



WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH
March 10, 2019

Forgiveness Sunday - Cheesefare Sunday

Epistle: **Romans 13:11-14:4** Gospel: **Matthew 6:14-21**

Weekly Schedule of Services/Events

Sunday, March 10

9:00AM Divine Liturgy - Epistle: Gregory Morrison

10:30AM Church School

Pre-Lenten Breakfast

4:00PM Forgiveness Vespers

Rescue Mission

Monday, March 11

8:00AM Midnight Office

5:00PM Prospect House

7:00PM Canon of St. Andrew

Tuesday, March 12

8:00AM Midnight Office

7:00PM Canon of St. Andrew

Wednesday, March 13

8:00AM Midnight Office

7:00PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 14

8:00AM Midnight Office

7:00PM Canon of St. Andrew

Friday, March 15

8:00AM Midnight Office

7:00PM Paraklis

Saturday, March 16

9:00AM Monthly Memorial

Sunday, March 17

9:00AM Divine Liturgy - Epistle: Hailey McKane

10:30AM Church School - Coffee: Fuentes

4:00PM Lenten Vespers: Holy Trinity Bpt.

Food Bank

Service Schedule

Divine Liturgy 9am

Weekday Eve Service 7pm

General Information

www.stjohnsmillhill.com

Street Address

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Bridgeport, CT 06610

Mailing Address

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Diocesan Resources

Diocesan Website

www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth

www.campnazareth.org

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/acrod-](http://www.facebook.com/acrod-diocese)

[diocese](http://www.facebook.com/acrod-diocese)

Twitter

[www.twitter.com/acrod-](http://www.twitter.com/acrod-news)

[news](http://www.twitter.com/acrod-news)

YouTube

[www.youtube.com/acrod-](http://www.youtube.com/acrod-diocese)

[diocese](http://www.youtube.com/acrod-diocese)

Weekly Announcements

PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST: We will hold our Pre-Lenten Breakfast following Divine Liturgy today. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Hope to see you there.

ADULT EDUCATION: Please see the bulletin for info on the upcoming baking for Lent. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

PARENTING WORKSHOP: The Diocese is sponsoring a Parenting Workshop that will be held at our Church in Rockaway. Please see the flyer in the bulletin for more information.

SLOVAKIA TRIP: Holy Trinity Church in Danbury is hosting a trip to Slovakia August 19-31. The trip will visit many historical, cultural and religious sights. If you are interested in possibly going on the trip, please contact Fr. Luke Mihaly at padreluke@aol.com to receive a complete brochure of the trip.

SUNDAY LENTEN VESPERS: The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will once again be offering Lenten Vesper Services starting with the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport on March 17th at 4pm. Please see the flyer in the bulletin for all of the upcoming services and plan to attend.

ADULT EDUCATION: Our adult education class will be looking at our faith in comparison with other faiths in the world. We will be using the book "Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy" by Fr. Stephen Damick. If you are interested in having the book, it may be ordered from Ancient Faith ministries or from Amazon.

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Epistle Reading Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only veg-

etables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading **Matthew 6:14-21**

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Here it were well to sigh aloud, and to wail bitterly: for not only do we imitate the hypocrites, but we have even surpassed them.

For I know, yea I know many, not merely fasting and making a display of it, but neglecting to fast, and yet wearing the masks of them that fast, and cloaking themselves with an excuse worse than their sin.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 20 on Matthew 6, 4th Century



Office of the Metropolitan

312 Garfield Street

Johnstown, PA 15906

GREAT LENT 2019

Protocol No. 3/2019

My Beloved Faithful Clergy and Laity of Our God-protected Diocese:

As we begin Holy and Great Lent on March 11th I wanted to share with you a few thoughts so that we may journey through the season and arrive safely at the Great Feast of Feasts, Holy Pascha with the proper frame of mind.

