

# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector



**Saturday, March 28, 2021**

**Tone 1**

**Gospel:** St. Mark 2:1-12

**Epistle:** Hebrews 1:10 - 2:3

**St. Gregory Palamas / Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra**

**Ven. Hilarion the New, Abbot of Pelekete**

## MARCH Bulletin Sponsor:

*By Father Andrew, In memory of my ordaining Bishop, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas*

### *Liturgical & Events Schedule*

#### **Sunday, March 28**

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Social

#### **Monday, March 29**

Noon: Lenten Prayers / Confessions

#### **Tuesday, March 30**

6:30 pm: Akathist to St Innocent of Alaska / Confessions

#### **Wednesday, March 31**

6:30 pm: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy / Social

#### **Thursday, April 1**

Noon: Lenten Prayers / Confessions

#### **Friday, April 2**

9:30 am: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy  
6:30 pm: Akathist to St. Mary of Egypt / Confessions

#### **Saturday, April 3**

9:15 am: Hours followed by Memorial Sat. Liturgy  
4:00 pm: Great Vespers / Confessions

#### **Sunday, April 4**

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Social

**(NEW NOTE):** You must let Fr. Andrew know if you want to attend any service.

*The Daily Lenten prayers will not be any particular service. They will be prayers taken from several Lenten services. They will last about an hour or so but if you can't stay, leave when you must.*

## MARCH CANDLE & BULLETIN SPONSORS

**Bulletin:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of Metropolitan Nicholas, my ordaining Bishop  
**Chandelier:** (\$50) Diane Tryon in loving memory of her father on his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
**Altar Candles:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of his father, George, on the occasion of his birthday  
**Candles on the Tomb:** (\$25) Fr. Andrew in memory of my deceased relatives & Pani Jeanette  
**Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** (\$25) Teri in memory of her dad, John, on occasion of 15th anniversary of repose

## APRIL CANDLE & BULLETIN SPONSORS

**Bulletin:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew for his God-father Andrew & Grandfather Matthew  
**Chandelier:** (\$50) Open  
**Altar Candles:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of my mother & deceased relatives in April  
**Candles on the Tomb:** (\$25) Open  
**Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** (25) Open

## TENTATIVE READERS

Sunday, Mar 28:	Tim
Wednesday, Mar 31:	Tim & Teri
Saturday, April 3:	Tim
Sunday, April 4:	Teri
Wednesday, April 7:	Teri & Tim
Saturday, April 10:	Tim
Sunday, April 11:	Joe S.
Wednesday, April 14:	Tim & Teri
Sunday, April 18:	Joe S
Wednesday, April 21:	Teri & Tim
Saturday, April 24:	Tim
Sunday, April 25:	Joe S

110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440  
[www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org](http://www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org)

Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747  
[info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org](mailto:info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org)

## MARCH 2021: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,825

Sunday, March 7: \$1,550  
Sunday, March 14: \$1,200  
Sunday, March 21: \$1,025

### RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS RECEIVED

Sunday, March 7: \$25 Special Collection Mother Maria (Diocesan)  
Sunday, March 14: \$100 Special Collection Mother Maria (Diocesan)  
Sunday, March 21: \$250 Special Collection Mother Maria; \$100 Food Pantry; \$25 Building Restoration; \$150 Catastrophic Fund

### VIGILS - MARCH 21

Susan Guzy (1) Special intentions

Laura Kovach (4) For healing of Joe, Andrew, and JC; For health of Betty, Ben, Julia, Andrea, Wendy, Mark, Dana, Bodhi, Wayne, David, Brenda, and Mike; In birthday memory of Russ; Anniversary blessings and many years to Sarah and Ben.

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

Jim Mazur (1) Special intentions

Janice Timko (1) In Blessed and loving memory of my precious parents Sophia & Peter Monak, "Vechnaya Pamyat!"

