over the last enemy, death, is accomplished in our deep heart and there the triumph of the Orthodox faith also takes place. In other words, grace will imprint upon our heart the image of the Lord Jesus and will make us heirs of His victory over death.



"Let us seek to discover the things of heaven through the sweat of our efforts, rather than by mere talk, for at the hour of death it is deeds, not words, that must be displayed."—St. John of the Ladder

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

1 St. Nicholas Drive
DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA
Organized 1916



The Reverend Father JOHN PARKER, Pastor
Rectory Telephone (724) 379-4827
Office Hours—Tues. & Thurs., 10am-noon, 1pm-3pm
frjohndonora@gmail.com

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

www.stnicholasorthodoxdonora.org