

THE ORTHODOX POST

March 2020

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nikodhim

As we enter into the season of Great Lent, it's good for us to try to do more. We prepare to greet Great and Holy Pascha by fasting, prayer, by charity and service. We ask more of ourselves during this holy season of abstinence so that we can realign our priorities and thereby rediscover our need for God. Confirmed in this hope, we become participants in His love. As part of your Lenten discipline, plan to attend a service you have not before, plan to be present in prayer, and prepare to be changed, readied for joy.

Canon of St. Andrew: 1st Monday and Tuesday of Lent at 7pm

Where are we? As Christians, we say we stand in the midst of a great line of saints and prophets and of sinners: those whose lives have been inextricably altered by knowing God. The meditative hymns of this service help locate us in this legacy of faith by recounting those who came before and inviting us to join their ranks of people in progress, learning to be better and better.

Presanctified Liturgy: Wednesdays each week at 7pm

Each Wednesday of the fast is like an island of refreshment. We can be strengthened by receiving Christ Himself into our lives through Holy Communion. Though we are busy, though distracted, these sections of

President's Message

by Lou Foundos

We have had a mild winter so far this year which has made it a bit easier for everyone but especially for our older parishioners. However, we have had some heavy winds which have resulted in some more shingles coming off the roof. We will be doing the necessary repairs and assess how much longer before the roof must be replaced. We have finally completed a long talked about project of redoing the men's room. When the church was originally built some 50 years ago, funds were very limited and the walls were left with just the cinder block. Please feel free to see the amazing

The Season of Great Lent

peace in
the middle of
the week help
us know that

God stands with us in everything.

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The Akathist: Fridays each week at 7pm

The Virgin Mary, mother of Christ Himself, is given to us as a special friend; she is our mother too. Here, we ask that she console us, that she help us to know her son, that she stand as witness and companion to all the tragedies of our lives, so that we can learn to hope as she did and does.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers: Sunday evenings

Being family is more than just tracing family trees; it is choosing to live a shared life. Each Sunday evening of the fast is a family reunion. We get to meet our cousins and learn about them and enjoy being with them, sharing their hospitality. And we get to see that our family is large and interesting and diverse but shares that one necessary thing: love for God, the Father of us all.

This Lenten season, do a bit more. Try a little harder. Go someplace new. And get ready to welcome the joy of God into these holy forty days. Lent is coming to prepare the way for Paschal rejoicing. Don't get left behind.

newly renovated men's room which is just superb! A very special "thank you" to two of our parishioners who have provided their time and talents to make this happen. Hektor Dervishi provided his input on design and fixtures and all the plumbing work. Robert Korra provided some design input and his team did all the construction including the amazing tile work. Thank you also to Alison Ladd and Linda Foundos for being our design consultants and selecting the various coordinating tiles. Due to cold weather, we decided to not start the necessary cement work until the spring.

Coffee List

President's Message (continued)

Dear Ladies,

Below is the schedule for coffee for the next 2 months. If your name is listed, please be sure to put it on your calendar. If you need to change the date, please advise Christina Liolin or Adriana Topore.

It is very important to **arrive at church by 10 a.m. on the day you are scheduled for coffee** so that preparations can be made in a timely manner.

What to bring:

- Cake for 40-50 people
- Cookies for the children
- 1 gallon of milk

Christina Liolin

March 1 Irma Mile / Juliana Baltadori

8 Open

15 Ornela Joanidhi/Odeta Skendi

22 Eli Troja/Alma Vesho

29 Barbara Papalexis/Barbara Filis

April 5 Christine Beno/Jana Foundos

12 Pancake Breakfast

19 Pascha

26 Nasi Pavlo/Marcela Guma

A reminder that the Church school meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. Please confirm with Father on the schedule and bring your children to the Church School. The children cannot come unless the parents make an effort to bring them on a regular basis. Educating the children on their faith is a very important and real responsibility of the parents. Therefore, let's all make an effort to get to church on a regular and timely basis.

Shortly, we will be entering the lenten season. This means that Pascha is quickly approaching. This is a good time to renew your commitment to St. Nicholas and by increasing your presence during this important and joyful season. We are finalizing the pledges for 2020. If you have not made your pledge, please do so ASAP so we can finalize the pledges and have a clearer picture of the funds that will be provided through the pledges.

Thank you once again for your continued support of St. Nicholas.



Fan Noli Memorial: Sunday, March 15

Each year during March, we remember the founder of the Albanian Orthodox Church, Imzot Kryepishkop Theofan. On the Sunday following the date of his death, we keep the custom of celebrating a memorial service for this man who was our archpastor and leader in a time of great need. Please come and join these prayers of thanksgiving and remembrance for this patriot, pastor, artist, and guide, who kindled the fire that still burns brightly for all.

A JOURNEY WITH WOMEN SAINTS... WHO ARE THEY

Prepared by Ermira Mitre

“Women saints have spread the BIBLE and advanced the CHURCH from the beginning of Christianity. Female Saints have had the zeal to plant the seed of FAITH to tens of thousands of people who converted to Christianity throughout history.”