Twarek (8) In loving memory of Godmother, Aunt Ella on her Anniversary 3/23; In loving memory of Aunt Anna on her birthday 3/23; Health and recovery of Bob Snyder, JC Geisman; Health of Nikki and Stefani and their unborn babies; God's blessings and good health to Ezra Bottoms; Health and recovery of Jim, Cheryl and Laura; Health of Matt, Wayne, Tom, Ron, Mary, Loren, Joe, Sonya, David, Julia, Tom, Jason, Margi & Joe, Betty, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Bohdi, Liz, Diane, Stella, Jake, Helen;

## LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH 2021

Wednesday, March 3: 6 attended Akathist  
Friday, March 5: 6 attended Akathist  
Saturday, March 6: 4 attended Vespers  
Sunday, March 7: 16 attended Liturgy / 13 Received Communion  
Wednesday, March 10: 6 attended Akathist  
Wednesday, March 10: 6 attended Akathist  
Saturday, March 13: 6 attended Vespers  
Sunday, March 14: 13 attended Liturgy (11 members / 1 guest / 8 communicants)  
Sunday, March 14: 12 attended Forgiveness Vespers (11 members / 1 guest)  
Monday, March 15:  
Noon 3 attended Prayers / 9 attended the Canon  
Tuesday, March 16:  
Noon: 2 attended Prayers / 9 attended the Canon  
Wednesday March 17:  
5 Attended Pre-Sanctified Liturgy / 9 attended the Canon  
Friday, March 19:  
2 attended Prayers / 10 attended Pre-Sanctified  
Saturday, March 20:  
8 Attended Liturgy / 6 attended Vespers  
Sunday, March 21:  
17 attended Liturgy / 13 received Communion  
Monday, March 22: 6 attended Prayers  
Tuesday, March 23: 3 attended Prayers  
Wednesday, March 24: 8 Attended Pre-sanctified  
Thursday, March 25: 5 attended Liturgy

### MARCH 2021: OTHER INCOME

Goal for the month in this category: \$2,670

Sunday, March 7: \$90 Candles; \$85 Vigils; \$255 Holy Day donations; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier

Week Total: \$530

Sunday March 14: \$45 Candles; \$130 Vigils; \$50 donation; \$350 Holy Day Donation

Week Total: \$575

Sunday, March 21: \$10 Candles; \$50 Vigils; \$230 Holy Day

Week Total: \$290

Month to date Total: \$1,395

## PRAYER LIST Updated 3-24

**HIERARCH'S / CLERGY:** His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman / John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Barry; Gregory Grivna; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Peter Pawlack; Peter Tutko; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle

**MATUSHKII:** Pani Patricia Duranko; Virginia Lecko; Maura McCarntey; Snezanna Ruzic; Margaret Zabinko

**PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES:** Jonah Adamcio; John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen (Cassell); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Ben Grosik (Hritsko); Julia Guzy; Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Mitch Hagmaier (Royhab); Ellie Hritsko; Charisee (Hileman); Betty Kovach; Terri Lariccia (Father); David LaValle (Father); Judy Leeatherman (Royhab) Helen Lis; Child Stephanos (Loizos); Jim Mazur; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Nancy Naiser (Royhab); Katelyn Pipenur (Hileman); Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Patricia Schritzing (Soski); Steven Schirtzinger (Soski); Valerie Schutt; Dacia Snider (Hileman); Christi Soski; Doris Toth (Hritsko); Peter Truta (Hileman); Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Tim; the child Bodhi (Cassell); Tim; Nikki Williams & her unborn child; Pani Nicole Mihaly & her unborn (Father)

**OTHER REQUESTS:** Mark Britton (Hritsko); Ernest Cornwell (Hritsko); James Crane (Hritsko); Kenny Crane (Twarek); Baby Finn (Cassell); Marge Dziama Fr's Dziama's daughter (former pastor); Mary Dziak (Twarek); Ruthe Flewelling, (Former parishioner); Ben Franklin (Kovach); James Geisman (Twarek); Theodore Geletka (Choir director St. Michael's Broadview Heights); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Andrea Joy (Kovach); Ann Marie Krynock (Timko); Melinda Kuzara (Archbishop's list); Gabriella (Archbishop's list); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Father); Karen Muzyka (Father); Vitaly Muzyka (Father); Charlie Nowak (Twarek); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Bob Snyder (Twarek); Gary Steyer (Twarek); Janice Timko; Philip Andy Timko; George Timko; Cheryl Wieber (Twarek); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Loren Welch (Father); Sara (Jake)

