



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

600 Silver Lane, Stratford, CT 06614
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Pastor:
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***HAVING SUFFERED, THE PASSION
FOR US, O JESUS THE SON OF
GOD! HAVE MERCY ON US!***

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2018

Friday, March 2nd

7:00 p.m.: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 3rd

9:00 a.m.: All Souls Saturday Memorial Service

Sunday, March 4th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – Second Sunday of the Great Fast – Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas – Tone 6

Readings: Hebrews 1:10–2:3; Mark 2:1–12

Panahida: In memory of Metropolitan Nicholas offered by our ACRY chapter

4:00 p.m.: Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers (St. George Orthodox Church, Main St., Trumbull)

Wednesday, March 7th

5:30 p.m.: Paracletice to the Blessed Virgin

Friday, March 9th

7:00 p.m.: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts – Deanery Service at Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Mill Hill Ave., Bridgeport, CT...Confessions will be heard by the Deanery Clergy beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 10th

9:00 a.m.: All Souls Saturday Memorial Service

Sunday, March 11th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – Third Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of Cross Veneration – Tone 7

Readings: Hebrews 4:14 – 5:6; Mark 8:34 – 9:1

4:00 p.m.: Pan Orthodox Lenten Vespers (St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Mill Hill Ave, Bpt)

Wednesday, March 14th

5:30 p.m.: Moleben to the Holy Cross

Friday, March 16th

7:00 p.m.: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 17th

9:00 a.m.: All Souls Saturday Memorial Service

Sunday, March 18th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent – Commemoration of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus) – Tone 8

Readings: Hebrews 6:13 – 20; Mark 9:17 – 31

4:00 p.m.: Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers (St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Silver Lane, Strfd)

Wednesday, March 21st

5:30 p.m.: Akathist “Glory to God for All Things”

Friday, March 23rd

7:00 p.m.: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 24th

6:00 p.m.: Vespers and Litiya for the Feast of the Annunciation

Sunday, March 25th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent – Commemoration of St. Mary of Egypt – Feast of the Annunciation – Tone 1

Readings: Hebrews 9:11 – 14; Hebrews 2:11–18

(Feast); Mark 10:32 – 45; Luke 1:24–38 (Feast)

4:00 p.m.: Holy Unction Service (Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia)



Wednesday, March 28th

5:30 p.m.: Akathist "Glory to God for All Things"

Friday, March 30th

7:00 p.m.: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 31st

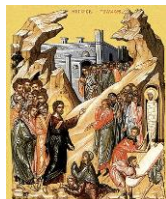
9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – Lazarus

Saturday: Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

6:00 p.m.: Great Vespers & Litiya

for the Eve of Palm Sunday –

Blessing of Pussywillows



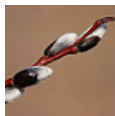
Sunday, April 1st

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – **Palm Sunday** –

Blessing & Distribution of Pussywillows

Readings: Philippians 4:4 – 9; John

12:1 – 18



FOLLOW OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

SCHEDULE OF PAN ORTHODOX LENTEN VESPER SERVICES

All services begin at 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

March 4 2nd Sunday of Lent - St. George Orthodox Church, Main St, Trumbull

March 11 3rd Sunday of Lent – St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Mill Hill Ave, Bpt

March 18 4th Sunday of Lent - St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 600 Silver Lane, Stratford

March 25 5th Sunday of Lent - Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia- Holy Unction

FROM FATHER MICHAEL

ALL SOULS SATURDAY

On three Saturdays during Great Lent (March 3rd, March 10th and March 17th), the church sets aside the time where we offer special prayers for the faithful who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Attend these services and provide me with a list of departed family members who have departed during this past year. All names of the departed you submit will be prayed for annually!

LENTEN/PASCHA CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Have you made your Lenten/Pascha Confession yet? Don't wait until the last minute.

There are many opportunities during the Lenten Season to come and repent before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The Sacrament of Confession is offered either before or after Lenten services. To have a Confession heard at your convenience, please see or call me to schedule a day and time that is good for both of us. The schedule below is provided for your convenience, but it can change due to unforeseen circumstances. It is always best to let me know, if you can, when you plan on coming to confession:



- 1) *Presanctified Liturgy: 6:15pm – 6:45pm.*
- 2) *Other Lenten Services: Following the service*
- 3) *Before Divine Liturgy on Sunday: Call or speak to me to arrange your confession on a Sunday morning.*
- 4) *NO Confessions after Holy Wednesday unless absolutely necessary.*

CONTACTING FATHER

You may call me at either of the following numbers: 203-386-8888 or my cell phone at 203-218-1627. Contact me at any time and especially in the event of any emergencies, hospitalizations or problems that may arise.

