

February 7, 2010

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE—Tone 2—SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT Afterfeast of the Meeting

St. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont; Ven. Luke of Hellas; The 1,003 Martyrs of Nicomedia; New Hieromartyrs Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev and Gaelic; Peter, Archbishop of Voronezh; Basil, Bishop of Prolix; Presbyter Stephan; and Martyr Boris

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

★ THE WEEK IN WORSHIP & STUDY ★

Tues, Feb 9	7:00 a.m.	Daily Matins
Sat, Feb 13	5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Confessions Panihida for Sophie Kurdonik (Annual) offered by Thomas Kurdonik Vespers
Sun, Feb 14 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	The Expulsion Epistle: Ros	F CHEESEFARE—Tone 3—SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS on of Adam from Paradise; Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia m 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matt 6:14-21 following Liturgy, Forgiveness Vespers will be served at which begins HOLY & GREAT LENT.)

▼ IN TOUCH WITH THE PARISH ▼

Church School Classes will meet **TODAY** following the Liturgy Dismissal. Because of *Forgiveness Vespers* and the *Communion Breakfast*, there will be **NO** Church School for the next two weeks. All classes will resume on **Sunday**, **February 28**.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the church hall **TODAY** following the Coffee Hour. Every family of good standing in the parish should be represented at this gathering. If, however, you cannot be present for an honorable reason, we ask that you pray for our God-protected community that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire our life together in Christ. (*NOTE:* For those of you who didn't get one last week, extra copies of the **2009 Annual Report** will be available.)

It's that time of year again! The **Annual Gertrude Hawk Spring Candy Sale** to benefit our mission team trip to Guatemala gets underway **TODAY**. Order forms are available from Susan Witkowski. Please help make this important fundraising effort successful! All orders will be taken through **Sunday**, **February 28**; delivery will be on **Sunday**, **March 21**.

The Altar Society will meet in the church hall on Monday, February 8, at 6 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal will be held in the church on **Tuesday**, **February 9**, at 7 p.m.

The **Altar Society** will hold its **Annual Blini Batter Sale next Sunday, February 14**, during Coffee Hour. The price is \$5/quart. Orders can now be placed with Joan Pisuk at (732) 254-1519. (<u>NOTE TO SOCIETY MEMBERS</u>: Help is needed to pour the batter on **Saturday afternoon**, **February 13**; time to be announced.)

The Men's Club will meet in the church hall on Thursday, February 18, following the Lenten service.

A **Joint Tricky Tray** will be co-sponsored by our parish, *Annunciation Church* in Brick and *St. Nicholas Church* in Red Bank on **Sunday, April 25**; all proceeds from this fundraiser will be divided equally among the three churches. Additional details to follow; meanwhile, donations of new raffle items, as well as monetary contributions to purchase larger and unique gifts, would be greatly appreciated. Any offerings can be given to either Barbara Horsky or Nastasha Rogozenski.

★ CHURCH CHATTER ★

WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER... Attendance at Liturgy last Sunday was 142.

MINISTRY DUTIES The Epistle will be read next week by Subdeacon Joseph Shaluha. Coffee Hour will be hosted by the St. Anne's Guild.

MEMORIAL (SOUL) SATURDAYS are days set aside, throughout the year, for commemoration of the dead. Within the Church, Saturday is a traditional day of prayer for the deceased, because Christ lay dead in the tomb on Saturday. Memorial Saturdays are devoted to remembering departed relatives and others among the faithful who have fallen asleep in the Lord. This year's Lenten Soul Saturdays will be March 6 & 13. The Liturgy on these days will be preceded by Matins for the Departed on Friday evening. A form to list the names of those you want mentioned at these services was included in the January 17 bulletin; if you didn't get one, there are extra copies available at the Candle Desk. Once completed, you can either drop it off in church or send it to the rectory. As Orthodox Christians, we should never neglect our responsibility of praying for the dead, for remembering them is a sign of our love for the Church Triumphant. In response to our heartfelt petitions, our Lord will, in turn, show His mercy upon our departed loved ones and us. Attend these services and you will be richly blessed!

MEMORY ETERNAL The servant of God, William Leggon, fell asleep in the Lord on Memorial Saturday, February 6; he was the beloved uncle of Patricia Larkin. We offer our deepest sympathy to Pat and pray that God's tender love and care will surround her with comfort and peace at this difficult time—Vechnaya Pamyat!

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS are offered this week to Jack Witkowski. May God continue to give him the gifts of love and happiness for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

A SINCERE THANK YOU to Lydia Zakrewsky for offering the floral arrangement on the center tetrapod today in memory of her dear mother, Wasylina Rohowicz. Such kindness and caring are a reflection of God's love—bless you.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY for the following parishioners, family members and friends this week, as well as the departed, sick and suffering people of Haiti:

Departed
Geronimo Carreras
Edward Figueroa
Marie Olsen
Irene Kniel
Mary (Dutka) Silva
Mark Van Houten
Edward Sosnowitz
William Leggon

Liame Asiton
Irene Boulle
Joseph Casall
Edward Romanofsky
Walentyna Posluszny
Alan Zenkert
Michael Dargento
Virginia Moran
Daryl Deissinger
Cynthia Denlinger
Constantine Romanofsky
Linda Martinovich
Josephine Tillison
Mary Lou Goldy
Julia Glazer
Joseph Casale
Donna Casale
Dr. Joseph Pastore
Karen Kennedy
Randall Cline
Joseph Lynch
Jean Staples
Joan Tita
Lasha Giorgi Pozidis
Aiden Gowarty
Dorothy Swenticky
Sara Cseh
Olga Smith
Reginald Thomas