**MILITARY:** Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Nicholas & Tikhon

**CAPTIVES:** Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo), Archbishop John Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world



### BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund.*

### For Your Prayers

**Julia Guzy (97)**  
1601 Church Rd  
Marblehead, OH 43440

**Diane Tryon**  
109 Joslyn Street  
Arcadia, OH 44804

Please remember our shut-ins, especially now during this National crisis.

## VIRTUAL LENTEN YOUTH RETREAT SPONSORED BY FOCA

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America are calling all Orthodox youth of different ages to participate in a Lenten retreat. The retreat entitled “Rediscovering Pascha After a Year of Pandemic” will be held on Sunday April 11, 2021.

Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky and Archpriest Benjamin Tucci will be leading the retreat for children grades K-12 . The main theme will be rediscovering Pascha while emerging from a long period of separation and isolation. The event boasts of the opportunity to see old friends, renew relationships, and create new friendships as one prepares for Holy Week and Pascha.

Attendance is free but participants must register to receive the Zoom Link. Click the link below to access the registration form online. (Link is on the Diocesan website.)

An opportunity for all. No one has to leave their homes. It is free. Please take advantage.

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### Archbishop Paul's Travel Schedule: March 8 to April 12

**Protection of the Virgin Mary, Royalton, IL**  
March 27th to 28th

**St. John of Kronstadt, Lincoln, NE,**  
April 2nd to 4th

**Visits to SVS and STS Seminaries** to see students,  
April 5th to 8th

**St. Demetrius Church, Jackson, MI,**  
April 9th to 11th

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### 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

**March 28:** John Richard Elchisco

**April 4:** Police officer killed in LA / Jerry

**April 18:** Mat Sonya Tutko / Carol

**April 25:** Fr. Vladimir Lecko

**May 9:** Herbert

## Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (Epistle)

And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

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## Mark 2:1-12 (Gospel)

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”



## ***MARCH / APRIL Celebrations***

<b>ANNIVERSARY</b>	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>
17- Matt & Brittany 20- Ron & Bobbie Royhab 4-30-2011: Retired Bishop Matthias of Chicago  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NAMES DAY</b></p> 4-22: Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit 4-25: Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia	30- Bobbie Royhab (March)    18- Nancy Bunge 30- Fred Cassell (March)    18- Diane Tryon 31- Greg Mazur (March)    20- Nectarios Mihaly 1-Shawn Lariccia    22- Greg Tryon 2- Fr. Andrew Bartek    23- Paul Demkosky Jr 4- His Grace Bishop Matthias    24- Jim Mazur 5-Fr. Herman Kincaid    24-Matt Lariccia III 5- Nicholas Schutt    27- William Jerome 6-His Grace Bishop Paul    27- Katie Cassell 10- Jean Hileman    28- Serena Byngton 11- Christopher Mihaly    29- Katie Twarek 13- Jennifer Heffernan 13-Margarita Leso 17- Natalie Twarek

