
St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

2300 W. Huntington Dr.

Wilmington, DE 19808

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www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org

Sunday February 23, 2020 SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

– Tone 3. *Sunday of the Last Judgment. Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (167). Ven. Polycarp of Briansk (1620-1621). Ven. John, Antiochus, Antoninus, Moses, Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, Ascetics, of the Syrian deserts (5th c.). Ven. Alexander, founder of the Monastery of the “Unsleeping Ones” (ca. 430). Ven. Damian of Esphigmenou (Mt. Athos – 1280). Monastic Martyr Damian of Philotheou (1568).*

This Week's Schedule

Thursday 2/27 Study Group 10:00 a.m.

Friday 2/28 Little Angels 9:30 a.m.

Saturday 2/29 Great Vespers 5: 00 p.m.

Sunday 3/1 Hours 8:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Followed by Coffee Hour

Beginning of Great Lent

Forgiveness Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3RD HOUR</u>	<u>6TH HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Feb-23	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Mar-1	LEWIS	SULPIZI	LEWIS
Mar-8	J PECK	PECK	PECK
Mar-15	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	CAREY

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Tone 1 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, //
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps 146/147:5)

v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps 146/147:1)

Epistle1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps 94/95:1)

v: v: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. (Ps 94/95:2)

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week's Announcements

Great Lent to Begin Just a reminder that our Lenten journey will begin with Forgiveness Vespers next Sunday, March 1st, at 7:00 p.m. All should make a sincere effort to begin the Lenten season with this service and the "Mutual rite of forgiveness". "On Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us. If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14– 18)."

Basics of Orthodoxy Class We will be offering the basics of Orthodoxy class during the Lenten season on Thursday evenings during the Lenten season. The class will run for six weeks beginning March 5th at 8:00 p.m. The class will be an excellent opportunity for those interested in becoming Catechumens or anyone interested in brushing up on their faith. Please See Fr. Barnabas or Scott Lewis if you have any questions.

Forty Day Club The “Forty Day Club” provides meals for families who have a newborn. This Spring Glory to God, we are experiencing a flood of new babies. For the first time, we will be providing meals for more than one family at a time! We really could use all the help we can get. The process is simple: sign up to bring a meal to church on Sunday, and put it in the refrigerator. (Someone else delivers it.) The meal does not have to be fancy or gourmet; simple meals will do. This is a marvelous way for St. Michaels to nurture and care for each other. Please help us! See Juliana Bunitsky to be added to the list.

***PHILADELPHIA ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD
MISSION VESPERS SCHEDULE GREAT LENT 2020***

ALL SERVICES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 PM

Sunday of Orthodoxy 1st Sunday (March 08) Ss Peter and Paul,
Wilmington 1406 Philadelphia Pike, 19809

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas 2nd Sunday (March 15) St Mark
Church, Wrightstown 452 Durham Rd, 18940

Sunday of the Precious Cross 3rd Sunday (March 22) Holy Trinity
Church, Pottstown 1236 Juniper St, 19464

Sunday of St. John of the Ladder 4th Sunday (March 29) St George
Church, Upper Darby 8210 W. Chester Pike, 19082

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt 5th Sunday (April 05) St John Chrysostom,
Philadelphia 237 N 17th Street, 19103

Challenge from Saint Andrew

As Great Lent begins on March 2nd, we begin chanting and singing "The Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete" and continue each evening in church. Saint Andrew took part in the Sixth Ecumenical Council at Constantinople in the year 680, and then served as Archdeacon at the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia in that city. Later he was consecrated as a bishop in the city of Gortineia, on the island of Crete. In addition to these important services to the Church, he wrote sermons, as well as some of the most famous hymns we have, many in praise of the Theotokos. The best-known of the hymns written by Andrew is the Canon with which we begin the season of preparation for Great and Holy Pascha.

The words of the Canon challenge us in several ways. First, they contain innumerable Biblical references which may not be familiar. We don't all have the broad knowledge of the Scriptures that a good number of Andrew's hearers in earlier centuries possessed. So when the Canon verse reads, "You, my soul, have revolted from the Lord like Dathan and Abiram" we may have to look up these two men in Chapter 16 of the Book of Numbers. There we will find that they rebelled against Moses and Aaron and asked them, "Why do you exalt yourselves above the congregation...Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey; to kill us in the wilderness...?" Moses replies that it is God they are rebelling against, and Saint Andrew uses the incident as a warning to trust God and not be rebellious, "but with all your heart cry 'Spare!'", that a yawning gulf of the earth may not swallow you."

The Canon also challenges us to follow Biblical examples. Saint Andrew writes, "The Shunammite woman of old with right good will entertained the righteous man. But you, my soul, have taken into your house neither stranger nor traveler." This offers us a good spiritual exercise: We can consider, with serious prayer, what it means for us to "take into our house" those whom God may send, and how we will go about it.

We're also challenged to be worthy of Christ's saving acts: "You laid down Your body and blood for all, O Crucified Word; Your body in order to renew me, Your blood in order to wash me, and You did surrender Your spirit, O Christ, in order to bring me to the Father...Eden that was closed is open; things on high and below, creation and all peoples are saved and worship You."

Great Lent is given to us as a time to work toward meeting these challenges. We can be assured that with God's help we are able to do so. Referring to Exodus 14:16 Saint Andrew writes: "Imagine Moses' staff striking the sea and fixing the deep as a type of the divine Cross, by which you too, my soul, can accomplish great things."

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

You must not wage your Christian struggle with sermons and arguments, but with true secret love. When we argue, others react. When we love people, they are moved and we win them over. When we love, we think that we offer something to others, but in reality we are the first to benefit.

Elder Porphyry Bairaktaris the Kapsokalivite

BROTHER: What is purity of soul?

OLD MAN: Remoteness from anger and from the error of the remembrance of evil things, and being weaned from the bitter nature, and reconciliation with our enemies, and peace which is beyond troubling, and simplicity of love which is above this world; with these things is the inner man cleansed, and he puts on Christ and is redeemed.

The Paradise of the Holy Fathers

A certain monk told me that when he was very sick, his mother said to his father, "How our little boy is suffering. I would gladly give myself to be cut up into pieces if that would ease his suffering." Such is the love of God for people. He pitied people so much that he wanted to suffer for them, like their own mother, and even more. But no one can understand this great love without the grace of the Holy Spirit.

St. Silouan the Athonite

Prayers for the Departed: Fr. John Kuchta, Peter Melnik, Michael Sinovich, Marie Karawulan, David Rex, Lubov Baldychev

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. Daniel Kovalak, Fr. John Nightingale, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, , Stephanie Hojnicky, Laura Cristina Najemy, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest

Prayers for Catechmens Kristin Mackenzie, Edward Jones

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>
23-Feb	C. Peck/Sulpizi/Skomorucha	Bunitsky/Morjana	Clause/Whalen
1-Mar	Stephanie George/Sue Dorazio	Riley/Riley	Skomorucha/Lewis/M Kiflemarian
8-Mar	Whalen/Clause/Gabriel	Sulpizi	Peck
15-Mar	Hamwi/Morjana	Hojnicki/Najemy	Carey
22-Mar	Najemy/Kendall	Telep/Baldychev	Baldychev/ Sylvest

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

Meatfare Sunday Feb.23rd

Cheesefare / Forgiveness Sunday March 1st

Beginning of Great Lent March 2nd

Annunciation Wednesday March 25th

Pascha Sunday April 19th

Ascension Thursday May 28th

Pentecost Sunday June 7th