Great Lent is a period of increased activity for the active Orthodox Christian. Our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving must increase. Attendance at Church services (of which there are many) and spiritual reading must increase. We must increase our self-examination, reflection and confession. Great Lent is also a period of decreased activity for the active Orthodox Christian. We should show restraint in our normal “outside of Lent” lifestyle. We should reduce our watching of television, listening to the radio, surfing the internet, going to concerts and movies. Great Lent is not just about what we eat, but more importantly how we live.

In our prayer life the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian is read each week day during Great Lent.

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to thy servant.

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

Jesus Christ’s instructions on fasting are found in Matthew 6:16-18.

“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

When we fall away from God, we have removed ourselves from His communion. We have excommunicated ourselves. To re-enter communion with God is the on-going activity of all Christians. We fall away daily in some way or another. No one is exempt.

We are telling God that we have changed our mind about the past direction and want to be back in communion with Him. The Greek word for repentance is “metanoia” which implies a deep change in the way we see ourselves, our world, and our relationship with God.

And so I strongly encourage all of you to go to Confession and to rid yourselves of the heavy burdens of your sins or as I tell the young people of our Diocese “just dump all of your garbage” and begin anew.

I hope and pray that this Great Lenten Season will be spiritually inspiring and an uplifting experience for all of you.

Working in His Vineyard with much love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Metropolitan Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Lenten Baking Schedule

We will be baking on the following dates:

March 28-29 Pagachi

April 4-5 Nut, Prune and Poppy Rolls

April 11-12 - Paska Breads

April 18-19 - Monthly Pirohi

Please consider making time to come and help. Any and all help is appreciated.

GREAT LENT 2019 ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

MARCH 29 Pagach (Potao & Cabbage) \$14 each

Potato _____

Cabbage _____

APRIL 5 Nut, Poppy Prune Rolls \$15 each

Nut Rolls _____

Poppy Rolls _____

Prune Rolls _____

w raisins _____

w raisins _____

w raisins _____

APRIL 12 Paska Bread Large \$8 Small \$4

Large _____

Small _____

w raisins _____

w raisins _____

To place orders:

Leave this form in the Church Office

Call Church office and leave message: (203) 334-5932

Call Carol Feduik (203) 520-0904 or email her at carolcfeduik@yahoo.com

Orders must be placed Sunday prior to sale

Forgiveness Sunday



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.

Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople

This Saint was the son of one of the foremost princes in Constantinople, and was originally a consul and first among the Emperor's private counselors. Then, in 784, he was elected Patriarch of Constantinople by the Sovereigns Irene and her son Constantine Porphyrogenitus. He convoked the Seventh Ecumenical Council that upheld the holy icons, and became the boast of the Church and a light to the clergy. He reposed in 806.

The Church Fathers on Fasting and Great Lent

"When He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards was hungry, He gave an opportunity to the devil to draw near, so that He might teach us through this encounter how we are to overcome and defeat him. This a wrestler also does. For in order to teach his pupils how to win he himself engages in contests with others, demonstrating on the actual bodies of others that they may learn how to gain the mastery. This is what took place here. For, desiring to draw the devil into contest, He made His hunger known to him. He met him as he approached, and meeting him, with the skill which He alone possessed, He once, twice, and a third time, threw His enemy to the ground." - **St. John Chrysostom - The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers**

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2019

The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!!
REGISTER ONLINE STARTING MAR. 1, 2019!!!

Dates for the Summer Camping Program

Week 1: July 14-20, 2019

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

Week 2: July 21-27, 2019

New England, NY, NJ, Florida and Canada Deaneries

Week 3: July 28-August 3, 2019

Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries

Register Online Starting March 1, 2019 - Register at campnazareth.org

From the Home Page, From the 2019 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 2019 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, 2019!!!!

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.

Family Connections

Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday

Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 & Matthew 6:14-21



The season of the virtues now has come, and the Judge is at the door. Let us not hold back with darkened face, but let us keep the fast, offering tears, repentance, and almsgiving; and let us cry: our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; Deliverer of all, forgive each one of us, that we may receive an incorruptible crown.

