

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle) Brethren: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he shall be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

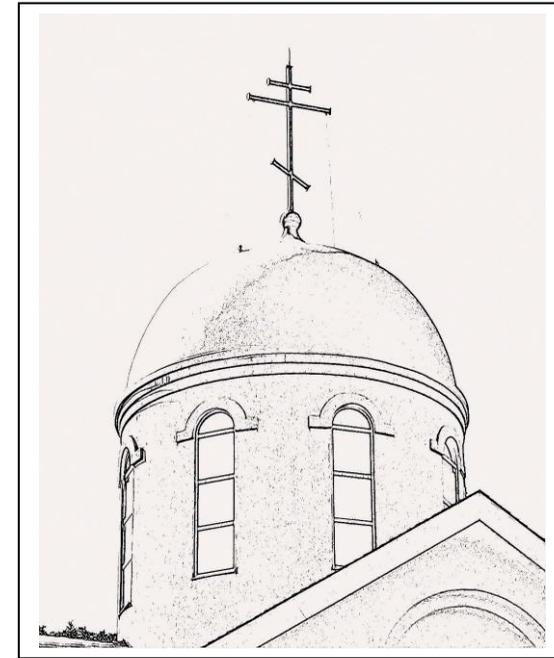
Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel) The Lord said: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret shall reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

DEANERY LENTEN SERVICES

Clergy and faithful from throughout the New Jersey Deanery gather for Lenten Mission Vespers services each Sunday in Great Lent. The schedule of services for our area of the deanery is listed below. All services begin at 5:00pm unless otherwise listed. A time for fellowship follows every service as an agape meal is served. All are invited these services to help broaden and deepen our Lenten journeys.

March 5, Sunday of Orthodoxy – Ss. Peter and Paul Church, South River
March 12, St. Gregory Palamas – Mother of God Church, Princeton
March 19, Sunday of the Cross – Church of the Holy Cross, Medford
March 26, St. John of the Ladder – TBA
April 2, St. Mary of Egypt – Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Manville

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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Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Fr. Deacon Alexander Smida, *Deacon*

Thomas Berger, *Senior Warden*

Reader Timothy Kozak, *Choir Director*

February 26, 2017 SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

*Tone 3. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza (420).
Ven. Sebastian of Poshekhónsk (ca. 1500). Martyr Sebastian (1st c.).*

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – Vespers of Forgiveness (*After Divine Liturgy*)

Mon. through Thurs. – **7:00pm** Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Friday – **7:00pm** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts w. Blessing of Kolyva

Saturday – **7:00pm** Great Vespers

Sunday – **10:00am** Divine Liturgy

Sunday – **5:00pm** Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers @ South River

Next Sunday's Readings:

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

Gospel: John 1:43-51



*The Expulsion of Adam
and Eve from Paradise*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM E (*Petrides, Bass Families*)

Next Sunday – TEAM A (*Pasick, Stavrou, Morris Families*)

Many thanks to all who help with this important parish ministry!

Welcome to our visitors who have joined us today for worship and prayer. We invite you to stay with us after today's services for an Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Rectory. Please sign our guest book before you leave, tell your friends and family members about us, and bring back one or two of them on your next visit!

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Dorothy Gornick, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Walter Romanofsky, Millie Podolak, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Millie Hladick, Ron Madensky, Andy Popovchak, Dorothy Studier, Mary Bionde, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, and Catherine Ratushnik.**

Annunciations

TODAY – **Church School** begins at 8:45am in the Parish Rectory. The **Adult Education** session begins at 9:00am in the church.

TODAY – In order to foster greater participation, the **Vespers of Forgiveness Sunday** will be served immediately following the Divine Liturgy. At the end of the service, we will participate in the **Rite of Forgiveness**, a concrete and meaningful way for us to begin the season of repentance - **Great Lent**.

TODAY – Following the Vespers of Forgiveness Sunday, a special **pre-Lenten Coffee Hour** will be served in the Parish Rectory. All are welcome!

TOMORROW is the **first day of Great Lent**. In addition to the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, please plan to participate in as many **weekday services** as you are able. They truly help us to draw nearer to God during the season of repentance. **The Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete** will be served Monday through Thursday evenings of this week. **The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be served this Friday evening. Please check the **service schedule** on the opposite page for a complete listing of this week's services.

TOMORROW - We begin the **Lenten discipline of fasting** from meat and dairy until the Great Feast of Holy Pascha. If you have questions about the Lenten discipline, please contact Father Gary during the week.

March 10-12 – The **Annual Diocesan Teen Retreat** takes place at St. Basil Academy, Garrison, NY. The topic, "**The Challenge: Who are we called to be?**", will be presented by Gregory Fedorchak, a Ph.D. Candidate at Cornell University, and the President of the Cornell Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). Details are available at our diocesan website, www.nynjoca.org. Teens who are in grades 7-12 are strongly encouraged to attend.

Please pray especially for **Mary Bionde** who has suffered a stroke and is currently back at her residence at Regency Park, 3325 Rte. 35, Hazlet, NJ 07730.

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, has issued a **pastoral letter for the beginning of Great Lent**. It can be found on the [diocesan website](http://www.nynjoca.org).

Visit www.ancientfaithradio.com online for wonderful Orthodox music and educational content. There is much information to access, including explanations on fasting, prayer, repentance, etc. It's well worth a visit!

MANY YEARS!

Birthdays this week

Tuesday – Catherine Smida

Friday – Luke Pasick

Saturday – Timothy Kozak

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.