FACEBOOK/WEBSITE

Follow and "like" us on Facebook to keep up to date. Search "St. John's Orthodox Church of Silver Lane" on your Facebook search engine to find our site or visit our church website at www.stjohnsilverlane.net where there is a link you can click to our Facebook site. Add these to your favorites and visit us frequently!

NICEAN CREED CHANTER SCHEDULE

The following groups and/or individuals are scheduled to chant the Nicene Creed on the following dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 3/4 Peter S | 3/25 Peter S |
| 3/11 Congregation | 4/1 Congregation |
| 3/18 Chris G | 4/8 Congregation |

ALTAR SERVERS

All Altar servers are expected to be in the sanctuary at least five minutes before the beginning of any Liturgical service. Please try to arrive on time. The following altar servers are responsible for the altar on the following dates:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 3/4 Magnus O | 3/25 Magnus O |
| 3/11 David P | 4/1 David P |
| 3/18 Stephen O | 4/8 Stephen O |

Stewardship

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OFFERING

Great Lent is here! It is a time of repentance and forgiveness ...a time for us to strengthen our spiritual life. It is a time to look deep into ourselves and strive to be the person God intended us to be. It is a time to share the blessings we have received with others and with God and His Church. Hopefully, we will participate in our church stewardship offering for the year and put aside a "dollar-a-day" or whatever we are able to offer. Let us be an example of generosity and help support our church! May our Lord Jesus Christ bless all of you with health, happiness and many years!

CANDLE DONATIONS



Mar 4th

- Eternal Candle offered by Maria Michaels in memory of husband Stephen Michaels on the 25th Anniversary of his Repose. Memory Eternal!

Mar 11th

- Altar Candles offered by the Samilenko family in honor & for health of Pani Shutack on the occasion of her birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!
- Eternal Light offered by the Samilenko family in memory of Gertrude Samilenko and Terry Sabol. Memory Eternal!

Mar 25th

- Altar Taper Candles offered by Carole Krochta in honor & for health of son-in-law Peter Samilenko on the occasion of his birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The people listed below who are in need of our special prayers: Ann Balasa, Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. Larry Barriger, Judy Berard, Fr. Thomas Blaschak, Lena Bobko, Andrea Bower, Dean Bradford (Mer. Marine), Penny Briganti, Andre Briganti, Melissa Brock, Rosemary Brown, Kimberly Calhoun, Shirley Canaan, Jean & Joseph Candela, Michael Capuano, Joyce Cayer, the child Haley and her parents Tara & Mark Chudy, Protospresbyter David Cochran, Burton Cornell, MaryAnn Damato, Ray Davidson, Jeff Delvecchio, Laura DeMayo, Karen Dobosz, Joan Dumas, Fr. John & Pani Patricia Duranko, Noreen Ehnott, Marie Eichler, Fr. John & Pani Anna Jane Fencik, Carol & Bob Ferik, Bill Forth, Fr. John Gido, Chris, Eileen, Sarah, Nicholas & Annie Gombos, Ryan Gombos, Ken & Marie Hegyi, Tom Hetherington,

Bruce Hultgren, Gus Jarosko, Maya Joyner, Jessica Keane, Peter Kepchar, Bettie Kerpchar, Barbara Kolaric, Sarah Kotos, Michele Krochta, Subdeacon Joseph Laput, Marcia Laput, Gregory Laput, Thomas Laput, Mark Lawruszko, Irene Lombard, Elsi Lotufo, John Lovell, Fr. Robert Lucas, Arthur Macura, Fr. Daniel Mahler, Irene Maty, Don Maxton, Peter McGinnis, Frank Meyernick, Lillian Mierzejewski, Protospresbyter Luke Mihaly, Megan Morrissey, Fr. Ted Mozes, Philip Murphy, Merle Palmer, John Papa, Raymond Peterson, Verna & Michael Pistey, Roseann & John Plavnicky, Adriana Pleban, Sandy Pleban, Betty Pollman, Pani Eleanor Pribish, Ostap Pryjdun, Fr. Michael Psenechnuk, Judy Restieri, Linda Rosinsky, Peter Samilenko, Pani Helen Shutack, Cheryl Schultz, Josephine Sinatro, Pani Anna Slovesko, Pani Donna Smoley, Barbara Susi, Susanne Talley, Sarah Tartaglio, Pani Peggy Teklinsky, Daniel & Sebastian Tomy, Gary Wolff, Karen Ann Yuschak, Fr. John Zboyovski, Michael, Paula, Daniel, Holly, Tiffany, Lynn, Susan, Betty, Ann, Carol, Greg, Jackie, Savannah, Rekha & Our US Military Personnel

A Guide to Prepare for Confession

I know what you are thinking...: "OH NO! It's that time of year again"! Don't feel bad! You are not alone! I came across some thoughts that you should find helpful to reflect on this Lent. I know they are for me!