—from the Vespers of Forgiveness Sunday

EXPLORE TOGETHER:

Agape Canister—This Sunday has been designated Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Sunday.

Take some time to learn about this ministry and ways you can support it. Consider participating in the Agape Canister program by collecting spare change during the Lenten period to further missionary activities. Visit www.ocmc.org for more information.

Forgive Me—A good habit to begin is asking forgiveness from family members on mornings when you are attending Divine Liturgy. Teach your children to respond to someone that asks for forgiveness by saying, “May God forgive us both.”

Forgiveness Vespers—As tomorrow is Clean Monday, today we seek forgiveness not only from our family members and friends but from our parish family. Make plans to attend Forgiveness Vespers as a family. In addition, ask your priest for prayers from the service to read at home as a family. After reading these prayers, have each family member ask for forgiveness with a prostration and kiss of peace.

Before church next week, read the scripture passages for the
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 and John 1:43-51

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR COUPLES AND FAMILIES, VISIT:

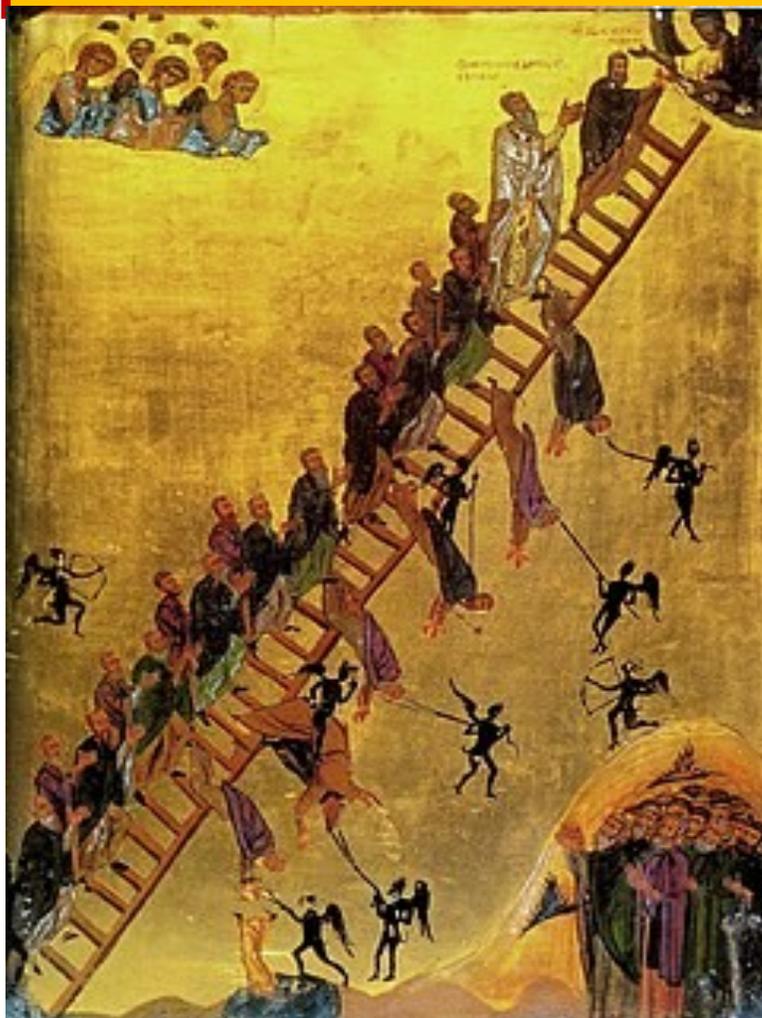


Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.family.goarch.org

Lenten Retreat

*Focusing on the Ladder of Divine Ascent and our
spiritual journey one step at a time*

April 13, 2019



Speakers:

His Eminence

Metropolitan Gregory

Fr. Anthony Perkins

Retreat registration:

Adults \$40 (late fee \$15)

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

nsufler@aol.com call – 610-892-7315

St. Francis Center for Renewal

395 Bridle Path Road

Bethlehem, PA