



Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Bulletin
And Holy Transfiguration Chapel
A Parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
870 Forest Street
Dover, Delaware 19904
Website: www.snicholasuoc.org



Father Stephen Hutnick
(302) 798-4455
E-mail: otche10@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 870 Forest Street
Dover, DE 19904

We would like to welcome all of our visitors and friends to Saint Nicholas Orthodox Parish. We would like to ask all of our new visitors to please sign our register so that we might be able to keep in contact with you about Parish celebrations and events. Through the intercession of Saint Nicholas we hope and pray that our community might continue to grow in numbers and in service to the Lord. Through your prayers and dedication of time, talents and donations, this can become a reality in all faith and in love.

In case of an emergency, please call Father Stephen day or night at the above telephone number.

April 7, 2024
Volume 17: Number 14
Celebrating our 17th Year of Serving the Lord
Schedule of Services and Activities

Sunday, April 7 – Third Sunday of the Fast – The Holy Cross – Tone 3
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Father Gus

Thursday, April 11
6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy – All Souls

Sunday, April 14 – Fourth Sunday of the Fast – Tone 4
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Father Stephen

A N N U A L M E E T I N G

Thursday, April 18
6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy – All Souls

Sunday, April 21 – Fifth Sunday of the Fast – Tone 5
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Father Gus

Thursday, April 25
6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy – All Souls

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

Third Sunday of the Fast - Feast of the Annunciation: Matins: Luke 1:39-46; 56.
Feast: Hebrews 2:11-18; Luke 1:24-38. Day: Matins: John 21:15-25; Liturgy: Hebrews
4:14-5:6; Mark 8:34-9:1.

Monday - Genesis 8:21-9:7; Proverbs 11:19-12:6; Isaiah 14:23-2

Tuesday - Genesis 9:8-17; Proverbs 12:8-22; Isaiah 25:1-9

Wednesday - Gene 9:1-10:1; Proverbs 12:23-13:9; Isaiah 26:21-27:9

Thursday – Feast of the Annunciation: Matins: Luke 1:39-49; 56; Liturgy: Hebrews 2:11-
18; Luke 1:24-38 Genesis 10: 32-11:9; Proverbs 13:20-14:6; Isaiah 28:14-22

Friday - Genesis 12:1-7; Proverbs 14:15-26; Isaiah 29:13-23

Saturday - Hebrews 6:9-12; Mark 7:31-37; All Souls: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 5:24-
30

4th Sunday of the Fast: Matins: John 20:11-18 Liturgy: Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31;
St. John of the Ladder: Ephesians 5:9-19; Matthew 4:25-5:12.

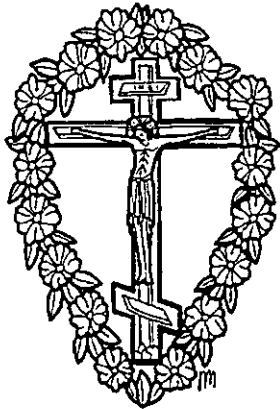
THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION



The hymns of Vespers sung on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God beautifully explain the feast. One of these especially gives us much food for meditation. "The archangel Gabriel went down from heaven to announce to the Virgin that she would conceive. He came down over Nazareth, meditating, bewildered by this wondrous event and saying: How can the One beyond understanding, the Most High Himself, come to be born of a virgin? How can the One whose throne is heaven, to whom the earth serves as a footstool, ever be contained in a woman's womb? How could He condescend to be incarnate of her at a single word that only she can say, He upon whom the Six-Winged and Many-Eyed Seraphim are not allowed to gaze? He who is coming is the Word of God! Why do I hesitate instead of saying to the Maiden: Rejoice, O Woman full of grace! The Lord is with you. Rejoice, pure Virgin! Rejoice, O Bride and maiden ever-pure! Rejoice, O Mother of Life! Blessed is the fruit of your womb?"

The joy of the Incarnation is readily seen in the Icon of the Annunciation. Everything in the Icon leads to and is centered on the Mother of God. The very posture of the Archangel Gabriel with his right hand extended toward the Mother of God is both a greeting and a communication. The Mother of God is shown with an initial perplexed reaction. She accepts the message and gives her consent. The ray of light descending upon the Virgin illustrates the fulfillment of the message: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35).

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - ADORATION OF THE CROSS (Mark 8:34-38; 9:1).



This Sunday commemorates the venerable Cross and the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Cross as such takes on meaning and adoration because of the Crucifixion of Christ upon it. Therefore, whether it be in hymns or prayers, it is understood that the Cross without Christ has no meaning or place in Christianity. The adoration of the Cross in the middle of Great Lent is to remind the faithful in advance of the Crucifixion of Christ. Therefore, the passages from the Bible and the hymnology refer to the Passions, the sufferings, of Jesus Christ: The passages read this day repeat the calling of the Christian by Christ to dedicate his life, for "If any man would come after me,

let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Christ)" (v. 34-35). This verse clearly indicates the kind of dedication which is needed by the Christian in three steps: (1)

To renounce his arrogance and disobedience to God's Plan, (2) To lift up his personal cross (the difficulties of life) with patience, faith and the full acceptance of the Will of God without complaint that the burden is too heavy; having denied himself and lifted up his cross leads him to the (3) Decision to follow Christ. These three voluntary steps are three links which cannot be separated from each other, because the main power to accomplish them is the Grace of God, which man always invokes. The Adoration of the Cross is expressed by the faithful through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the forgiveness of the trespasses of others. On this Sunday the Adoration of the Cross is commemorated with a special service following the Divine Liturgy in which the significance of the Cross is that it leads to the Resurrection of Christ.

