



## ***March Newsletter***

Dearly beloved,  
Glory to Jesus Christ!

While the Roman Catholic church has already begun their Lenten season, we are just about to enter into ours. As a preparation, the Church guides us slowly into the Season of repentance with the preparatory Sundays, with gospels focusing on repentance, humility, and the eventual day of judgment, all to begin softening our hearts to the approaching season of Great Lent.

Why do we need these “Seasons of Repentance?” Are we not forgiven in Christ? Are we not adopted sons and daughters of God by grace, through our renewal in baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit? Truly, we are all these things. In fact, it is this very truth that calls us to greater repentance. Though we are children of the Kingdom, we do not always live like it. If sin means “to miss the mark,” then we all sin daily, failing to be the holy people God made us to be. As we grow in life and faith, we also grow in the midst of a fallen world, a world which takes our attention and our desires and too often leads us astray. Or, through the subtle temptation of the demons, we perhaps observe all the right things, the right teaching and behaviors, but become prideful in our hearts and distant in love from both God and from our fellow man. Therefore the seasons of fasting, and great Lent especially, are given to us as a “reset” of sorts, a time to draw closer to Christ. Repentance doesn’t mean feeling bad about yourself for your sins--repentance means coming home to the Loving Father who is ready to receive us. Repentance means putting away sin and evil, and drawing toward the light. Repentance means reorienting ourselves to Christ, which is a life-long struggle and cross to bear in this life. The journey of repentance is always pointing back to Christ, and thus Great Lent transitions into Pascha by turning in meditation towards our Lord’s saving suffering, passion, death, and Resurrection.

We undergo this season of repentance not in thought or feeling only, but in action. We increase our devotion to time of prayer, both in the home and in attending Church. We fast from certain foods and activities. We cut out the noise of parties and celebrations, focusing on prayer and study. We find ways for charitable giving, recognizing Christ in our fellow man. In our Western culture it is no accident that as asceticism (prayer, fasting, standing vigil, almsgiving) has declined, so has our general sense of Christian morality. In this aspect, we have a great service to offer the world on behalf of the world--to pray and offer our repentance unto God on our behalf and that of the world, that he might heal us from our sin and bring others to a knowledge of the truth of our faith.

You will all especially be in my prayers during this season, and I ask also for your prayers! Finally, I sincerely ask all of you to forgive me, my brothers and sisters in Christ, all the many ways I sin and fail in my priestly ministry of your souls. God forgives and I forgive--may He forgive us both!

Fr. John Parker & Family,  
3/6/2021

**Please remember in your prayers: The newly departed Phillip Kaluponov, Phillip Kash;  
The newly born infant, Will Ethan and his family;  
The suffering servants James, Jacque, William, and all those battling illness**

**Clean Week Schedule (March 15-20th)**

Monday

9:00am--Lenten Matins @ St. Nicholas in Weirton, WV

7:00pm--Canon of Repentance here (singers appreciated!) @ St. Nicholas in Donora,  
with time for confessions after

Tuesday

9:00am--Lenten Matins here @ St. Nicholas in Donora

6:30pm--Canon of Repentance @ Nativity of the Virgin in Monongahela, served by Fr.  
John

Wednesday

9:00am--Lenten Matins followed by Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ St. John the Baptist in  
Canonsburg

7:00pm--Canon of Repentance here (singers appreciated!) @ St. Nicholas in Donora,  
with time for confessions after

Thursday

9:00am--Lenten Matins @ St. Cyril & Methodius in Jeannette

6:30pm--Canon of Repentance @ Nativity of the Virgin in Monongahela, served by Fr.  
John

Friday

7:00pm--Pre-sanctified Liturgy here in Donora (singers appreciated!)

Saturday

11:00am--40th day Panikhida for Phillip Kaluponov;  
Great Vespers @ 4:30pm, followed by confessions

**The Church will also be open each morning and evening when otherwise not  
scheduled, for people to pray and light candles.**