In an article regarding "Preparing for Confession", the Rev. Frank A. Milanese says the following: Some consider Holy Confession as God's washing machine. Although a very crude example, aspects of it are correct. It is through the sacrament of Holy Confession that the whiteness of our baptismal garment is renewed to its original brilliance "without a spot or stain." It is through the tears of repentance that our souls are "washed clean." So cleansing is truly one aspect of Holy Confession. However, restoring ourselves into God's presence and opening ourselves to receive His Love once again may indeed be a more accurate description of the effect of Holy Confession.

Consider the following: if the frequency you washed your clothes or took a bath were the same as the frequency you go to confession, how comfortable would you be? How long might it take before you noticed your really close friends keeping some distance from you? Just because you don't look dirty doesn't mean you don't need a bath or that you don't need to wash your clothes. What makes you think your soul is any different? Just because you can't think of anything bad you've done doesn't mean your soul is free from sin.

Another definition is also helpful to visualize this circumstance. Sin can be defined as active rebellion or passive indifference toward God. When God says, "Thou shalt not...", you do; when God says, "Thou shalt...", you don't. That's active rebellion. Passive indifference is when God says "Thou shalt...", you say, "O.K., when I get time...", and you may or may not get around to it.

Another way to view sin in our lives came from a program on the Food Network regarding tea and how it is prepared for packaging. Once the tea is processed and dried it is sorted into different grades by passing it over sieves or strainers fitted with meshes of different sizes. The passage of teas through this system gives a number of grades with more or less evenly sized particles. These grades fall into four main groups descending in order of particle size. The names are not as important as the process – the sorting.

The problem with many people is that they only look at the first level of sorting when they consider whether they need to come to Confession or not. I will hear statements like, "I haven't killed anyone," or "I haven't stolen from anyone," or "I try to love everyone and do good," or other statements similar to these. So what you are saying is that you will pass through the first strainer without any big particles left behind. God bless you! What about the next strainer...

So as you can see, those things we need to bring to God in confession aren't necessarily "bad" things we have done or "good" things we haven't done. They can merely be matters in areas where we know we have "fallen short" of what God expects of us. An Olympic athlete practices and practices until he or she gets as close to perfection as possible, striving for personal best as well as Olympic best. This comparison is still subjective since it merely compares one athlete to another. However when it comes to Holy Confession our comparison is to Christ Himself.

Below are two sets of self-examination questions — one based on the Ten Commandments, and another that is a bit more subtle. Use them to examine your spiritual life and your conscience. They will prepare you to make a proper and heartfelt Confession this Lent!

HELPS FOR CONFESSION

1. Think back to your last confession. Did you forget to say something? Did you purposely not say something that you should have?
2. PREPARE for confession. If necessary, write on a slip of paper or an index card what you want to say.
3. Don't forget that there exist a) sins of commission: bad things that you shouldn't have

- done and b) sins of omission: good things that you should have done, but didn't.
4. Be specific (i.e., "I told a lie," "I stole something").
 5. Don't mention other people's names or talk about other people. They have to go to confession for themselves.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION

FIRST COMMANDMENT: 'I am the Lord thy God: Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.'

- Have I loved God as much as I should?
- Have I been more interested in my own will rather than God's?
- Have I failed to pray sincerely and regularly?
- Have I believed in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?
- Have I failed to trust in God and His mercy?
- Have I complained against God in adversity?
- Have I been thankful for God's blessings?
- Have I doubted the Christian faith and the teachings of the Church?
- Have I tried to serve God and keep His Commandments?
- Have I given way to superstition?
- Have I frequented the religious meetings of heretics and schismatics?
- Have I neglected my duties to God through fear of ridicule or persecution?

SECOND COMMANDMENT: 'Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.'

- Have I put another person or object before God in my life?
- Have I been insincere about my religion?
- Have I made an idol of any person or thing?
- Have I given to anyone or anything the worship that is due to God alone?
- Have I set before myself the holy life of Jesus and tried to imitate Him?
- Have I read the Holy Scriptures regularly?
- Have I neglected to receive Holy Communion regularly or without due preparation?