Anthony Garito

Elaine Ashton

<u>Sick</u>
Janet Firestone
Adam Krosnowski
Ellie Shipman
Archpriest Sergei Glagolev
Vera Rosenthal
Edna Maletz
Savanna Dore
Dorothy Dabkowski
Joan Roshak
Sarah Hall
Dotsy Hartman
Katherine Tarzewski
Paula Hila
Joseph Posluszny
Nancy Filak
Stefan Wilczynski
Anna Durovich
Kira Gregor
Lisa Muhs
Denise Yager
Martha Drobnak
Chrise Murrell
Patricia Larkin
Archpriest David Vernak
Dorothy Sopchak
Elaine Boshko
William Leggon
Andre Tirenin
Glynne Smith

John Fedak

<u>Servicemen</u>
Ivan Shidlovsky
Lisa Beard
Gregory Nosol
June Buyofsky-Rittman
David T. Floyd
Patrick Lohr
Keith Sudder
Priest Paul Rivers
Andrew Kubik
Jason Vaughn
Patrick Baldwin
Timothy Stepan
Michael Gregus
Peter Shaw
Jacqueline Martinez
Robert Mahrer
Karen Bonet
David Gambert
Gregg Poole
Fred Bush
Travis Hartman
Walter Zettlemoyer Jr.
Elizabeth Brent
Kyle Abbott
Matthew Scudder

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Ermelinda Faziola Kirsten Hyland John Cameron Vivian Hunkele Marian Morgan James Dewan Beverly Martucci

If you have a name you would like included in the bulletin, contact Fr. David or Starosta.

CANDLES FOR SALE Candles that were blessed on the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord this past Tuesday are available for purchase. If interested, please see anyone at the Candle Desk.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS for next week's edition must be submitted by **Thursday evening** to Fr. David or our Starosta/Bulletin Editor, James Kornafel. You can reach Father at the rectory or contact Jim by telephone (732-462-3388), fax (732-845-3515) or E-mail (immyk@optonline.net). Please note that all submissions may be edited for brevity or clarity.

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Today is **Scout Sunday**, when we acknowledge those Brownies, Campfire Boys & Girls, Cub Scouts and Boys & Girl Scouts in our parish and the blessings that scouting brings not only to our community, but to our nation and the world.

Scouting is more than just fun stuff—camping, hiking, roughing it, braving the elements and earning merit badges. It is a gift for those in the process of growing up. It exemplifies stewardship and service. It teaches our young people how to live in communion with those they like and sometimes don't like. It shows them how to work together to build for a future. It provides them with the opportunity to accomplish their goals and start working on their dreams. Most of all, it teaches them the values of being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent—being attentive to the presence of God in the midst of their lives.

May the Lord continue to bless the work of scouting that, through its efforts, young men and women may increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with Him and all people for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

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Today is known as **Meatfare Sunday**—traditionally the last day before Pascha (Easter) when Orthodox eat meat. In her infinite wisdom, the Church, knowing our frailty and foreseeing our spiritual weakness, not only prepares us for Great Lent by providing us with necessary spiritual themes, she helps us "adjust" physically and psychologically for the ascetic rigors of the Fast. The slow easement of giving up meat, and then dairy, allows the body to adjust more gradually to the undertaking on which we are soon to embark, rather than entering into it suddenly.

So, during this last preparatory week, as we begin to limit our intake of earthly food, let us remember that neither meat nor dairy is marked as forbidden in the Orthodox Church. There is nothing inherently bad or sinful about a hamburger or piece of chocolate cake. On the contrary, abstaining or "fasting" from certain foods allows us to rule our body rather than be ruled by it. Fasting teaches us that the needs of the body are nothing compared to the needs of the soul. Above day-to-day sustenance, we need God, Who provides everything for both the body and soul. Fasting allows us to depend on Him more fully.

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Next Sunday, everyone is encouraged to participate in **Forgiveness Vespers**, the special service held immediately after Divine Liturgy that officially marks the beginning of Great Lent. Because forgiveness is a vital ingredient in the Christian life and, therefore, an integral component of the Great Fast, each person present is called to prostrate before his neighbor and ask for his/her forgiveness. This act requires an acceptance that our sins affect not only us and our fellow parishioners, but also the entire world. When we fail to love God and those around us properly, we contribute and perpetuate the fall from grace.

While some of you may say attendance at this service is unnecessary and a waste of time, especially if you haven't done anything offensive to anyone, we need to understand that without mutual forgiveness, there can be no spiritual change or growth. In fact, without striving to forgive and asking for forgiveness from God and man, there can be no salvation. We must always remember that forgiveness and healing are not self-driven things, but rather Christ in us and working through us to bring healing and forgiveness to all. Please do not deny your brothers and sisters the opportunity to do so because you choose not to participate in this fulfilling liturgical rite.

Seeking mutual forgiveness is the most appropriate way to begin our observance of Great Lent. As one Orthodox Christian stated: "Entering Great Lent without participating in Forgiveness Vespers is like trying to run a race without warming up limbs, cold, taut and stiff from activity." So, please plan to stay for this beautiful service and start the journey to the Resurrection together.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!