

The Good News

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2019

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How many of us remember when we were at school? I remember that my teachers had to go over the same material repeatedly in order to be assured that it sunk in. They knew that if we did not grasp the easy concepts, the harder ones, which were based on these easy ones, would be beyond our ability to comprehend. Well the Church works similarly. She keeps repeating things until she knows that they have sunk in and become part of us. She repeats her cycles of fasts and feasts every year until the day of Judgment when we will see if they did indeed sink in. This month we begin such a period, a period known as the Triodion. This time is given to us so that we may prepare ourselves for the upcoming feast of Pascha. Every Sunday during this period up to and including Palm Sunday has a particular theme that we should meditate on. The Church gives us these themes so that by meditating on them we may discover how to become closer to God, our salvation. My brothers and sisters in the Lord, the themes that I wish to discuss are: repentance, humility and the world's response to them. Let us take a few moments to discuss these important themes and to see how they affect us today.

What is repentance? Repentance or Metanoia is a change of mind. This is a real change and not simply going through motions. It is necessary because we fall short. Man was intended to relate with God, his fellow man and nature, instead man rejects God, despises his fellow man and rapes the natural world. Man is called to grow in image and likeness by imitate God's life. In fact, as C. S. Lewis says, "He (God) really wants to fill the universe with a lot of...little replicas of himself—creatures whose life, on a miniature scale will be like...His...(He)...really wants a world of beings united to Him but still distinct." We decided to do things our way but we need to do things God's way. How do we do this? Through prayer and fasting.

Prayer is a dialogue with God. We can and should have this dialogue corporately through the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, Compline, and Salutations. We should also not neglect the personal prayer in the morning, before meals and in the evening

Fasting is a tool to control the body by giving it what it needs to survive, yet making it realize that it is subservient to the soul. We do this by not eating meat, dairy, fish, oil or wine. Of course we do not fast all the time but we do on: Wednesdays and Fridays, Great Lent, Holy Week, the fast of the Apostles, Dormition and Christmas

What is humility? Humility is not denying who we are but also not adding to who we are. It is realizing who we are and bettering ourselves. It is realizing that we need help. Humility prevents us from being like the Pharisee. We should not condemn others for things worse than us and jealous of those better than us. We should act like publican and approach God with fear, faith and love

The world's response is to deceive by trying to convince us what is bad is good through peer pressure. When that fails it persecutes either physically like the martyrs, or psychologically through criticism, condemnation and media campaigns. When that fails as well it openly rejects us and considers us to be close-minded and extremist. When this happens we should remember the sufferings of Christ and know that things are going well since they reject both Christ and his Church

So, we can see that repentance or metanoia is necessary because of the fact that we do indeed fall short of the plan that God has for us. We fall short when we reject God, His image or His creation. We make up for this shortfall by moving towards a reliance on God with prayer and fasting. We also see that for our repentance to be true we need to tie it to humility. By being humble we affirm who we are and thusly approach God properly. This of course leads to a reaction from those who reject God. The reaction of the world depends on where we are in our relationship with God. If we can overcome this condemnation with our repentance and humility then the Lord will repay us a hundred-fold. Amen.

Fr. Michael Constantinides

Parish Priest

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 The Presentation of the Lord 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption
3 10th Sunday of Matthew 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Assumption) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion 1:00 p.m. Hope/Joy Ice-skating trip	4	5	6 Feast Day of Saint Photios Fast Day 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George 10:30 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)	7 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)	8 Fast Day	9
10 Sunday of the Canaanite Woman 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Assumption) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	11	12 1:00 p.m. Care Link Meeting 6:00 p.m. Catechism (Assumption)	13 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)	14 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)	15 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption)	16
17 Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (Tridion Begins) 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion +Sacrament (Saint George)	18 Fast Free	19 Fast Free 6:00 p.m. Catechism (Assumption) 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (Saint George)	20 Fast Free 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)	21 Fast Free 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)	22 Fast Free	23 Fast Free
24 Sunday of the Prodigal Son 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class	25	26	27 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George) Evening Meal	28 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint		

