

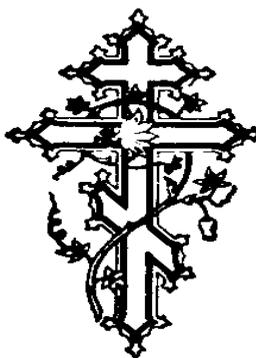
## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)** Brethren: Since we have a great 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."

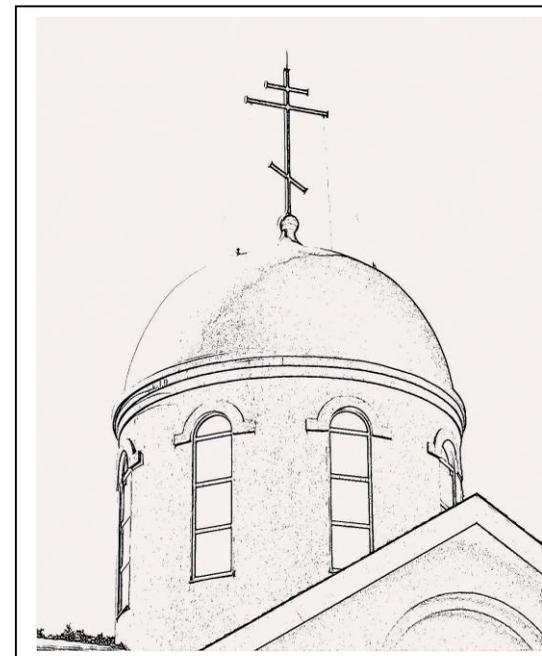
**Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)** When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross:  
bright paradise of the Church, and tree of incorruption!  
Thou hast obtained for us the joy of everlasting glory.  
Through thee, the hosts of demons are driven out;  
the choirs of Angels are amazed and rejoice;  
the company of the faithful gathers in celebration.  
O unconquerable weapon, unbroken stronghold,  
triumph of Orthodox Christians and pride of priests,  
by following thee may we witness the Passion and  
Resurrection of Christ our God!

*Stikhera Verse – Great Vespers on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent*



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

*A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America*

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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*

**April 3, 2016**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**Veneration of the Cross**

*Tone 3. Ven. Nicetas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824). Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene (307-308). St. Illyricus of Mt. Myrsinon in the Peloponnesus. Martyrs Elpidophorus, Dius, Bithonius and Galycus. Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos "THE UNFADING BLOOM".*

**Today's Readings:**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 4:14-5:6 **Gospel:** Mark 8:34-9:1

**Upcoming Service Schedule:**

**Today – 5:00pm** Deanery Lenten Vespers @ St. Spiridon Church, Perth Amboy

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

**Friday – 7:00pm** Akathist – The Precious Cross

**Saturday – 9:30am** Divine Liturgy (*Memorial Saturday*)

**Saturday – 6:15pm** Panikhida (+*Anna Hlinka, +Ann Fallon, +Carl Dittinger, +Richard Vaughan*)

**Saturday – 7:00pm** Great Vespers

**Sunday – 10:00am** Divine Liturgy

**Sunday – 4:00pm** Deanery Lenten Vespers @ Holy Cross Church, Medford

**Next Sunday's Readings:**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 6:13-20 and Ephesians 5:9-19

**Gospel:** Mark 9:17-31 and Matthew 4:25-5:12

**Restroom facilities** are located on the first and second floors of the rectory and are available through the end of Coffee Hour. A **handicap-accessible porta-potty** is also available, especially for those who cannot navigate the rectory steps.

**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 fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Nancy Fabricius, Julia Katko, Arnold Katko, Dorothy Gornick, Tom Collins, Carol Menzel, Walter Romanofsky, Millie Podolak, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Millie Hladick, Andy Popovchak, Dorothy Studier, Mary Bionde, Helen Ciurczak, and Catherine Ratushnak.**

**Annunciations**

**TODAY** – Our **New Jersey Deanery** will celebrate this week's **Lenten Mission Vespers** at St. Spiridon Church, 649 Elizabeth Street in Perth Amboy. The service, **led by Archbishop MICHAEL** begins at **5:00pm**. All are invited. An Agape fellowship hour will follow the service.

**THIS WEDNESDAY** – We celebrate the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 7:00pm**. If you plan to **receive the Eucharist** at this service, please prepare by **fasting to the best of your ability**. If possible, eat and drink nothing from midnight. At the very least, try to abstain from eating and drinking after lunchtime. As it is whenever we receive the Eucharist, we should contemplate that it is **the very Body and Blood of Christ** that we are receiving. Please prepare with this firmly in mind.

**THIS WEDNESDAY** – After the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, a **pot-luck agape meal** will be held in the parish rectory. All are invited to attend and bring along a dish to share.

**THIS SATURDAY** – Divine Liturgy for the Departed will be served, and **names of the departed** will be commemorated. Names not already submitted may be delivered to Father Gary any time before the service.

During the season of Great Lent, please consider coming to the **Sacrament of Confession**. Father Gary is available to hear confessions after all evening services or at other times by appointment. Let us all prepare for the Resurrection of Our Lord by repenting of our sins and seeking His forgiveness and absolution of them.

Please pray especially for **Nancy Fabricius, Mary Bionde, and Carol Menzel**, who are all currently in rehabilitation facilities.

*Keep up on OCA news by visiting [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org), diocesan news by visiting [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org), and parish news by visiting [www.occa-brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org).*

**Coffee Hour Teams:**

*Today – TEAM A    Next Sunday – TEAM B*

*If you have volunteered to participate on a team, please note your team's letter designation, and plan to help when your team is scheduled. Many thanks!*

**MANY YEARS**

***Birthdays this week***

*Today - Alexander Hascha  
Wednesday - Arnold Katko  
Thursday - Debbie Alpaugh  
Thursday - Gail Hascha  
Friday - Cynthia Stavrou  
Saturday – Nicholas Christos*

**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.