*If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.*

## ***MARCH / APRIL Reposed***

29- Todd Pollack (2019) (March) 29- Carolyn Woodward (2000) (March) 30- John Rofkar (2019) (March) Michael Elchisko (1909) No Date (March) Helen Millie (1910) No Date (March) George Danchisen (1912) No Date (March) 1-Andy Basala (1982) (God-father) 1-Andreas Basala (1923) 1-Larry Twarek (2019) 4- Sophia Jump (2012) 4- Rose Bartek (1986) 4- Harry Flewelling (2018) 4- Matthew Kollar (grandfather) 6- John Sabol (2017) 7- Louis M. Benya (1976) 7- Mitered Archpriest Basil Dziama (1969) Former Pastor 7- Bob Mazur (2018) 11- Archbishop John (1982) 11- LaVerne Schutt (2014) 12- Helen Tomko (1989) 14- Paul Glovinsky (1978) 15- Stephen Brooks (2005) 16- Mary Wright (2005)	17- Lois Mazurik (1999) 22- Olga Belenky (1971) 22- John Beadle (1988) 22- Fred Millie (1996) 23- Anna Basala (1994) 24- Demasthony Ballan (1968) 24- Fr. Stephen Dutko (2009) 26- Margaret Mazur (1987) 26- Russell Kovach (1981) 28-Ann Kovalick (2018) 29- Olga Kollmeier (1972) 30- Anthony Hubicki (1977) Dolores Martin (1974) No Date Herb Hobson (2004) No Date Charles Rose (2015) No Date Michael Elchisco (1913) No Date Andrew Kopchock (1914) No Date Anna Onyock (1916) Mo Date
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## 2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St Gregory Palamas Commemorated on March 28

This Sunday was originally dedicated to Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (February 23). After his glorification in 1368, a second commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas (November 14) was appointed for the Second Sunday of Great Lent as a second “Triumph of Orthodoxy.”

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. Saint Gregory’s father became a prominent dignitary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder Saint Nikodemos of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection. Gregory’s mother and sisters also became monastics.

After the demise of the Elder Nikodemos, Saint Gregory spent eight years of spiritual struggle under the guidance of the Elder Nicephorus, and after the latter’s death, Gregory transferred to the Lavra of Saint Athanasius (July 5). Here he served in the trapeza, and then became a church singer. But after three years, he resettled in the small skete of Glossia, striving for a greater degree of spiritual perfection. The head of this monastery began to teach the young man the method of unceasing prayer and mental activity, which had been cultivated by monastics, beginning with the great desert ascetics of the fourth century: Evagrius Pontikos and Saint Macarius of Egypt (January 19).

Later on, in the eleventh century Saint Simeon the New Theologian (March 12) provided detailed instruction in mental activity for those praying in an outward manner, and the ascetics of Athos put it into practice. The experienced use of mental prayer (or

prayer of the heart), requiring solitude and quiet, is called “Hesychasm” (from the Greek “hesychia” meaning calm, silence), and those practicing it were called “hesychasts.”

During his stay at Glossia the future hierarch Gregory became fully imbued with the spirit of hesychasm and adopted it as an essential part of his life. In the year 1326, because of the threat of Turkish invasions, he and the brethren retreated to Thessalonica, where he was then ordained to the holy priesthood.

Saint Gregory combined his priestly duties with the life of a hermit. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons. For those present in church, his teaching often evoked both tenderness and tears. Sometimes he visited theological gatherings of the city’s educated youth, headed by the future patriarch, Isidore. After he returned from a visit to Constantinople, he found a place suitable for solitary life near Thessalonica the region of Bereia. Soon he gathered here a small community of solitary monks and guided it for five years.

In 1331 the saint withdrew to Mt. Athos and lived in solitude at the skete of Saint Savva, near the Lavra of Saint Athanasius. In 1333 he was appointed Igumen of the Esphigmenou monastery in the northern part of the Holy Mountain. In 1336 the saint returned to the skete of Saint Savva, where he devoted himself to theological works, continuing with this until the end of his life.

In the 1330s events took place in the life of the Eastern Church which put Saint Gregory among the most significant universal apologists of Orthodoxy, and brought him great renown as a teacher of hesychasm.

About the year 1330 the learned monk Barlaam had arrived in Constantinople from Calabria, in Italy. He was the author of treatises on logic and astronomy, a skilled and sharp-witted orator, and he received a university chair in the capital city and began to expound on the works of Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3), whose “apophatic” (“negative”, in contrast to “kataphatic” or “positive”) theology was acclaimed in equal measure in both the Eastern and the Western Churches. Soon Barlaam journeyed to Mt. Athos, where he became acquainted with the spiritual life of the hesychasts. Saying that it was **Con’t Next Page**

## *St Gregory Con't*

impossible to know the essence of God, he declared mental prayer a heretical error. Journeying from Mount Athos to Thessalonica, and from there to Constantinople, and later again to Thessalonica, Barlaam entered into disputes with the monks and attempted to demonstrate the created, material nature of the light of Tabor (i.e. at the Transfiguration). He ridiculed the teachings of the monks about the methods of prayer and about the uncreated light seen by the hesychasts.

