

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:

For health of:

Mya, on her Birthday, Granddaughter of Liz Pastore

Iryna wishes to thank God for helping her finish her schooling successfully.

Congratulations Iryna, from our parish.

Readings:

- **Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40** (1st Sunday of Great Lent)
- **John 1:43-51** (1st Sunday of Great Lent)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

At that time, Jesus decided 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 he 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." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

(**General Confession – 9 50 AM** on the first Sunday of each month. **Except now 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 when there is General Confession)

Choir practice - 9:30 AM

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:

- There will be Sunday School today March 4th, and on Sunday April 1st because there will be no General Confession on those dates.

• **2012 Services for Great Lent:**

Friday, March 9, 6:00 PM -Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 16, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

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:

- **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.
- **Candles prices** will be adjusted today. Candles that are now \$1.50 will cost \$2.00 and the \$2.00 candles will be \$2.50. The price of the \$1.00 candles will remain the same.
- **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:

- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on March 25th,** after coffee hour.
- **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.

Sunday of Orthodoxy:

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Epistle and Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage. Today, on **the first Sunday of Great Lent** we commemorate the "**Triumph of Orthodoxy**," the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress Theodora (February 11). It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome.

The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. "**This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith**" (1 Jn 5:4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "**created in the image and likeness of God**" (Gen 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image.

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts:

On weekdays of Lent (Monday through Friday) the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is strictly forbidden. They are **non-liturgical days** (with one possible exception, the Feast of Annunciation). The reason for this rule is that the Eucharist is by its very nature a festal celebration, the joyful commemoration of Christ's Resurrection and glorification and His presence among His disciples. But twice a week, on Wednesday and Fridays, the Church prescribes the celebration after Vespers, i.e., in the evening, of the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**. It consists of solemn Great Vespers and communion with the Holy Gifts consecrated on the previous Sunday. These days being days of **strict fasting** (theoretically: complete abstinence), are crowned" with the partaking of the Bread of life, the ultimate fulfillment of our efforts . . .

"... When Thou has freed us and Thy faithful people from all impurities, sanctify the souls and bodies of all of us with a sanctification not to be taken away; that with a clear conscience, peaceful presence and enlightened hearts we may participate in those divine Sacraments, and be quickened through them and become one with Thy Christ Himself, our true God, Who said: Who so eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood, abides in Me and I in Him. So that by Thy Word dwelling in us and walking with us we may become, O Lord, a temple of Thine all-holy and adored spirit..."

(Prayer at the Presanctified Liturgy)

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served every Friday, at 6:00 pm, in our parish. (on Friday March 24th, Our Bishop, The Right Reverend Michael will be with us.)

See us on the web at:

ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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Sunday Bulletin

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Triumph of Orthodoxy

Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

*No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former beauty.
We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.*

Kontakion -

On this day the Church remembers:

First Sunday of Lent • Sunday of Orthodoxy

- Ven. Gerasimus of the Jordan (475) • Ven. Gerásim of Vologdá (1178) • Ven. Joasaph of Snetogórsk (Pskov—1299) • Rt. Blv. Prince Basil (Vasilko) of Rostov (1238) • Rt. Blv. Prince Daniel of Moscow (1303) • Martyrs Paul and his sister, Juliana (ca. 273) • St. James (Jacob) the Faster of Phoenicia (Syria—6th c.) • Translation of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Prince St. Wenceslaus (Viacheslav), Prince of the Czechs (935) • St. Gregory, Bishop of Constantius in Cyprus.

March 4, 2012

Sunday of Orthodoxy

1st Sunday of Great Lent

Triodion week 5

(Tone 5 of the Octoechos.)