

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE DAY

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)

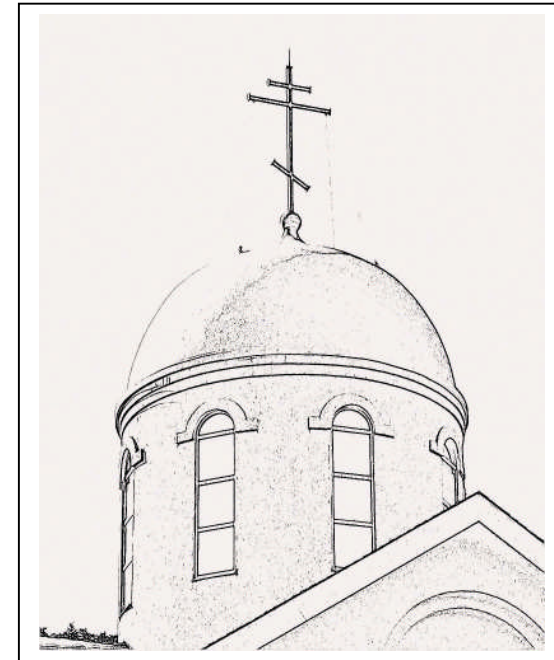
And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence upon God*. If practiced seriously, the Lenten abstinence from food - particularly in the opening days - involves a considerable measure of real hunger, and also a feeling of tiredness and physical exhaustion. The purpose of this is to lead us in turn to a sense of inward brokenness and contrition; to bring us, that is, to the point where we appreciate the full force of Christ's statement, 'Without Me you can do nothing' (John 15: 5). If we always take our fill of food and drink, we easily grow over-confident in our own abilities, acquiring a false sense of autonomy and self-sufficiency. The observance of a physical fast undermines this sinful complacency. Stripping from us the specious assurance of the Pharisee - who fasted, it is true, but not in the right spirit - Lenten abstinence gives us the saving self-dissatisfaction of the Publican (Luke I 8: 10-1 3). Such is the function of the hunger and the tiredness: to make us 'poor in spirit', aware of our helplessness and of our dependence on God's aid. (from *THE MEANING OF THE GREAT FAST: The True Nature of Fasting* Mother Mary and Bishop Kallistos Ware)

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Reader Timothy Kozak, *Choir Director*

February 14, 2010
SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

Forgiveness Sunday. Expulsion of Adam from Paradise.

Tone 3. *Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia (ca. 470). Repose of St. Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs (869). Ven. Isaac, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—ca. 1190). The Twelve Greeks who built the Dormition Cathedral in the Lavra of the Kiev Caves (11th c.). Translation of the Relics of Martyrs Michael and his councilor, Theodore, of Chernígov (1578). Ven. Maron, Hermit, of Syria (4th c.). St. Abraham, Bishop of Charres in Mesopotamia (5th c.).*

Today's Readings: *Epistle:* Romans 13:11-14:4
Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Upcoming Week Service Schedule:

Tues., Wed., Thurs. – **7:00pm Compline w/Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**

Friday – **7:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Saturday – **7:00pm Vespers**

Sunday – **10:00am Divine Liturgy**

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

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Sunday – **4:00pm Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers in Paramus**

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today - Kornafel Team Next Sunday - Berger Team

Special Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are: **Julia Katko, Paul Charuk, Ludmilla Tjaden, Steve Murko, Dorothy Gornick, Mary Bionde, and Anna Hlinka.**

Welcome to our visitors who have joined us today for worship and prayer. We invite you to stay with us after Divine Liturgy for an Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Hall. Please sign our guest book before you leave.

Adult Education class takes place Sundays at 9:00am in the church. We are studying the wonderful and important book, "**Partakers of Divine Nature**" by Archimandrite Christoforos Stavropoulos. **All are invited to participate.**

Today – The newly-elected **Parish Council members** and the **officers of the St. Catherine Society** will be formally and prayerfully installed after the Divine Liturgy.

Today – **Vespers of Forgiveness** will be served immediately after Divine Liturgy.

Today has been designated as **Mission Sunday** in the Orthodox churches in America. **Donations** made using the Missions envelopes will be directed to Orthodox mission activities in this country.

Today, February 14 is the deadline for **Gertrude Hawk Chocolate** fund-raiser orders. Please place your orders with **Dennis or Ann Marie Gahr**.

Monday, February 15 is the **first day of Great Lent**. A **Lenten mini-retreat** will be held in Stroudsburg, PA beginning at 9:30am. Archpriest Paul Lazor will lead the retreat entitled: **The Liturgy of Lent**. At 6pm, Great Compline will be served at **St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church** in Toms River followed by a Lenten talk given by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) and entitled: **Lent – A Personal Journey**. All parishioners are invited to both events. Flyers are posted in the narthex and in the parish hall. **The service scheduled to take place at our parish has been cancelled.**

Wed. and Thurs., February 17, 18 – **Pierogi making** will take place in the church school building. Help is needed with this project. Please contact **Mary Herelick** for more information.

Friday, February 19 – The first **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** of the Lenten season will be served at 7:00pm. Ideally, one should prepare to receive the Presanctified Gifts by **fasting completely during the day**. However, each individual should sincerely consider their physical capabilities and fast accordingly. In all cases, nothing should be eaten after 2:00pm.

Sunday, February 21 is the **Sunday of Orthodoxy**. Vespers will be served at **Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus** at 4:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, March 7 – Our parish will be hosting a **Lenten Vespers service** for the faithful of the Deanery of New Jersey. We will be asking parishioners to provide Lenten food items for the agape fellowship meal that will follow the service. We will also be asking the **parish youth** to participate in a youth choir that will sing at the service. Details will be made available in the near future.

The making of **Dessert Rolls** was cancelled this past Thursday due to the snow. When a **new date** is determined, it will be communicated to the parish membership.

Many Years!

Birthdays this week: *Today* – Kevin Connolly. *Tuesday* – Carole Stavrou. *Thursday* – Carol Menzel.

Wedding Anniversaries this week: *Tuesday* – John and Helen Alexander (#64), Steven and Agnes Murko (#42)

OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are *always* accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the *last Sunday of each month*. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.