Epistle Readers

Sunday, February 3, 2019

16th Sunday of Matthew

Alexa Florence

Sunday, February 10,
2019

Sunday of the Canaanite
Woman

Scot Johnson

Sunday, February 17,
2019

Sunday of the Publican
and the Pharisee

Isabella Elias

Sunday, February 24,
2019

Sunday of the Prodigal
Son

Loukia Constantinides

Coffee Hour Hosts for February
2019

Sunday, February
3, 2019 hosted by:
Cathy Farrell and
Vickie Pyevich

Sunday, February
10, 2019 hosted by:

Diane Breckon

Sunday February
17, 2019 hosted by:

The Parish Council
Sunday, February
24, 2019: Open

Parish Council Sunday Duty

Sunday, February
3, 2019

Mariellen Cros-
son

Doug Kenyon

Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, February
10, 2019

Nick Coin

John Mekus

Dennis Spurgetis

Diana Spurgetis

Sunday, February
17, 2019

Joe Burmeister,
Mary Kay Eckert,

Gus Pappas

Mary Rankin

Sunday, February
24, 2019

Mariellen Cros-
son

Doug Kenyon

Ted Pitsoulakis

Parish Registry

Funerals

•The servant of God,
George Gnatovich,
fell asleep in the Lord
and was buried on
January 11, 2019

•The servant of God,
Brad Crosson, fell
asleep in the Lord
and was buried on
January 12, 2019

•The servant of God,
John Zaines, fell
asleep in the Lord
and was buried on
January 14, 2019

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

February 27, 2019:
Georgjean Pitsou-
lakis and friends.

March 27, 2019:
Patty Kenyon and
Presbyteria Maria.

April 24, 2019: Jim
and Elizabeth
Teros.

Anyone interested
in participating in
this worthwhile
ministry should
contact Dena
Manta at 332-1684.

Memorials for February

**February
17, 2019
Brad
Crosson
(40
Days)**

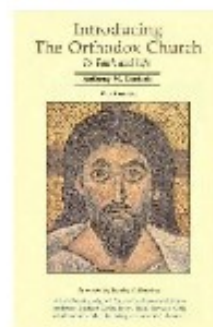
Prosphora Baking Schedule

Sunday,
February 3, 2019:
Randy and Chris
Smith
Sunday,
February 10,
2019:
Lina Assaf
Sunday
February 17,
2019:
Mariellen Crosson
Sunday,
February 24,
2019:
Diane Breckon

Assumption Corner - February 2019

Catechism / Religious Education Begins Feb 5th

Due to the cold weather the start of classes has been postponed one week. These classes are open to anyone interested in learning more about our faith. Classes will meet weekly at 6pm, all are welcome!



Centennial Events

Memorial Patio Dedication - March 2nd 2019



Our centennial would not be possible without our forefathers who handed down their faith to us. Join us as we remember all of our loved ones who have fallen asleep and to whom our patio is dedicated.

Orthros 8:30 Liturgy 9:30

Memorial, dedication and lunch to follow

If you are interested in helping make our centennial celebration an unforgettable event, please consider being on a committee.

Contact Tom Gregory for ways to help at tompetergregory@msn.com



Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (February 17)

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated

by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him

before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son (February 24)

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and

to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we

truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the Lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Fasting Notes:

- The week of February 17, 2019, the first week of the Triodion, is a fast free week. That means we are allowed to eat anything on any day and still receive Holy Communion on Sunday. It is Fast-free because we do not wish to be like the Pharisee who fasted twice a week and was hypocritical, so we do not fast this week.
- The week of February 24, 2019, the second week of the Triodion, is normal fasting week. That means we are allowed to eat anything on any day except on Wednesday and Friday, (where we fast normally) and still receive Holy Communion on Sunday.