THIRD COMMANDMENT: 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain.'

- Have I paid proper attention to holy persons and things?
- Have I broken any solemn promises?
- Have I profaned the holy name of God in any way?
- Have I cursed anyone or anything, or sworn a false oath?
- Have I failed to give proper reverence to holy persons or things?

- Have I had due respect for the clergy of the Church or hindered them in performing God's work?
- Have I broken any solemn vow or promise?
- Have I entered into any unlawful contract or made an unlawful promise?

FOURTH COMMANDMENT: 'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.'

- Have I always kept Sunday as it ought to be kept?
- Have I stayed away from Church on Sundays or prevented others from going?
- Have I done unnecessary work on Sundays?
- Have I spent the day in unwholesome fashion or profaned it by improper conduct?
- If I could not go to Church because of illness or other grave cause, have I prayed at home?
- Have I caused anyone else to profane the Lord's Day?
- Have I kept the Fasts and Festivals prescribed by the Church?

FIFTH COMMANDMENT: 'Honor thy father and thy mother.'

- Have I argued disrespectfully with my parents?
- Have I respected my parents and been obedient to them?
- Have I been guilty of deception, or caused them pain by my words or actions?
- Have I neglected them or failed to help them?
- Have I done my duty towards my family?
- Have I been wanting in love or kindness towards my mate or harmed my mate in any way?
- Have I set my children a good example and tried to bring them up properly?
- Have I corrected their faults with patience and not with anger?
- Have I over-indulged and spoiled them?
- Have I neglected my God-children and failed in my obligations toward them?
- Have I worked for my employers honestly and diligently?
- Have I treated fairly all those who have worked for me?
- Have I honored the Church as my spiritual mother by honoring and practicing my religion in accordance with her teachings?

SIXTH COMMANDMENT: 'Thou shalt not kill.'

- Have I harmed others by ridicule & sarcasm or contempt & stubbornness?
- Have I fought with my family and friends?
- Have I caused the injury or death of any one, or wished that they or I were dead?
- Have I done anything to shorten my own life or that of someone else by injuring health, or through evil and intemperate living?
- Have I given way to anger, or harmed others with words or actions?
- Have I defamed others who needed help, or failed

- to stand up for those unjustly treated?
- Have I been cruel to anyone or have I mistreated or destroyed any life unnecessarily?
- Have I failed to forgive anyone or harbored evil thoughts against them?

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT: 'Thou shalt not commit adultery (or infidelity).'

- Have I given way to impure thoughts, words, or deeds?
- Have I committed any unworthy actions alone or with others?
- Have I degraded myself in any way, or forgotten human dignity?
- Have I read immoral books or magazines, or delighted in obscenity of any kind?
- Have I associated with bad companions or frequented unsavory places?
- Have I eaten or drunk or smoked too much?
- Have I been lazy, idle, or wasted my time?
- Have I led others to commit sinful acts?
- Have I been unfaithful to any trust confided in me?

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT: 'Thou shalt not steal.'

- Have I ever stolen or wished to do so, or shared in stolen goods?
- Have I given to my Church what I know I can afford to give?
- Have I kept anything that did not belong to me?
- Have I tried honestly to find owners of lost articles I have found?
- Have I cheated anyone?
- Have I paid my debts?
- Have I lived within my income, and not wastefully and extravagantly?
- Have I given to charitable causes in proportion to my means?
- Have I been honest and upright?

NINTH COMMANDMENT: 'Thou shalt not bear false witness.'

- Have I exaggerated or let others take the blame?
- Have I told lies, or added or subtracted from the truth?
- Have I made careless statements or spoken evil of anyone?
- Have I told any secrets entrusted to me, or betrayed anyone?
- Have I gossiped about anyone or harmed their reputation?
- Have I concealed the truth, assisted in carrying out a lie, or pretended to commit a sin of which I was not guilty?
- Have I tried to see the good in others rather than their shortcomings?

TENTH COMMANDMENT: 'Thou shalt not covet.'

- Have I envied anything good that has come to

others?

- Have I been jealous of another's good fortune?
- Have I wished for anything that was another's?
- Have I damaged or destroyed the property of others?
- Have I wished for things God has not given me, or been discontented with my lot?
- Have I been stingy?
- Have I held back anything due another?
- Have I hoped for the downfall of anyone so that I might gain by it?
- Have I failed to be gracious and generous to anyone?
- Have I expected God to give me that which I would refuse one of my fellow men?

