

The Good News

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2019

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I can only speak for myself as I look excitedly toward the month of March and the ushering in of Spring. Perhaps, after such a long and brutal winter, many of you also stare at your calendars in that same way with a feeling that spring cannot come soon enough. With warmer temperatures comes a physical renewal of all creation, different from the spiritual renewal of creation we celebrate at Theophany, but this seasonal renewal can also be applied to our spiritual lives.

Great Lent is also a time for renewal, in fact, the word lent has its root in the old English word for spring “lencten”. I am sure the coincidence comes more from the time of year in which this preparation for Christ’s Holy Resurrection falls, but I cannot help thinking about the potential Great Lent has for us to be a personal spiritual renewal. In lent we are called to be renewed or to refocus our lives toward Christ. In the same way the dormant flowers take bloom, we too are given an opportunity to renew our relationship with God, His church, and each other.

Let’s look a little deeper into this idea of renewal and see what Holy Scripture teaches us. In Psalm 103:30 we read “You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, And You shall renew the face of the earth.” This teaches us that renewal comes from God, through the Holy Spirit in act of creation. In Isaiah 40:31 it is written, “those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger.” Here we are taught that human access to renewal is through our hoping in God. Finally in Psalm 50:12 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.” We see that our personal renewal is only possible through Gods actions in our lives.

Beautifully the 50th Psalm is rooted in renewal which goes hand in hand with repentance. We are renewed in a perfect spiritual and mystical way through the sacrament of confession, but we can also allow for this season of preparation to renew us. At the end of this month we see an example of this in the life of the Theotokos through her action at the Annunciation. Her relationship with God was put to the test by the Archangel Gabriel when the Angel announced to her that she would conceive a Son and that that His name would be Jesus. Instead of rejecting the will of God, she renewed and recreated her relationship with Him and said, “Let it be to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38)

To conclude, each year during the time of Great Lent we are given an opportunity through the spiritual life of the Church to be renewed and to come closer to our God. We have a choice to do the opposite and allow ourselves to live “missing the mark” of what God has for us, or we can take up this opportunity to be transformed. Being thus renewed, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ next month, God may see the vesture of our souls adorned as beautifully as the newly bloomed flowers of the field.

Blessed Lent to all of you, and good strength!



+Fr. Thomas Alatzakis

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: Sunday Liturgy 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Assumption)</p>					<p>Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption)</p>	<p>1st Saturday of Souls 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Patio dedication and luncheon (Assumption)</p>
<p>3 Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion +Sacrament (Saint George)</p>	<p>4 Fasting from meat only</p>	<p>5 Fasting from meat only 6:00 p.m. Catechism (Assumption)</p>	<p>6 Fasting from meat only 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>7 Fasting from meat only 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>8 Fasting from meat only</p>	<p>9 2nd Saturday of Souls Fasting from meat only 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George)</p>
<p>10 Forgiveness Sunday Fasting from meat only Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	<p>11 Clean Monday Great Lent Begins Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Great Compline (Assumption and Saint George)</p>	<p>12 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Catechism (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Great Compline (Assumption)</p>	<p>13 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George) 5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at Assumption</p>	<p>14 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Great Compline (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>15 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. 1st Salutations (Assumption) 7:00 p.m. 1st Salutations (Saint George)</p>	<p>16 3rd Saturday of Souls Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George)</p>
<p>17 First Sunday of Lent Oil and Wine allowed Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	<p>18 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Great Compline (Assumption)</p>	<p>19 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Catechism (Assumption) 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meet-</p>	<p>20 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George) 5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at Saint George</p>	<p>21 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>22 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. 2nd Salutations (Assumption) 7:00 p.m. 2nd Salutations</p>	<p>23 Oil and Wine Allowed</p>
<p>24 Second Sunday of Lent Oil and Wine allowed Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	<p>25 The Annunciation of the Theotokos Fish, Oil and Wine allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Assumption)</p>	<p>26 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Catechism (Assumption)</p>	<p>27 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George) Evening Mealjo 5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at Assumption</p>	<p>28 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>29 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. 3rd Salutations (Assumption) 7:00 p.m. 3rd Salutations (Saint George)</p>	<p>30 Oil and Wine Allowed</p>
<p>31 Second Sunday of Lent Oil and Wine allowed Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>						

