

THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Orthodox worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops.

The Council decided on a doctrine by which icons should be venerated but not worshipped. In answering the Empress' invitation to the Council, Pope Hadrian replied with a letter in which he also held the position of extending veneration to icons but not worship, the last befitting only God.

The decree of the Council for restoring icons to churches added an important clause which still stands at the foundation of the rationale for using and venerating icons in the Orthodox Church to this very day: "We define that the holy icons, whether in color, mosaic, or some other material, should be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments, on the walls, furnishings, and in houses and along the roads, namely the icons of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, that of our Lady the Theotokos, those of the venerable angels and those of all saintly people. Whenever these representations are contemplated, they will cause those who look at them to commemorate and love their prototype. We define also that they should be kissed and that they are an object of veneration and honor but not of real worship, which is reserved for Him Who is the subject of our faith and is proper for the divine nature. The veneration accorded to an icon is in effect transmitted to the prototype; he who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands".

As the prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the Teachers have dogmatized, as the Universe has agreed, as Grace has shown forth; as falsehood has been dissolved, as Wisdom has presented, as Christ awarded, thus we declare, thus we assert, thus we preach Christ our True God, and honor His Saints in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons; on the one hand worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord; and on the other hand, honoring as true servants of the same Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration,

This is the Faith of the Apostles.

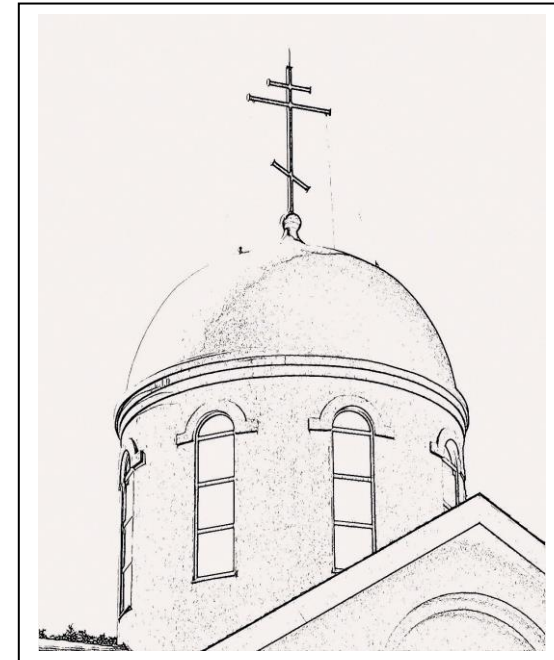
This is the Faith of the Fathers.

This is the Faith of the Orthodox

This is the Faith which has established the Universe

- The Synodikon of Sunday of Orthodoxy

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, *Pastor Emeritus, Retired*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Christian Gamboa, *Choir Director*

"March 1, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Tone 5. Martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis (ca. 160-170). Ven. Martyrii (Martyrius) of Zelenétsk (Pskov—1603). Martyrs Nestor, Tribimius, and those with them (3rd c.). Martyr Antonina of Nicæa in Bithynia (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Marcellus and Anthony. Saint Domnina the Younger of Syria (ca. 450-460). Ven. Agapius of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos).

Today's Readings:

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

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today- **9am Divine Liturgy**

Today-**4pm Deanery Mission Vespers** in Perth Amboy

Wednesday-**6pm Presanctified Liturgy**

Friday-**6pm Akathist**

Saturday-**9am Divine Liturgy** (Memorial Saturday)

Saturday- **6pm Great Vespers**

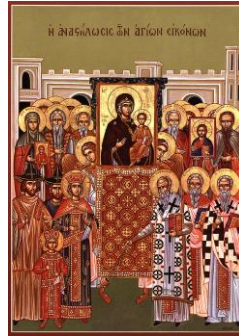
Sunday -**9am Divine Liturgy**

Sunday – **5pm Deanery Mission Vespers** in Wantage

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 and Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 and John 10:9-16



*Sunday of
Orthodoxy*

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Victorianne Vessio, Mary Herelick, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Eileen Zamerovsky, Ellen Norman, Maryann Sivilic, Jack Rinderer, Ivan Karpyn (father of Mat. Iryna) and Lori Ratushuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the services. **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.**

Annunciations

TODAY- A **Sunday of Orthodoxy procession** featuring our parish children and youth will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

TODAY –We welcome all our guests visiting us today. Please join us for **Coffee Hour** in the Parish Hall after the veneration of the Cross. **Team #2** is in charge.

TODAY – **Church School** will be held Classes during **Coffee Hour.**

TODAY – **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** service will be held at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 145 Broad Street, Perth Amboy NJ, beginning at 4:00pm. **All a welcome to attend.**

WEDNESDAY March 4 - The Liturgy of the **Presanctified Gifts** is served at **6:00pm**. An agape pot-luck meal follows the service. If you plan to attend, please bring along a Lenten dish for all to share. **If you plan to receive the Eucharist** at this service, please refrain from eating and drinking during the day to the degree you are able.

Friday March 6 – We will have Funeral for + **Margaret Makara**. Viewing will take place from **9:30 – 10:30am**. The Burial Service will be served at **10:30am**. All are welcome to participate in the viewing and the service.

Sunday, March 8 – The next **Deanery Lenten Vespers** service will be served at **Holy Spirit Church in Wantage**. All are invited to attend and enjoy lenten refreshments after the service. A schedule of future Deanery Mission Vespers throughout Great Lent is posted on the parish bulletin board in the narthex.

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

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.

Many Years

Birthdays this Week

Thursday– Mat. Faith Kuharsky

The **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. More information is available at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.