OTHER GUIDELINES FOR CONFESSION

You and God

- Do you believe in God and the Holy Trinity, the Divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit? Do you believe in the Church and her sacraments? Do you believe in the existence of Paradise and Hell?
- Perhaps at times of affliction, illness, and trials in your life, you grumble against God and you lose your faith and courage?
- Perhaps you believe in psychics, card-readers, astrologers and horoscopes?
- Do you attend church on Sundays and on major feast days?
- Do you attend the Divine Liturgy from beginning to end, or do you get there late and leave before it finishes?
- Perhaps you hinder your husband, wife, or children from attending church?
- Do you fast if you don't have serious health problems; on Wednesdays and Fridays and during lenten seasons?

Your Relations with Others

- Perhaps you have hatred or strong dislike towards someone who treated you badly or insulted you in his anger, or you get jealous and bothered about the progress, the happiness, the beauty, and the goods of other people?
- In your everyday transactions with your partner, co-workers, or customers, are you honest, straightforward, sincere and upright?
- Perhaps you slandered or accused your fellow man?
- Perhaps you speak sarcastically and make fun of the devout and those who fast and struggle to live a true Christian life? Or those that have physical or spiritual weaknesses or limitations?
- Perhaps you send people to "Hell or the devil" in your anger, or use insulting hand gestures?
- Do you respect your parents?
- Do you steal?
- Do you give to the poor, the orphans, the needy families that you know?

Yourself

- Have you been attached to material things and worldly goods?
- Have you been stingy and a lover of money, or have you been greedy?
- Have you been conceited?
- Do you accept praise with pleasure, wanting others to flatter you and say that there is no one like you?
- Perhaps you are stubborn, obstinate, egotistical, self-proud and self-centered? Pay attention to these sins because it is hard to get rid of them.
- Have you polluted your body and soul with carnal sins?
- Do you watch filthy programs on television or at the movies?
- Have you ever been gluttonous, lazy, insolent or negligent?
- Have you been using obscene, insulting, or improper words, for the sake of being comical or to insult and humiliate another person?

For Couples

- Are you loyal to your spouse? Have you had extramarital relations?
- Perhaps one of the partners offended or saddened the other in the presence of others or privately?
- Perhaps you encourage your spouse to follow fashions and fads which contradict God's law?
- Perhaps you don't allow your wife or your husband to go to church or to spiritual gatherings or events?
- Do you raise your children "with the teachings and the way of the Lord?" Have you been only interested in their intellectual education and ignoring the quality of their personality?
- Do you teach your children humility and are you concerned with their proper moral upbringing?
- Perhaps you abuse your children verbally or you scold them with indecent words?

(Excerpted from a "Guide to Confession")

Remember: It takes a good person to admit that he makes mistakes. You are not bad because you go to confession. You are a good person trying to become even better.



*Please contact your priest when you are ready to schedule time for Holy Confession.
Blessed Lent to all of you!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6th: Tom Laput & Kathy Vrabel
 7th: Lois Finn
 8th: Magnus Ordner
 17th: Pani Shutack
 20th: Chris Gombos
 27th: Peter Samilenko

DON'T FORGET

- **Great Lent began on Monday, February 19th.**
 Please remember the following fasting guidelines:
 Fast from meat on Wednesdays and Friday during Lent and the entire Holy Week. Strict fast from meat and dairy products on the first day of Lent, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The elderly and those on medication are not held to this fast and should fast as they can. For Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, you should fast from 4:00 pm until receiving Holy Communion.
- **Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11th.** Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on March 10th.
- **If you or a family member goes into the hospital,** please have someone contact Father Michael immediately. Hospitals no longer give out patient information when priests call to ask if a parishioner is a patient.
- **If you would like to request a panahida service** on a Sunday, please add it to the panahida listing on the back table in church.
- **If you would like to have Altar Candles, Eternal Light, or side Iconostas Candles lit in honor of or in memory of family or friends,** please register on our signup sheet in the back of the church. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated.
- Annual Dues is \$170.00 per adult.
- **Please refrain from texting and phone calls during church.** There's a time and place for that ... and it's not during church services. If you must take a call, we ask that you step downstairs so as not to disturb everyone else.
- **Offering envelopes** are on the back table in church. Let Debbie know if you do not see a package with your name.










CHURCH SCHOOL

Lessons will start 20 minutes after church services end so that the youth and their teachers have enough time to enjoy something light to eat first. Parents: please bring your children to church so that we can help educate them in our faith.