THE CROSS: OUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

The Great Fast is a lengthy period of prayer, fasting and penance. It is a spiritual struggle that begins with great personal expectations and often ends with feelings of discouragement over what we perceive as a lack of accomplishment on our part.

The Church knows our weaknesses well. On the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, to assist us in our attempt to travel the course of Lent in the proper manner, the Cross is placed before us as a powerful incentive for us to persevere in our quest for a fulfilling celebration of our Lord's Resurrection.

Today, our Holy Orthodox Church encourages us to venerate the Cross of our Lord in a very special way, so that we may be strengthened in spirit. It is significant for us to note that in the services prescribed for this day, almost no mention of the Cross is made as being an object of suffering and death. Instead, we speak of it today as a symbol of joy, victory and life. One of the hymns from Vespers for this Sunday proclaims: Rejoice, O Life-giving Cross, most beautiful paradise of the Church, the Tree of Immortality which gave us the joy of everlasting life.

It is customary on the Third Sunday of Lent to carry out the Cross in solemn procession and place it on the tetrapod for veneration by the faithful, as we sing: "Come all you nations, let us extol the Cross of the Lord with hymns of praise."

+ +

The Annunciation

Today is the fountainhead of our salvation and the revelation of an eternal mystery; the Son of God becomes the Son of a Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of this grace. Therefore, let us join with him crying out to the Mother of God; "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you." (Tropar of the Feast of the Annunciation)

The Annunciation celebrates another example of human choice of and for God, in Mary's choosing to become the Mother of God, in effect setting the whole plan of salvation in motion by obedience rather than disobedience (Adam and Eve). Mary allows a new creation to begin for all of us. Jesus comes through Mary into this world to recreate it, to again allow mankind access to Paradise. What an absolutely loving plan of the Father for us! He shows us again and again what awaits those who use their choice in life to choose Goodness, to choose Obedience and to choose Love as a way of life and a way to Life!

THE PROOF OF FASTING

From the Writings of St. John Chrysostom

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works.

If you see a poor man, take pity on him.

If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.

Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear; the feet and the hands; and all the members of our bodies.

Let the hands fast by being free of avarice (greed).

Let the feet fast by ceasing to run after sin.

Let the eyes fast by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.

Let the ears fast. . . by not listening to evil talk and gossip..

Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.

For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes but bite and devour our brothers?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Victoria Benner, 4/13. May God grant her a very happy birthday and keep her for many, happy & blessed years!

REDNER FULL SALE SLIPS – are still being collected. Please save the whole slip.

READER MINISTRY: April 7 – Christina Mentis; April 14 - Margaret Perkins, April 21 – Subdeacon Kevin Minnich;

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Father Geroge Bazylevsky, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Constantine Christo, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Mark Leisure, Father John Nakonachny, Father James Norton, Father Paul Pappas, Father John Perich, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Pani Matka Lilly Lemar, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Jamison, Wakako Alexander, Theresa Barnes, Paul Calistor, Rita Cook, Dmitra Cookson, Davis William Doty; Steve Forte, Thomas Holt, Norma Husnick, Walter Katolic, Judith Kocinski, Denise Kolosky, Kristina Koutsoudes, Olympia Koutsoudes, Frederick McCarthy, Bruce McGloan, Patricia McGloan, Stephen McNulty, Chritina Mentis, Connie Mentis, Olga Moniodes, Margaret Perkins, Barbara Perrigina, Michael Previte, Sandra Ramondi,Carolynn Ritter; Jim Saturno, David Scharba, Clay Seman, Gail Sherman, Lorraine Sherman, Gerald Sovinski, Diane Staples, Nicholas Taylor, Kathy Theodorakos, Merryl Trader, Ralph Vurgich, Cheryl Zabowski, Edward Zabowski, Markos Zerefos.

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY APRIL 21

_____ Small Round (\$8) _____ Large Round (\$12) _____ Butter Lamb (\$5)

Name _____

() With Raisins

() Without Raisins

**Please give to Father Stephen this slip with payment
Paskas will be delivered for pickup Sunday, April 28**

THE CROSS PROVIDES US SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

The Great Fast is a lengthy period of prayer, fasting and penance. It is a spiritual struggle that begins with great personal expectations and often ends with feelings of discouragement over that we perceive as a lack of accomplishment on our part.

The Church knows our weaknesses well. On the Third Sunday of Lent, to assist us in our attempt to travel the course of Lent in the proper manner, the Cross is placed before us as a powerful incentive for us to persevere in our quest for a fulfilling celebration of our Lord's Resurrection.

Today, our Church encourages us to venerate the Cross of our Lord in a very special way, so that we may be strengthened in spirit. It is significant for us to note that in the services prescribed for this day, almost no mention of the Cross is made as being an object of suffering and death. Instead, we speak of it today as a symbol of joy, victory and life. One of the hymns from Vespers for this Sunday proclaims: REJOICE, O LIFE-GIVING CROSS, MOST BEAUTIFUL PARADISE OF THE CHURCH, THE TREE OF IMMORTALITY WHICH GAVE US THE JOY OF EVERLASTING LIFE.

It is customary on the Third Sunday of Lent to carry out the Cross in solemn procession and place it on the tetrapod for veneration by the faithful. Join us as we sing: "COME, ALL YOU NATIONS, LET US EXTOL THE CROSS OF THE LORD WITH HYMNS OF PRAISE."