



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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1ST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY MARCH 9, 2025

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion – Tone 2

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,// by coming to save the world.”

Troparion – Tone 1

Through the sufferings which Thy holy Forty Martyrs endured for Thy sake, O Lord, we beseech Thee, O Lover of mankind:// “Heal all of our infirmities!”

Kontakion – Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion – Tone 6

You have abandoned all earthly armies, cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord. Having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones,// you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

Kontakion – Tone 8

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.// We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Prokeimenon – Tone 5

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

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), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). 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.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-10

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Gospel: John 1:43-51

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

For the Sick / Caregiver

- Alexandra (2/16)
- Dorothy (2/16)
- Michael (2/16)
- Charlotte (2/16)
- Subdeacon Sergius (2/16)
- Melody (2/16)
- Vasily (2/23)
- Liam (2/23)
- Kelly (2/23)
- Alexandra (2/23)

- Father Paul (2/23)
- Matushka Mary (2/23)
- Deborah (2/23)
- Hannah (3/2)
- Betty (3/2)
- Trudy (3/2)
- Anthony (3/2)
- Carmine (3/9)
- Marianne (3/9)
- Desiderio (3/9)

For the Deceased

- Donald (2/16)
- George (2/23)
- Edward (2/23)
- Kyra (3/9)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of March 9

- Sunday March 9 – **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Procession of Icons, Panikhida for Kyra Shafran Griffiths, and then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall
- Wednesday March 12 – 5:30 PM Confession, 6:30 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession
- Friday March 14 – 8:30 AM Confession, 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession
- Saturday March 15 – 9:30 AM **Memorial Saturday** Divine Liturgy, 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen Class in the church basement
- Sunday March 16 – **ST. GREGORY PALAMAS** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

March 2 – 87 adults, 20 youth, \$5,320

ORTHODOXY 101

Church Etiquette

The Holy Orthodox Church is perhaps one of the last social institutions where dignity, protocol, respect, order, and reverence are maintained. This is primarily because when we come to the church and participate in its services, we are entering the Kingdom of God on earth, His habitation. When coming to church our intention is to honor God by our attentiveness to His presence within this sacred space; within ourselves and our relationships with others.

Church etiquette guidelines are meant for personal reflection and growth, not as a means of judging others. We come to church to pray and worship God above all else, and that should be our only focus. "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (Peter 2:9).

What To Wear In Church:

Whenever we are preparing to come to church, we should remember that we will be entering the House of God. This requires that we dress modestly and with reverence, mindful of our call to holiness. God deserves our best effort, humility, and love. What we wear in church should reflect our belief that we are coming to encounter the living God. The goal is dress nicely and yet to blend and not stand out. Divine services are not opportunities to draw attention to ourselves. In our modern terminology, "business casual" may be thought of as a minimum dress code.

For men this means wearing clean dress pants and collared, button-up shirts, or sweaters. Ties and coats are not required but are most certainly encouraged. Women should avoid tight clothing, low-cut and sleeveless tops, open backs and shorter-than-knee-length skirts or dresses. If you prefer pants, do not wear denim, sweats, shorts. Shoes should be appropriate and professional. Tattoos should be covered by clothing if at all possible. Lettered shirts with emblems and other messages should not be worn in church. Some women also choose to cover their heads during worship. While this is usually not required, it is a wonderful way to express humility before God and to remove temptation from others. (For more information on head covering: www.saintjohnchurch.org/head-coverings-ultimate-guide/)

(some of the information above was taken from Christ the Savior Orthodox Christian Church - Chicago, IL Diocese of the Midwest, OCA)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Panikhida for Kyra Shafran Griffitts (reposed March 13, 2001) will be served today following the Procession of Icons.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MATUSHKA MARY SHAFRAN, who by God's grace and everyone's prayers, reached the remarkable age of 100 on March 3! Mnogaya Leta!!

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

On March 23 our parish will host a Lenten Mission Service at 5:00 PM, followed by a Lenten Potluck Supper in Daria Hall. On the credenza in the back of the church is a sign-up sheet for the supper. Please indicate what food item you can bring to share with everyone.

Wrap yourself in luxury! Handcrafted, one-of-a-kind scarves, in various colors lovingly crocheted by the ladies of The Assumption Altar Society. Prices range from \$6.00-\$12.00. Have someone in mind? Scarves make great gifts! Get yours before they are gone.

Catechumen classes will be held every Saturday after Vespers. Everyone is invited to attend the classes, but those who wish to convert to the Orthodox faith must attend.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Anthony Cassar – March 9

Preslee Rossi – March 10

Anastasiya Stulhis – March 10

Thomas Sowanick – March 13

Michael Tribbey – March 13

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

** If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.*

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts - let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salad

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus & Pita

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

If serving pork, please provide an alternative for those who do not eat pork.

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (Panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Mar. 9 FAST John Cassar, Christina DiDonato

Mar. 16 FAST Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova

Mar. 23 FAST Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell

Mar. 30 FAST Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt

Apr. 6 FAST Christine Waite, Alla Strauss

Apr. 13 FAST Alex Godun, Melody Stavisky

Apr. 20 PASCHA – No Coffee Hour

Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado

May 4 **FOCA Club, Kielbasa & Pierogi luncheon fundraiser**

May 11 Nina Schmidt, Monia & Jim Pitra

May 18 Anne Cheslock, Darice Keyes

May 25 Inna Lebedeva, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav

June 1 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina

June 8 Grace Ramus, Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa

June 15 Sami Bachir, Tyler Burger

June 22 FAST Matthew Anderson, Ramazi Shubitidze

June 29 Nancy Mitsos, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky

July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay

July 13 **St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration**

July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones

July 27 Amber Touch, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick

Have a blessed Lenten journey to Pascha!