BISHOP GREGORY'S LENTEN CHALLENGE

Have you listened to Bishop Gregory's 2018 Lenten Challenge yet? If not, here is the link to it on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/3coy-kRxPL4>

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week JANUARY 28 th	 Publican and the Pharisee Reading: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15 Gospel: Luke 18: 10-14	Trust in God, not yourself! Ask for His help before every task this week!
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 4 th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32	Schedule a Confession. Use up/freeze meat this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 11 th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgment Reading: 1 Corinthians 8: 8-9; 2 Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 18 th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Reading: Romans 13: 11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6: 14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1 st Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 25 th	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Reading: Hebrews 11: 24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1: 43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2 nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 4 th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Reading: Hebrews 1: 10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3 rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 11 th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Reading: Hebrews 4: 14-5: 6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9: 1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bowl!
4 th Sunday of Lent MARCH 18 th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Reading: Hebrews 6: 13-20 Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5 th Sunday of Lent MARCH 25 th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Reading: Hebrews 9: 11-14 & Heb 2:11-18 Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45 & Lk 1:24-38	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! April 1 st GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9 Gospel: John 12: 1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 6 th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet, & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 8 th NO FASTING!	 HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1: 1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

WEDNESDAY BINGO

Come down to our weekly Wednesday Night BINGO in the Church Hall. BINGO begins at 6:45 p.m. with a "Winner Take All" game at 6:30 p.m. for early arrivals! We have free coffee and soda available during BINGO along with snacks. Lenten foods are available for a donation from 5:00 pm to the start of BINGO.



EASTER FLOWERS

You can help us beautify our church during Pascha with Easter flowers. If you would like to donate a potted flower for \$17.00 each in honor or memory of someone, please see Joel Pleban or Debbie Samilenko by March 18th. Also, we will be needing pussy willows for Palm Sunday. We would greatly appreciate it if you have any pussy willow bushes in your yard and can trim branches in 1-2 ft sizes as soon as they blossom to bring to church to store in the shed in garbage bags.

CARE PACKAGE FOR PANI

Help us put together a care package to send to our Pani Helen at her new home in PA to let her know we are thinking of her and miss her! Consider purchasing/making something small and bring it to Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Friday, March 16th. After services we will have pizza, put together the

package and sign notes of good thoughts and wishes to her!


EMAIL UPDATE

Are you not receiving Fr. Michael's Lenten messages via email? Send him your current email address so you do not miss out!

DIOCESAN EASTERN REGIONAL LENTEN RETREAT

This year, the Eastern Regional Lenten Retreat will be co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA on Saturday, March 24th, at St. Francis Center for Renewal in Bethlehem, PA. See flyer below for more information and note the strict deadline for registration. Can't attend this retreat? There are several others that you can go to (see below flyer)!

DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREATS



For All Orthodox Christians, Family & Friends

CENTRAL REGION

LOCATION: St Nicholas Church, Housestead, PA **DATE:** Sat March 17, 2018 **TIME:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

TOPIC: "Our Calling as Disciples and Evangelists" **PRESENTER:** His Grace, Bishop Gregory

Adults/Teens Ages 6-12 *"Windows To Heaven - Icons & The Feasts Of The Church."* Fr. David Urban

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 3/10/18

EASTERN REGION

Co-sponsored By The Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

LOCATION: St Francis Center For Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Rd, Bethlehem, PA **DATE:** Sat March 24, 2018 **TIME:** 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

TOPIC: "Our Calling as Disciples and Evangelists" **PRESENTERS:** His Grace, Bishop Gregory, Fr. Anthony Perkins

Adults & Adolescents Ages 6-11 *"A Day In The Footsteps of St. Herman"* Fr. Matthew Stagon, Subdeacon Andrew Wythe


REGISTER EARLY!!! DEADLINE: 3/14/18 (\$20 Late Fee After Deadline)

WESTERN REGION

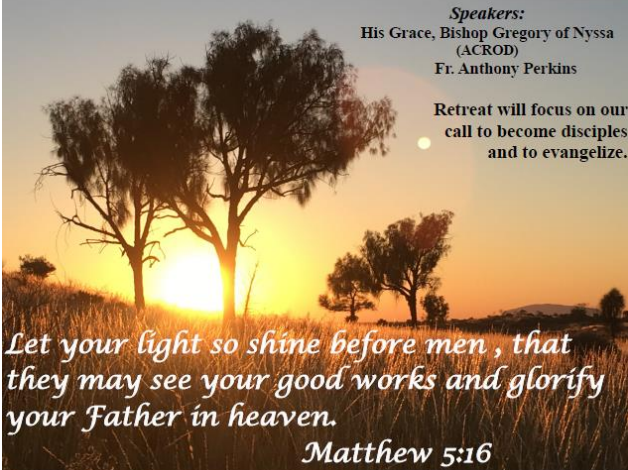
LOCATION: Descent of the Holy Spirit Church, Schererville, IN **DATE:** Sat March 24, 2018 **TIME:** 2:00 pm (CST)