Saint Gregory, at the request of the Athonite monks, replied with verbal admonitions at first. But seeing the futility of such efforts, he put his theological arguments in writing. Thus appeared the "Triads in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts" (1338). Towards the year 1340 the Athonite ascetics, with the assistance of the saint, compiled a general response to the attacks of Barlaam, the so-called "Hagiorite Tome." At the Constantinople Council of 1341 in the church of Hagia Sophia Saint Gregory Palamas debated with Barlaam, focusing upon the nature of the light of Mount Tabor. On May 27, 1341 the Council accepted the position of Saint Gregory Palamas, that God, unapproachable in His Essence, reveals Himself through His energies, which are directed towards the world and are able to be perceived, like the light of Tabor, but which are neither material nor created. The teachings of Barlaam were condemned as heresy, and he himself was anathemized and fled to Calabria.

But the dispute between the Palamites and the Barlaamites was far from over. To these latter belonged Barlaam's disciple, the Bulgarian monk Akyndinos, and also Patriarch John XIV Kalekos (1341-1347); the emperor Andronicus III Paleologos (1328-1341) was also inclined toward their opinion. Akyndinos, whose name means "one who inflicts no harm," actually caused great harm by his heretical teaching. Akyndinos wrote a series of tracts in which he declared Saint Gregory and the Athonite monks guilty of causing church disorders. The saint, in turn, wrote a detailed refutation of Akyndinos' errors. The patriarch supported Akyndinos and called Saint Gregory the cause of all disorders and disturbances in the Church (1344) and had him locked up in prison for four years. In 1347, when John the XIV was replaced on the patriarchal throne by Isidore (1347-

1349), Saint Gregory Palamas was set free and was made Archbishop of Thessalonica.

In 1351 the Council of Blachernae solemnly upheld the Orthodoxy of his teachings. But the people of Thessalonica did not immediately accept Saint Gregory, and he was compelled to live in various places. On one of his travels to Constantinople the Byzantine ship fell into the hands of the Turks. Even in captivity, Saint Gregory preached to Christian prisoners and even to his Moslem captors. The Hagarenes were astonished by the wisdom of his words. Some of the Moslems were unable to endure this, so they beat him and would have killed him if they had not expected to obtain a large ransom for him. A year later, Saint Gregory was ransomed and returned to Thessalonica.

Saint Gregory performed many miracles in the three years before his death, healing those afflicted with illness. On the eve of his repose, Saint John Chrysostom appeared to him in a vision. With the words "To the heights! To the heights!" Saint Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359. In 1368 he was canonized at a Constantinople Council under Patriarch Philotheus (1354-1355, 1364-1376), who compiled the Life and Services to the saint.

### **Prayer of St. Ephrem**

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.  
*(Full Prostration)*

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.  
*(Full Prostration)*

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Full Prostration)*

O God, cleanse me, a sinner *(12 times)*.  
And recite prayer one more time. *(Full prostration)*



## NEW PASCHA SCHEDULE THIS YEAR

Due to the aging population of our parish, I am going to try the following schedule for Pascha weekend. Please plan accordingly. Good Friday is a very holy day. Therefore, my recommendation is for children to stay home from school and adults stay home from work on Friday April 30th, Holy and Great Friday in order to spend the day in church. This year a maximum of 26 people allowed at any service unlike last year when we were not permitted to hold any services. Reservations are required.

