

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For health of:****Roger, Patricia, Rachael** and family offered by Lore Stefy**Pannikhida today:****Nikolij Seizew**, 40 days pannikhida**Readings:**

- **Hebrews 4:14-16;5:1-6** (3rd Sunday of Great Lent)
- **Mark 8:34-38; 9:1** (3rd Sunday of Great Lent)

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
 (General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month. **No General Confession during Lent**)
 (Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM
 (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Today at 4 pm our church will be hosting the Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers service. We are expecting many visitors including clergy from other parishes. Archpriest John Nehrebecki will give the homily. All parishioners should plan on attending this important service.**
Following the service, there will be light refreshments downstairs.
- **2012 Services for Great Lent:**
Today, Sunday, March 18, 4:00 PM - Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers
Friday, March 23, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Bishop Michael
 Friday, March 30, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
 Friday, April 6, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- **His Grace, The Right Reverend Michael will be with us Friday, March 23rd.**

Special Announcements:

- There will be **Sunday School on Sunday April 1st** because there will be no General Confession on that date.
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on March 25th**, after coffee hour.
- **Today, and on the next three Sundays**, there will be a special collection for **Easter flowers** and other related expenses for Pascha.
- **Choir practice** will be held at 9:30 Sunday mornings, downstairs. All those who wish to sing in the choir are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Reminder:

- **Raffle tickets! · Raffle tickets! · Raffle tickets!**
Tickets are now available for our annual Easter basket raffle. Three baskets will be raffled off on Sunday April 1st, each containing traditional Slavic Paschal foods. The Sisterhood is asking that each parishioner sell 10 tickets for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each. See Tammy Zimmerman or Linda Dantine.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012, Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.

Veneration of the Cross:

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the **Veneration of the Cross**. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. **"He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me"** (Mt 10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both **"the power of God and the wisdom of God"** for those being saved (1 Cor 1:24).

Today the Cross is brought in a solemn procession to the center of the church and remains there for the entire week. It is noteworthy that the theme of the Cross which dominates the hymnology of this Sunday is developed in terms not of suffering but of victory and joy.

We are in Mid-Lent. On the one hand, the physical and spiritual effort, if it serious and consistent, begins to be felt, its burden becomes more burdensome, our fatigue more evident. We need help and encouragement. On the other hand, having endured this fatigue, having climbed the mountain up to this point, we begin to see the end of our pilgrimage, and the rays of Easter grow in their intensity. Lent is our self-crucifixion, our experience, limited as it is, of Christ's commandment heard in the Gospel lesson of that Sunday:

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34).

But we cannot take up our cross and follow Christ unless we have His Cross, which He took up in order to save us. It is His Cross, not ours, that saves us. It is His Cross that gives not only meaning but also power to others.

On this Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the veneration of the **honorable and Life Giving Cross**, and for this reason: inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves and become bitter and despondent and failing, the Life Giving Cross is presented to us for refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion, and for comfort.

We are like those following a long and cruel path who become tired, see a beautiful tree and many leaves, sit in its shadow and rest for a while and then, as if rejuvenated, continue their journey; likewise today, in the time of fasting and difficult journey and effort, the Life Giving Cross was planted in our midst by the holy fathers to give us rest and refreshment, to make us light and courageous for the remaining task.

Or, to give another example: When a king is coming, at first his banner and symbols appear, then he himself comes glad and rejoicing about his victory and filling with joy those under him; likewise, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is about to show us His victory over death, and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection Day, is sending to us in advance His scepter, the royal symbol the Life Giving Cross and it fills us with joy and makes us ready to meet, inasmuch as it is possible for us, the King himself, and to render glory to His victory.

All this in the midst of Lent which is like a bitter source because of its tears, because also of its efforts and despondency...but Christ comforts us who are as it were in a desert until He shall lead us up to the spiritual Jerusalem by His Resurrection...for the Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is the tree that was planted in Paradise, and for this reason our fathers have planted it in the midst of Holy Lent, remembering both Adam's bliss and how he was deprived of it, remembering also that partaking of this Tree we no longer die but are kept alive.

- Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God *"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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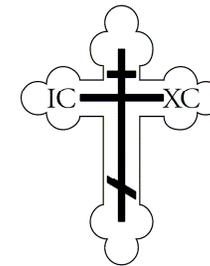
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Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

*No longer does the flaming sword guard the gate of Eden,
for a marvelous quenching is come upon it, even the Tree of the Cross.
The sting has been taken from death, and the victory from Hades.
And, You, my Savior, has appeared unto those in Hades saying:
Enter again into Paradise.*

Kontakion -

On this day the Church remembers:

Third Sunday of Lent • Veneration of the Cross

- **Repose of St. Nikolai of Zhicha (1956) • St. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (386) • Martyrs Trophimus and Eucarpus of Nicomedia (ca. 300)**
- **Ven. Aninas of the Euphrates.**

March 18, 2012

3rd Sunday of Great Lent

Triodion week 7

(Tone 7 of the Octoechos.)