SCHEDULE

- Moleben to the Holy Cross With Homily By Father Gregory Allard
- Presentation by Pani Marianna Bannon: "Practical Preparations for the Spiritual Preparatory Seasons."
- Lenten Confessions
- Fellowship

Come Escape From the World For A Day and Be Spiritually Renewed!  Sponsored By The National A.C.R.Y.

Lenten Retreat -March 24, 2018



Speakers:
His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa (ACROD)
Fr. Anthony Perkins

Retreat will focus on our call to become disciples and to evangelize.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

**St. Francis Center for Renewal
395 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA**


**Retreat registration: Adults ACROD \$35 (late fee \$20)
Adolescents \$20 (late fee \$10)
Children (under 12) \$7**

**Registration includes all meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
For more information contact: Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky at
usbjfler@aol.com call - 610-592-7315**

PIROGHI SALE

Our Lenten Piroghi Baking Sessions & Sale will take place on Thursday, March 29th and Friday, March 30th. We will make potato and prune piroghi for \$8.00 per dozen. **Orders for the sale must be placed with Carole Krochta by March 18th.** Orders can be picked up between 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30th.

Your help is needed to peel and dice potatoes on Wednesday afternoon/evening, as well as to make and roll out dough, pinch and cook piroghi, pack, and clean up on Thursday and Friday. **Please let us know that we can count on you to volunteer a few hours out of one or both days to help us keep up with the demand for these ethnic goodies!**



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Stay in touch with our church family by sending a card or note, calling or visiting them. Let them know they are being prayed for and that they are missed and thought of often!

- Pani Helen Shutack, 229 Walnut Street, Apt 1, Royersford, PA 19468

College Students living at/near their schools:

- Jessica Tartaglio, 105 Peterborough St, Apt D, Boston, MA 02115
- Melissa Tartaglio, 215 E 23rd Street, Apt 5C, New York, NY 10010

- Joe Samilenko, Sacred Heart University - MC0104, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06825
- Emilia Ordner, MMA, 1 Pleasant Street #C-60, Castine, ME 04420
- Stephen Grabarz, 24 Gardenia Lane, Narragansett, RI 02882

SENIOR CITIZEN'S RETREAT AT CAMP NAZARETH

His Grace, Bishop Gregory has announced information regarding the upcoming inaugural Senior Citizen's retreat at Camp Nazareth which will take place from April 23-25, 2018! Anyone aged 65 or older should consider attending this (and you'll get to experience that beautiful place in among the mountains that our children love so much!).

Diocesan Senior Retreat

I consider the days of old, I remember the years long ago... I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD... Psalm 77:5

With Keynote Speaker
Bishop Gregory



Ages 65 and older
\$110 Registration Fee

**Monday, April 23 to Wednesday, April 25
at Camp Nazareth Retreat and
Conference Center, Mercer, PA**

Register on ACROD.org or call 724-662-4840

CHURCH SHOPPING WISH LIST

Donations of the following new items would be greatly appreciated for church:

- Paper Towels
- 2 liter Bottled Soda
- Regular & Decaf Coffee
- Large Bags of Pretzels, Chips, & Cookies
- White Luncheon Napkins



Thank you to everyone who donated items this past month!

CAMP NAZARETH

It's not too early to start thinking about summer and spending a week at our diocesan camp, Camp

Nazareth in Mercer, PA. A new cabin has been added to Camp to provide more housing and services!

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2018

The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!!

REGISTER ONLINE STARTING MAR. 1, 2018!!!

Dates for the Summer Camping Program

Week 1 -- July 15 - 21, 2018

New England, NY, NJ, Florida and Canada Deaneries

Week 2 -- July 22 - July 28, 2018

Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries

Week 3 -- July 29 - August 4, 2018

Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State and Washington D.C. Deaneries

Register Online Starting March 1, 2018

Register at -- campnazareth.org

From the Home Page, From the 2018 Summer Camp Icon, or From the Diocesan Summer Camp Tab found under the Summer Camp Tab and look for Camper Registration.