Epistle Readers

Sunday, March 3, 2019
Judgment Sunday
 Alexa Florence

Sunday, March 10, 2019
Forgiveness Sunday
 Ethan Kirkpatrick

Sunday, March 17, 2019
Sunday of Orthodoxy
 Calvin Schneider

Sunday, March 24, 2019
2nd Sunday of Lent
 Loukia Constantinides

Sunday, March 31, 2019
3rd Sunday of Lent
 Isabella Elias

Coffee Hour Hosts for March
 2019

Sunday, March 3, 2019
 hosted by: Penny
 McGimpsey and
 Angela Spurgetis

Sunday, March 10,
 2019 hosted by: Diane
 Breckon

Sunday March 17,
 2019 hosted by: Ted
 and Georgjean
 Pitsoulakis

Sunday, March 24,
 2019: Open

Sunday March 31,
 2019: Open

Parish Council Sunday Duty

Sunday, March 3,
 2019

Nick Coin
John Mekus
Dennis Spurgetis
Diana Spurgetis

Sunday, March 10,
 2019

Joe Burmeister,
Mary Kay Eckert,
Gus Pappas
Mary Rankin

Sunday, March 17,
 2019

Mariellen Crosson
Doug Kenyon Ted
Pitsoulakis

Sunday, March 24,
 2019

Nick Coin
John Mekus
Dennis Spurgetis
Diana Spurgetis

Sunday, March 31,
 2019

All Members

Parish Registry

Baptism

The servant of God
 Jordan (Michael) Per-
 antinos was Baptized
 into the Orthodox
 Faith on February 24,
 2019 and the sponsor
 was Calvin Schneider.

Chrismation

The Servant of God,
 Lori Pappas, was
 Confirmed into the
 Orthodox Church on
 February 17, 2019.
 The Sponsor is
 Mariellen Crosson.

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

March 27, 2019:
Patty Kenyon
and Presbyterera
Maria.

April 24, 2019:
Jim and Elizabeth
Teros.

Anyone inter-
 ested in partici-
 pating in this
 worthwhile min-
 istry should con-
 tact Dena Manta
 at 332-1684.

Fasting Notes:

The week of February 10,
 2019, the third week of the
 Triodion, is fast-free from
 everything except meat.
 That means we are allowed
 to eat anything except meat
 on any day including
 Wednesday and Friday, and
 still receive Holy Commu-
 nion on Sunday.

The week of February 17,
 2019, the fourth week of the
 Triodion, is we begin the
 Lenten Fast. That means
 Monday through Friday we
 fast from meat, dairy, fish,
 wine and oil while on Satur-
 day and Sunday we are
 allowed to have oil and wine,
 and still receive Holy Com-
 munion on Sunday.

Prospora Baking Schedule

Sunday,
March 3, 2019:
Mary Kay Eckert

Sunday,
March 10, 2019:
Lina Assaf

Sunday
March 17, 2019:
Diane Breckon

Sunday,
March 24, 2019:
Presbyterera Maria

Sunday,
March 31, 2019:
Open

Assumption Corner - March 2019

Lenten Services

As part of our Lenten journey we will be having service as prescribed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, be sure to double check the Calendar for Wednesday Service locations.

Mondays: Great Compline at 6pm

Wednesdays: Presanctified Liturgy 5pm (Check Location)

Fridays: Small Compline is Salutation Cannon 6pm

Youth Service Project - March 24th

The entire church school is invited to participate in an after church Youth Service Project on March 24th. We will be making a Lenten meal for our homebound and shut-in parishioners.

Centennial Events

Patio Dedication - March 2nd

Our Memorial Pato Dedication will be held after services on march 2nd for Saturday of souls followed by a luncheon provided by our Philoptochos.

Time to Join a Committee

Below are the centennial committees that are being formed, please contact the parish council chairperson to join a specific committee.

Reservations Committee - Mike Haney

Sponsorships Ad Book Committee - John Stopoulos & Abraham George

Program Entertainment Committee - Cathy Diakogeorgiou

Publicity Committee - Paris Fotos

Invitations Committee - Deno Kandis

Photography Videography Committee - Daryn Passini

Food and Beverage Committee - Bill Theofilis

Sunday of Forgiveness (March 10)

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-

fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety

and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 17)

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of

God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for

her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

Sunday of the Holy Cross (March 31)

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us be-

comes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners,

so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.