



WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH
March 17, 2019

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

Epistle: **Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40** Gospel: **John 1:43-51**

Weekly Schedule of Services/Events

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

Monday, March 18

8:00AM Midnight Office
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 19

12:00PM St. John's Seniors

Wednesday, March 20

9:00AM + Butchko
5:45PM Confessions
6:30PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7:30PM Adult Class

Thursday, March 21

9:00AM Monthly Pirohi 9am

Friday, March 22

9:00AM Monthly Pirohi
7:00PM Paraklis

Saturday, March 23

9:00AM Soul Saturday - Confessions following

Sunday, March 24

9:00AM Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Lynne Goetz
10:30AM Church School - Coffee: Algar
4:00PM Lenten Vespers: St. John's Boradbridge

Service Schedule

Divine Liturgy 9am
Weekday Eve Service 7pm

General Information

www.stjohnsmillhill.com

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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-

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

YouTube

www.youtube.com/arod-

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

Weekly Announcements

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

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 today at 4pm. If you plan to sing in the choir you are asked to be at the service one hour prior for rehearsal

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.

CONFESSIONS: Confessions will be heard each Wednesday prior to the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy starting at 5:45pm. They will end at 6:15pm to give proper time for the start of Pre-Sanctified Liturgy.

MONTHLY PIROHI: We will be holding our monthly pirohi session this Thursday and Friday. Please get your orders into the Church office or Fr. David today.

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Epistle Reading Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel Reading John 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Peter, when after so many miracles and such high doctrine he confessed that, "Thou art the Son of God" (Matt. xvi. 16), is called "blessed," as having received the revelation from the Father; while Nathanael, though he said the very same thing before seeing or hearing either miracles or doctrine, had no such word addressed to him, but as though he had not said so much as he ought to have said, is brought to things greater still.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 21 on John 1, 1. B#58, pp. 72, 73, 4th Century

Fasting is an exceptional virtue; it represses bodily impulses and gives strength to the soul to fight against the poisoning of the heart through the senses, and provides it with a remedy against any past poisoning. Fasting causes the mind to be cleansed constantly. It withers up every evil thought and brings healthy, godly thoughts – holy thoughts that enlighten the mind and kindle it with more zeal and spiritual fervour.

Elder Ephraim of Philotheou Mount Athos, "Counsels from the Holy Mountain"

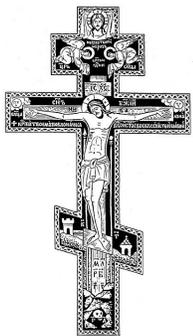
OCAGB lenten vespers 2019



Sunday March 17 Sunday of Orthodoxy
Holy Trinity Church, Bridgeport 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday March 24—2nd Sunday of Lent -
St. Gregory Palamas**

St. John's, Church Broadbridge, Stratford – 4:00 p.m.



**Sunday March 31—3rd Sunday of Lent -
Veneration of the Holy Cross (FORCC)**

OCAGB—Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday April 7—4th Sunday of Lent -
St. John Climacus**

OCAGB: St. Nicholas, Bridgeport—4:00 p.m.



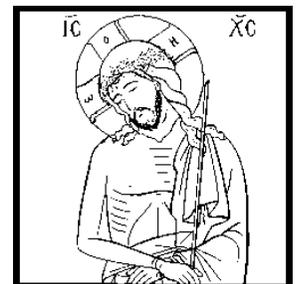
**Sunday April 14—5th Sunday of Lent -
St. Mary of Egypt - Holy Unction Service**

Three Saints Church – Ansonia 4:00 p.m.



**Sunday April 21—Palm Sunday -
Bridegroom Matins**

OCAGB St. John Church, Mill Hill Ave, Bridgeport



On Stewardship: #111 What do I Have to Give?

"But the serpent said to the woman, 'you will not die'." (Genesis 3:4 RSV)

What do Adam and Eve have to do with stewardship? Well, they have everything to do with not being good stewards! They were not the stewards God wanted them to be.

Surely they started out doing what God asked them to do and likely were very happy with taking care of all that God gave them. And they were blessed by being in continual communion with Him.

Wow! Can you imagine, walking in the presence of God every day and talking to Him?