If you are Clergy or a Volunteer go to the 2018 Summer Camp Icon on the Home Page or the Diocesan Summer Camp Tab found under the Summer Camp Tab and look for the paper forms under Clergy/Volunteers.

\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!!!

(one-time only, not per week)

Register & pay by May 15, 2018!!!!

Online Registration **MUST** be complete **AND** payment must be submitted by **May 15** in order to qualify for the Early Bird Discount. Registrations after June 15 will incur an additional \$20 late fee.

- ❑ When you register online please note that you will still need to submit a paper copy of the Medical Examination Form (i.e. Camper Physical) which must be filled out and signed by a licensed medical professional (licensed physician or physician's assistant). This form will be emailed to you after you complete the online registration process.
- ❑ Payment by check, money order, or credit card is accepted. Checks and Money Orders are to be made payable to *Camp Nazareth* and sent to *Camp Nazareth at 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137*.

Interested in working at camp this summer? Go to this link to find out more information on how to apply:

<http://campnazareth.org/summercamp/register-for-camp/#staff>

THANK YOU TO

- ❖ All who attended and worked at our Valentine Dinner and Bingo
- ❖ Our stuffed cabbage makers
- ❖ Our soup makers and halushki workers for the Souperbowl of Caring
- ❖ All who purchased soup and made donations to our Souperbowl of Caring Soup Sale which directly benefitted Sterling House Community Center Food Bank. You helped make a difference in the lives of people in our community!
- ❖ All of our Souperbowl Participants from our ACRY #23
- ❖ All who donated items for our college student care packages and those who also helped

package the boxes! Our students received their packages and were both surprised and thankful!

❖ **Our Stewards, God's Gardeners, snow removers, grounds and church cleaners!**

SAVE THE DATE

April 2018

1st: Palm Sunday

8th: Pascha

15th: Springtime Dinner and Bingo

May 2018

13th: Mother's Day Brunch

20th: Red White & Blue Dinner and Bingo

25th-28th: National ACRY Bowling Tournament hosted by Rockaway #43 (NJ)

NATIONAL ACRY BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Save the weekend of May 25th - 28th for the National ACRY Metropolitan Orestes Memorial Bowling Tournament in Perth Amboy, NJ! Plans are underway and more info will be included in next month's bulletin for bowling, meals and the ad booklet.

THIS MONTHS SCHEDULE OF COLLECTIONS & VOLUNTEERS

Envelope (Curators):

03/04: Maintenance/Repairs & Weekly Offering (Sharon)

03/11: Holyday Flowers & Weekly Offering (Melanie)

03/18: Dues & Weekly Offering (Mercury)

03/25: Patriarchal Pence & Weekly Offering (Roger)

04/01: Maintenance/Repairs & Weekly Offering (Wendy)

Note: There is only one collection basket after the sermon. All envelopes for the day can go in that basket.

Bingo Workers:

03/07: Carole, Sharon

03/14: Carole, Sharon, Debbie

03/21: Carole, Peter

03/28: Carole, Sharon

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

03/11: Michelle T

03/18: Carole K

03/25: Sharon L

04/01: Wendy G

04/22: Elle H

04/29: Sandy P

05/20: Melanie O

GODS GARDENER PROJECTS

Please support these projects that parishioners sponsor for the benefit of our parish operating fund:

Monthly Breakfast (Oct-Jun):

Join us for breakfast buffet after Divine Liturgy in the church hall on the first Sunday of the month! \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, free for under 5.

Recycle Used Cell Phones & Printer Cartridges:

Drop off unwanted cell phones & ink jet cartridges in the labeled boxes in our church hall instead of having it pollute our landfills. The Gombos Family will recycle them for us!

Recycle Your Cans:

Bring your recyclable deposit cans, soda & water bottles to church or contact Subdeacon Joel Pleban to pick up your clean recyclable cans/bottles. He'll redeem them for the church. What a great way to help keep the earth a little cleaner!

Pampered Chef:

Stock up on favorite must have kitchen items & seasonings from Pampered Chef. 15% of the sales price goes to St. John's. Free shipping for purchases through God's Gardener. Free Pampered Chef product for any order over \$75.00. Earn even more for St. John's and yourself if you collect \$200 in orders from your friends and family. See or call Mercury @ 203.449.0115 for the new catalog with fabulous new Pampered Chef products!

Recycle Clothes, Lines, Shoes and More

Bring your useable clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillow cases, blankets, curtains, towels, & stuffed animals to our St. Pauly Textile Drop-Off Shed to help our church. St. Pauly send it to people who need it here in the United States & all over the world.