

St. Ephraim the Syrian on the Holy Cross

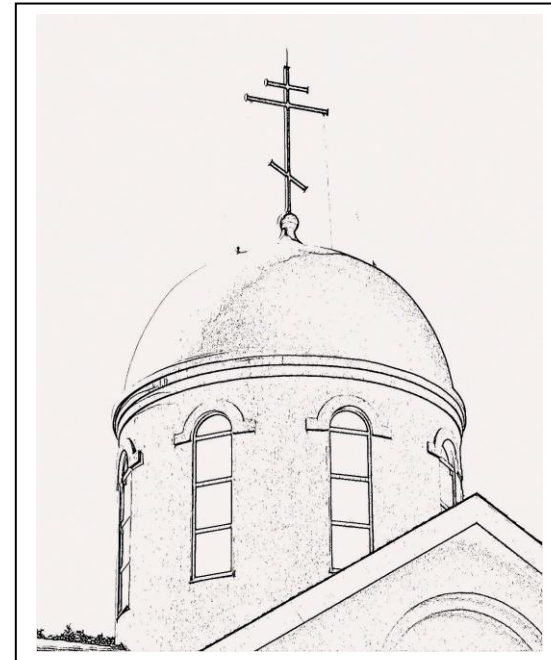
The Cross abolished idolatrous adulation, enlightened the whole universe, gathered all the nations into one Church and united them with love. The Cross is the resurrection of the dead. The Cross is the hope of Christians. The Cross is the staff for the lame. The Cross is comfort for the poor. The Cross is the deposing of the proud. The Cross is the hope of those who despair. The Cross is food for the sailors. The Cross is haven for the bestormed. The Cross is the father for orphans. The Cross is comfort for those who mourn. The Cross is the protector of children. The Cross is the glory of men. The Cross is the crown of elders. The Cross is light for those sitting in darkness. The Cross is freedom for slaves, wisdom for the ignorant. The Cross is the preaching of prophets, the fellow-traveler of apostles. The Cross is the chastity of maidens, the joy of priests. The Cross is the foundation of the Church, the establishment of the universe. The Cross is the destruction of idolatrous temples, temptation for Jews. The Cross is the cleansing of the lepers, the rehabilitation of the enfeebled. The Cross is bread for the hungry, a fountain for the thirsty. The Cross is the good hope of monks, clothing for the naked.

By this holy armor of the Cross Christ the Lord has terminated the omniconsuming bowels of Hades and blocked the many snares in the mouth of the devil. Having seen the Cross, death trembled and released everyone whom she possessed with the first creature. Armed with the Cross, the God-bearing apostles subdued all the power of the enemy and caught all peoples in their dragnets, and gathered them for the worship of the One Crucified. Clothed in the Cross as in armor, the martyrs of Christ trampled all the plans of torturers and preached with plainness the Divine Cross-bearer. Having taken up the Cross for the sake of Christ, those who renounced everything in the world settled in deserts and on mountains, in caves and became the fasters of the earth.

SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Easter Bazaar and Basket Raffle

SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church invites you to their annual Easter Bazaar to be held on Saturday, April 1st from 10 AM to 3 PM. The event will take place in the church hall located at 9 Jeffrie Ave., South River, N.J. The bazaar will feature ethnic Lenten and Paschal foods for sale, as well as arts and crafts for the upcoming holiday. Also, try your luck at our Gift Basket Raffles. Please join us for fellowship and great Lenten food! For more information, please contact Deb at (609) 918-0249.

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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Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

March 19, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Veneration of the Cross

Tone 7. Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, and those with them at Rome: Claudius, Hilaria, Jason, Maurus, Diodorus the Presbyter, and Marianus the Deacon (283). Saint Innocent of Komél and Vologda disciple of Saint Nilus of Sora (Vologdá—1521). Martyr Pancharius, at Nicomedia (ca. 302). "Sweet-Kissing" Icon of the Mother of God of Smolensk (1103).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Today – **4:00pm Lenten Vespers @ Trenton**

Wednesday – **6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Friday – **7:00pm Vigil (Annunciation)**

Saturday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy (Annunciation)**

Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Sunday – **5:00pm Lenten Vespers @ Clifton**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20, Ephesians 5:9-19 and Hebrews 2:11-18

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31, Matthew 4:25-5:12 and Luke 1:24-38

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Mat. Faith Kuharsky, Marie Price, Zoran Pejovic, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the veneration of the Cross. **The reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**



Veneration of the
Cross

Annunciations

TODAY – Please join us for **Coffee Hour** in the Parish Hall after the veneration of the Cross. Today's Coffee Hour is offered in memory of the newly-departed **Billy Washenko**, whose birthday was yesterday. **Team #3** has Coffee Hour duty today.

TODAY – The **St. Catherine Society** will meet at the end of Coffee Hour.

TODAY – The **Parish Lenten Food Drive** continues. Bags and lists of requested items are available in the church narthex, and will be available until April 2. The drive will **end on April 9**, so all filled bags should be returned to the narthex by then. Thanks to Nicholas Christos for spearheading this effort.

TODAY – The tradition of **Lenten Mission Vespers** served at various parishes of the New Jersey Deanery continues. Today, the service will be held at **4:00pm** at St. Vladimir Church in Trenton. Fr. Michael Pejovic is the homilist. All are invited to participate. **Next Sunday's service** will be held at Assumption Church in **Clifton** and will begin at **5:00pm**. Archbishop Michael will be the main celebrant.

THIS WEDNESDAY – The **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** is served at 6:00pm. Please make a commitment to participate in this service for your spiritual edification. A pot-luck agape meal is offered after the service.

THIS FRIDAY and SATURDAY – Archbishop Michael will join us as we celebrate our parish's name feast. The service schedule is on the opposite page. At the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday, **Father Alexander Smida** will receive an ecclesiastical award. All are welcome to participate in the festal services.

A **potluck luncheon** will follow the festal Divine Liturgy this Saturday. A **sign-up sheet** has been sent out electronically. Please sign up and indicate what you can bring to share. The Lenten discipline is relaxed this day to allow for fish, wine and oil.

We have begun the **Lenten discipline of fasting** from meat and dairy until the Great Feast of Holy Pascha. All fasting should be undertaken with regard to each person's ability to tolerate its physical demands. If you have questions about the Lenten discipline, please contact Father Gary for further clarification.

If you wish to receive the **Eucharist at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**, some fasting should precede the reception. Ideally, no food or drink should be taken from the midnight prior to the service. If this is not possible, then fasting after a light breakfast or an early lunch is recommended.

We continue to pray for **peace in Ukraine**, for the withdrawal of Russian troops from that land, and for the wellbeing of the Ukrainian people. Lord, have mercy!

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.