



SS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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March 17, 2013

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

Forgiveness Sunday

- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14:4
Gospel: Mt. 6:14-21
- Coffee hour, offered by Alena Burkova & family.
- 6:00pm – Forgiveness Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness

BEGINNING OF LENT – STRICT FAST

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, MAR. 18

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew

TUESDAY, MAR. 19

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 20

9:30am – Presanctified Liturgy

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew

THURSDAY, MAR. 21

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew

SATURDAY, MAR. 23 – ST. THEODORE

9:30am – Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Kolivo

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAR. 24 – SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

9:30am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

6:00pm – Great Vespers for Annunciation

Following Christ to Hard Places

March 17 is the eve of Great Lent, when we prepare ourselves to begin the days of intensified prayer and more rigorous fasting that will lead us through the weeks to Holy Pascha.

Some would say that the physical act of fasting is hard. For others, establishing and maintaining a regular practice of prayer is difficult. Yet on this day, we are asked to do the thing that may be hardest of all for many people: to forgive every person in our lives. We are asked to start on the Lenten path that will lead us to the words we sing on Pascha: "Let us...forgive all by the Resurrection."

Jesus Christ never pretended that some of the things He had to do were not hard for Him. We read in Matthew's Gospel how He made it clear that going to Jerusalem was hard, because He knew what awaited Him there.

He took the twelve disciples aside and told them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified..." (20: 17-19a).

Jesus also told the disciples that He would be "raised on the third day," but the miracle of the Resurrection came after the all-important words spoken on the cross, when He asked His Father to forgive those who killed Him.

On March 17th we remember a famous saint who also had to go to a hard place and had to forgive. He is the great Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland. That is the country with which he is most closely associated, but it was not his birthplace and his early memories of it must have been recollections of hardship and cruelty.

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Eva Benda, Theodore & Valentina Benda, Terry Cimboric, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Peter Mazula, Walter Milk, Helen Pirniak, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Faith Verona, Elizabeth Zuber.

THE DEPARTED:

Olga Stecher, Michael Moroch, Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Marianne Benda.

Patrick was the grandson of a priest and the son of a deacon. He was born around the year 390 and grew up in the southwestern part of Britain. He was sixteen when he first went to Ireland, and not by choice. Captured by Irish pirates, he was taken to their homeland and sold into slavery.

After six years of suffering and intense homesickness, Patrick managed to escape and get back to his family. In gratitude to God he began to study to become a priest.

By the year 435, Patrick was ready, and was given his assignment: he was to go to Ireland and preach there. The idea of returning to a place where he had endured such loneliness and misery must have been hard. Worse, he would be remembered by some as a lowly runaway slave, not a priest and teacher.

But Patrick was able to forgive the terrible things he associated with Ireland, and taught with love and gentleness. He lived by the words of Proverbs 3: 27, which we read on March 22: "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it."



Today's Memorial Offering

- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in honor of Larissa Canova's Birthday – by Grandma & Grandpa.
- *Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Lawrence & Donald Berezny – by Cathryn Christensen.



Announcements

❖ The schedule for NJ Deanery Mission Vespers (beginning – 4 PM) are as follows:

Mar. 31 – Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ – His Grace Bishop Michael will be main celebrant and homilist;

April 7 – North: Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ; South: Holy Cross Church, Medford, NJ;

April 14 – North: Holy Spirit Church, Wantage, NJ; South: Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Manville, NJ;

Apr. 21 – North: Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Jersey City, NJ; South: St. Gregory Palamas Church, Glen Gardner, NJ.

May 8, 7pm – Bright Wednesday: Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ – His Grace Bishop Michael will be main celebrant and homilist. For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

❖ Joint Mission Presanctified Liturgies during this Great Lent will be as follows:

Apr. 3, 6:30pm – our parish will host the service;

Apr. 10, 6:30pm – St. Sophia's Ukrainian Orth. Church;

Apr. 17, 7:00pm – St. Mary's Carpatho-Russian Orth. Church. Mark your calendars and join us in worship!

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Alena Burkova and to all who celebrate their Birthdays this month. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!