Adam and Eve had it all. They were made in God's image, lived in Eden (Paradise), which was lush and green and without thorns and thistles to contend with, so tilling the soil was effortless as well as enjoyable. They labored and played side-by-side in perfect harmony.

Unfortunately, for some of us the response to the above would be, "Whatever!" Is that so much different from what Adam and Eve eventually thought? Although they had everything that they could ever want, they took life for granted, and sought more. They wanted to be God. But, they wanted "their stuff." They desired to be gods more than they desired to be in communion with God. Their humanity and personal desires preceded God's ever-present and eternal love.

Hmmm. Does that sound familiar? Are we doing the same thing Adam and Eve did? If you are honest with yourself and, you should be because your eternal salvation depends on it, you would say: "Yes." House, cars, boats, entertainment, television, computer games, sporting events, and vacations all precede our love of God. Many come late to church and leave before the final prayers to take your kids to sporting events or other entertainment; again the priority is not God. We watch television instead of working in the ministry of the church or even attend evening services or adult education. We want what we want, not what God wants for us.

Self-love is the root of all evil thoughts. Self-love is what Adam and Eve exhibited in the Garden of Eden. Just look at the result of their self-love - sin and death. Oh my, what will be the result of your self-love?

Our loving God gave us time here on earth to work these things out and prepare ourselves for eternity. Unfortunately, He did not give us unlimited time, we will all die. The ancient Roman phrase *memento mori* ("remember that you have to die") are words we should heed. At the point of death, God will call upon us to "show me (Him) your heart and to whom or what it belongs."

This weekly series of brief thoughts on stewardship and Orthodox life is brought to you by your Diocesan Stewardship Commission.

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:

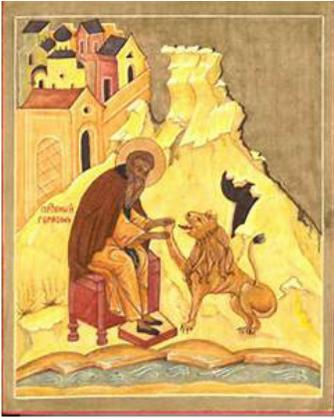
Leave this form in the Church Office

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

The Monk Gerasimos



The Monk Gerasimos was a native of Lycia (Asia Minor). From his early years he was distinguished for his piety. Having then accepted monasticism, the monk withdrew into the depths of the Thebaid wilderness (in Egypt). Thereafter, in about the year 450, the monk arrived in Palestine and settled at the Jordan, where he founded a monastery. For a certain while Saint Gerasimos was tempted by the heresy of Eutykhios and Dioskoros, which acknowledged in Jesus Christ only the Divine nature, but not His human nature (i.e. the Monophysite heresy). The Monk Euthymios the Great (Comm. 20 January) helped him to return to the true faith.

At the monastery the Monk Gerasimos established a strict monastic rule. He spent five days of the week in solitude, occupying himself with handicrafts and prayer. On these days the wilderness dwellers did not eat cooked food, nor even kindle a fire, but rather ate only dry bread, roots and water. On Saturday and Sunday all gathered at the monastery for Divine Liturgy and to commune the Holy Mysteries of Christ. In the afternoon, taking with them a supply of bread, tubers, water and an armload of date-palm branches for weaving into baskets, the wilderness dwellers returned to their own cells. Each had only old clothes and a mat, upon which he slept. In exiting their cells, the door was never secured, so that anyone coming by could enter, and rest, or take along necessities.

The Monk Gerasimos himself attained an high level of asceticism. During Great Lent he ate nothing until the very day of the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ, when he communed the Holy Mysteries. Going out into the wilderness for the whole of Great Lent, the Monk Gerasimos took along with him his beloved disciple Blessed Kyriakos (Comm. 29 September), whom the Monk Euthymios had sent off to him.

At the time of the death of Saint Euthymios the Great, the Monk Gerasimos saw how Angels carried up the soul of the departed off to Heaven. Taking Kyriakos with him, the monk immediately set off to the monastery of Saint Euthymios and consigned his body to earth.

The Monk Gerasimos himself died peacefully, wept over by brethren and disciples. Before his death, a lion had aided the Monk Gerasimos in his tasks, and upon the death of the elder it too died at his grave and was buried nearby. And therefore the lion is depicted on icons of the saint, at his feet.