### Great & Holy Friday:

Noon: (6<sup>th</sup> Hour) Royal Hours (following the service there will be light Lenten refreshments)  
(About 1.75 hours)

3:00 pm: Burial Vespers (About 1.25 hours) (Following the service there will be light Lenten refreshments)

5:30pm: Lamentations & Matins of Holy Saturday  
(About 1.5 – 2 hours)

All night Grave Watch: Sign up for 1 hour turns, or stay with me through out the night guarding the Tomb of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### Great & Holy Saturday:

9:30 am: Akathist to the Life Bearing Tomb

3:00 pm: Akathist to the Resurrection

4:00 pm: Vespers Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday followed by the Nocturn Service. (Nocturn service: Christ comes out of the tomb & is placed on the altar)

### PASCHA:

7:50 am: Begin Procession outside

8:00 am: Resurrection Matins

9:05 am: (approximate time) Paschal Hours

9:10 am: (approximate time) Divine Liturgy

10:50 am (approximate time) Blessing of the Baskets)

11:00 am (approximate time) Agape Meal / Social  
(This will be the first time held at the parish.

“Agape” means “Love.” The “Love meal” is when the Spiritual family first breaks bread together before breaking bread with their personal family. Everyone eats a little from their Pascha baskets. Stay for as long or little as you wish. Currently, 8 people are interested. Please consider staying.

## Upcoming Virtual Tour of the Holy Land

In anticipation of the coming days of Holy Week and our Lord’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will sponsor a virtual tour of holy sites in Jerusalem on Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 7:00pm (EST) via Zoom.

The tour will be led by Archpriest Ilya Gotlinsky, Rector of Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in Binghamton, New York. Fr. Ilya is the director of Orthodox Tours, an agency providing the opportunity for pilgrimage and travel to Orthodox countries and holy places around the world. Having led many trips to the Holy Land, Fr. Ilya has a wealth of knowledge to share.

To reserve your spot simply, the FOCA requests that a donation (tax deductible) be made on their page at Eventbrite.com. Once the donation is made, donors will receive a Zoom link via email.

All proceeds will benefit the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America’s United Fund — funding youth activities, scholarships, and the charitable outreach of the F.O.C.A.

Register on the Diocesan website

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## CATASTROPHIC RELIEF FUND

Purpose of fund: To provide some small financial assistance to a parishioner, family member or community member who has suffered a catastrophic event.

Funds will be offered at the discretion & blessing of the Rector and the discretion of the Board.

This money can also be used for outreach programs in the parish

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## The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



## The Importance of Reconciliation and Love During the Fast

As long as we live self-centered lives, we cannot forgive our neighbor, our ego will not allow it. Once our lives are God-centered, however, we are able to forgive others as God forgives us. Let us remember that God's mercy and forgiveness to us is often hidden in our mercy and forgiveness to others. Our Lenten journey is not an isolated or an individual affair but a family event. (Forgiveness Sunday Synaxarion)

I can't think of any better words for family members to pray and meditate on as they begin the Great Fast leading us to the Holy Pascha of our Lord. This above text is based on the Gospel reading from Matthew read on Forgiveness Sunday. If our fasting and praying do not lead us to being reconciled with one another and extending mercy to one another, then we are not fasting and praying for the right reasons.

So how can we get to the point that we fast and pray for the right reasons? Hear some further thoughts about this:

### WHEN YOU FAST; NOT IF YOU FAST;

Don't make a public display of it

"I know some, well – actually I know many – who, even while neglecting to fast, yet still wear the garments of those who fast. The cloak themselves with a false exoneration worse than their actual sin." John Chrysostom

Vainglory is just not rooted in having fine dress and want to look good in the eyes of man; it can also mean wanting to look and act piously just so that people will notice external facades and commend you for being something you are not.

"I would like to urge you to forsake everything, but that I do not presume to do. Yet, if you cannot give up everything of this world, at least keep what belongs to the world in such a way that you yourself are not kept prisoner of the world. Whatever you possess must not possess you; whatever you own must be under the power of your soul; for if your soul is overpowered by the love of this world's goods, it will totally at the mercy of its

possessions." St Gregory the Great Pope of Rome; In the World Yet Not of It

If we have this attitude about fasting we will be able to enter into a right relationship with what God gives as stewards. We will be able to use what we have been entrusted with for the well being others and not just ourselves. Lord free us from the things that possess us, so that we use what you give us in extending compassion to others. Free us from the grudges we hang onto, so we can forgive those who have wronged us.

Forgive me a sinner,

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

+Paul

## NEW SUB-COMMITTEES FORM AT COUNCIL MEETING

Six (6) sub-committees have been established to help keep church life organized. Each Council member will chair a Committee. Please pray about which committee you are willing to serve on & contact that Council Member (when info is posted). Council members will also be approaching parishioners to serve on their respective committee. This is an opportunity to give your talents back to the Lord.

**Outreach Committee** (external / internal)

**Fundraising Committee** (all fundraisers)

**Grounds Upkeep Committee**

**Sunshine Committee**

**Church Cleaning Committee**

**Church basement & bathroom Cleaning Committee**



## WEEK THREE LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Saint Mary of Egypt:

The beloved Saint Mary of Egypt ran away from her home at the age of twelve. It was probably an unhappy home, and Mary spent the next years trying to enjoy herself in any way she could. Perhaps she thought living this way would bring her happiness, but it didn't do so.

One day Mary saw a lively group of people boarding a ship bound for Jerusalem. She decided to go with them. The ship arrived on the day of the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. Mary followed a crowd to the door of the church, but when she tried to enter, something held her back. This happened three times.

Mary saw the icon of Mary the Mother of God above the door. Suddenly she felt how far her life was from that other Mary's life, and she was deeply sad and ashamed. She begged the Theotokos to help her. Then, she was able to enter the church to worship and pray.

As she prayed, she heard a voice telling her to cross the Jordan and go into the desert. The voice told her that in the desert she would find peace. Mary did go, and it was not easy. She suffered and became ill, but she kept praying. She spent 47 years in the desert, and after all her efforts she died a holy person.

Another person in Saint Mary of Egypt's story is the monk Zossima. He hoped to become more perfect in his faith, and asked God to send him a teacher. Zossima was sure that God would provide a wise monk to teach him. He walked deep into the desert, for twenty days, expecting to find holy monks he could learn from.

Instead, he met Mary of Egypt. She told him about her life and asked him to pray for her. She then asked him to come the next year and to bring her Holy Communion, and he promised to do so. Zossima realized that this simple woman, who had become close to God through her years of prayer, was the teacher the Lord had sent.

Zossima did visit Mary the next year. They prayed together, and she received Holy Communion. But this would be the last time they would meet. When Zossima came again, Mary had died. With the help

of a strong lion, the monk buried the teacher sent by God: Saint Mary of Egypt.

Read the account of Samuel being sent to anoint the man God had chosen to be king of Israel from among the sons of Jesse. It is in I Kingdoms (I Samuel) 16: 1-13. What does Samuel have in common with Zossima? (Both men were surprised by God's choice: Samuel expected that the man chosen to be king of Israel would be one of Jesse's tall, strong sons rather than David, the youngest. Zossima expected that God would send a wise monk to teach him; instead it was Saint Mary of Egypt.)

What words in the account of Samuel's experience can help us understand that we shouldn't depend too much on our own expectations? (In verse 7 we read that "...the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.") How can we be more open to the kinds of people God may send into our lives, especially during this Great Lent?

Saint Mary prayed in the desert for decades. Our lives are not like hers, but we too can pray. Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev writes about this in his book *Prayer: Encounter with the Living God*. He offers ways we can incorporate prayer over the course of each day. He goes on:

"People often justify their reluctance to pray by the fact that they are too busy and are overloaded with things to do. Yes, many of us live in a sort of rhythm unlike that of people of antiquity. Sometimes we have to do a great number of things over the course of the day. But in life there are always certain pauses. For example, we might stand at the bus stop for three to five minutes; if we take the train, for twenty or thirty minutes. We dial a number and get a busy signal—another few minutes. Let us at least use these pauses for prayer; let it at least not be wasted time."

How might we use the "pauses" in our lives as opportunities to pray?

Note: For more on Saint Mary of Egypt, see *Saints and the Animals That Served Them*, one of the series of Activity Books produced by the Department of Christian Education. The whole series is available for free download at [dce.oca.org](http://dce.oca.org)