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

1st Sunday of Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 & John 1:43-51

If someone turns with his spiritual world to the spiritual world of another person, he encounters an awesome and inspiring mystery... He comes into contact with the true image of God in man with the very icon of God incarnate in the world, with a reflection of the mystery of God's incarnation and divine manhood. And he needs to accept this awesome revelation of God unconditionally, to venerate the image of God in his brother.

—St. Maria of Paris (20th century)

EXPLORE TOGETHER:

Make a Family Icon Tree—In honor of the restoration of icons which is commemorated today,

make a family icon tree. Search online for your family patron saint icons and an icon of Christ. Download, format for size, and print the icons. On a piece of poster board, draw a tree with a branch for every member of your family. Place Christ's icon in the trunk, and the family icons on the branches. Decorate as you like and display somewhere prominent in your home. Visit www.lent.goarch.org for more resources on this Sunday and to guide your Lenten journey.

“I Saw You” Journals—In today's Gospel lesson, Nathanael is curious about how Jesus knows him, and Jesus responds, “I saw you.” How important it is for us to remember that Jesus sees all of us. He does not just see us where we are but He sees into our hearts and knows us better than we know ourselves. For one week, have each member of your family keep a brief daily journal (written or drawn). In this journal, each person should reflect on what Jesus saw them do that day and what was in their hearts. Have each family member use these journals at the end of the day to offer prayers for guidance and gratitude.

**Before church next week, read the scripture passages for the
2nd Sunday of Lent: St. Gregory of Palamas
Hebrews 1:10-14, 2:1-3 & Mark 2:1-12**

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR COUPLES AND FAMILIES, VISIT:

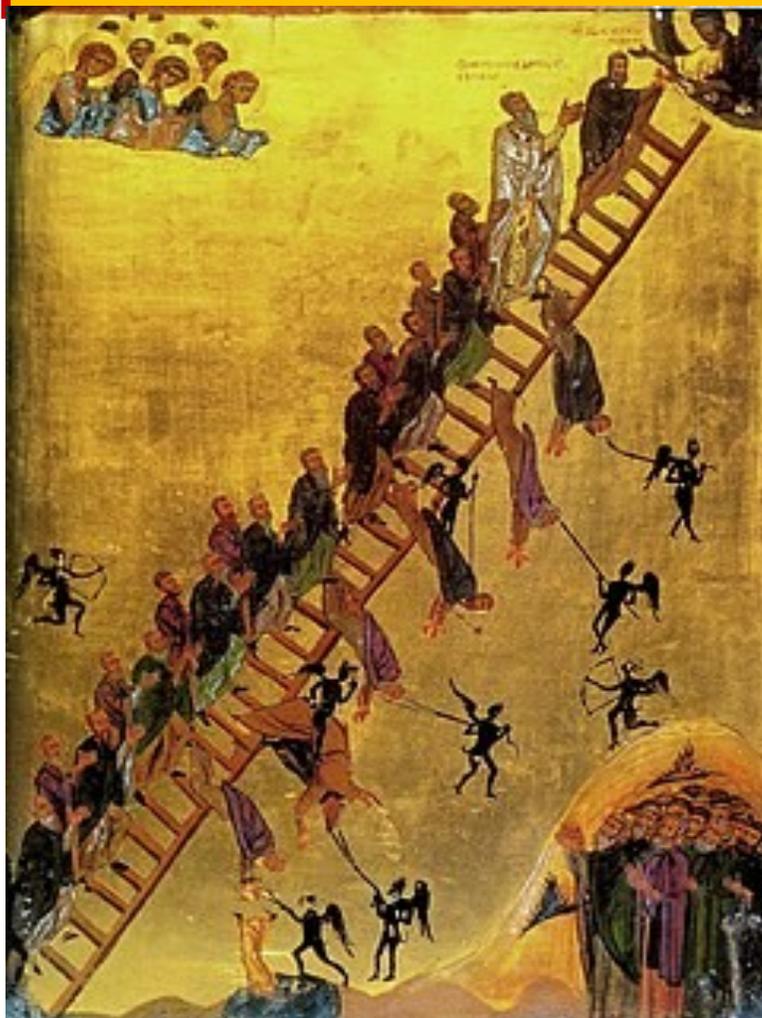


Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.family.goarch.org

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