Our Patroness - St. Genevieve

Feast Day - January 3

St. Genevieve is the patron saint of Paris, France in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox tradition. She was born about the year 422 in the small village of Nanterre, near Paris, to the parents of Severus and Gerontia. When she was seven years old, on his way to combat heresy in Britain, St. Germanus of Auxerre made an overnight stop at Nanterre, France. In the crowd that gathered to hear him speak, stood Genevieve. Germanus spotted Genevieve (or Genovefa), a beautiful 7-year-old girl, her pious demeanor, and singled her out. He foresaw her future holiness and spoke to her parents. When he asked little St. Genevieve if she wanted to dedicate her life to God, Genevieve confided enthusiastically that she wanted only to live for the Lord. So he laid hands on her with a blessing, and with Germanus' encouragement, she became a nun at 15 years of age. At 15, Genevieve formally consecrated herself as a virgin, but continued to live as a laywoman. Thus, the Bishop St. Germanus of Auxerre launched the spiritual career of one of France's most admired saints.

When her parents died, Genevieve moved to Paris to live with her godmother, where she dedicated her life to prayer, fasting and. where she was noted for her piety and works of charity. Because of her generous giving to the poor, she became widely known in the vicinity around Paris.

She had numerous prophetic visions and is said to have predicted the invasion of the Huns.

Once when the Franks were besieging Paris, Genevieve rescued the city from starvation by leading a convoy of ships up the Seine to Troyes to obtain food. In this selection from her biography, we learn that she had to work a miracle to bring it home safely:

During the return voyage, however, their ships were so buffeted by the wind . . . that the high holds fore and aft in which they had stored the grain tipped over on their sides. And the ships filled with water. Quickly Genovefa, her hands stretched toward heaven, begged Christ for assistance. Immediately the ships were righted. Thus, through her our God . . . saved eleven grain-laden ships...

When she returned to Paris, her sole concern was to distribute the grain to all according to their needs. She made it her first priority to provide a whole loaf to those whose strength had been sapped by hunger. Thus, when her servant girls went to the ovens they would often find only part of the bread they had baked . . . But it was soon clear who had taken the bread from the ovens for they noticed the needy carrying loaves throughout the city and heard them magnifying and blessing the name of Genovefa. For she put her hopes not in what is seen but in what is not seen. For she knew the Prophet spoke truly who said: "Whoever is kind to the poor is lending to Yahweh" (Proverbs 19:17 NJB). For through a revelation of the Holy Spirit she had once been shown that land, where those who lend their treasure to the poor expect to find it again. And for this reason, she was accustomed to weep and pray incessantly: for she knew that as long as she was in the flesh she was exiled from the Lord.

From that time Genevieve enjoyed a heroine's status and used her influence and wonders on the city's behalf. For example, she persuaded Childeric, who had conquered Paris, to release many captives. Around the year 451, word came that Attila and his army of Huns were marching on Paris. The people of Paris prepared to flee, but Genevieve convinced them to ward off the army through prayer and fasting assuring them that the attack would be inconsequential and Genevieve promised that they had the protection of Heaven. As she foretold, Attila's armies changed the course, bypassed Paris and went on to Orleans 110 km (70 miles) from Paris and were defeated, so the city was spared.

Geneviève is reported to have had great influence over King Childeric I of the Salian Franks., She also became a trusted adviser to Clovis, the king of the Franks. Also, in 460, she is known to have had a church built over the tomb of St. Denis, a patron saint of France.

St. Genevieve died in the year 512 and she was buried in the church of the Holy Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul at Paris which is popularly known as the Church of Sainte-Geneviève because of the many miracles occurred through her intercession there that it became a pilgrimage spot. During the French Revolution in 1793, her body was burned on the Place de Grève; the relics were enshrined in the Church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont, where they still attract pilgrims. She is often depicted with a flowing gown and mantle over her shoulders. and with a loaf of bread to represent her generosity. Her Feast Day is celebrated on January 3.

MARCH SAINTS AND NAME DAYS

Sunday of Orthodoxy: Children's Procession

Sunday, March 8, we commemorate the triumph of Orthodoxy. After years of conflict and persecution, icons were returned to our holy places—our Churches, monasteries, shrines, and homes. We mark this day by a special procession. All are invited to come and take part.

We ask that parents, godparents, and grandparents bring our younger members to celebrate this day.

Please ensure that your children are not left out; have them here by 10:30am so they can join the procession.



Pak histori rreth çështjes së luftës dhe nderimit të ikonave.

Në shekullin e tetë sunduesit isaurianë në Lindje, Leo III (717-741) dhe Konstandini V (741-775) u orvatën ta nënshtronin Kishën nën sundimin e tyre. Për të arritur kontrollin e Kishës këta dy perandorë i sulmuan ligësisht të krishterët e zellshëm, sidomos murgjërit, të cilët mbrojnë integritetin e Kishës. Sulmi mori formën e një persekutimi të egër kundër atyre që nderonin ikonat. Subjekti i sulmit ishte vendosur në vend të përshtatshëm, sepse ekzistonte realisht një ekzagjerim i nderimit të ikonave ndërmjet njerëzve të devotshëm që arrinte kufijtë e idhujtarisë dhe paganizmit. Një sinod i mbajtur, në 753 e dënoi zyrtarisht nderimin e ikonave nga të krishterët. Ai bëri thirrje për heqjen e të gjitha imazheve prej kishave, ndërtesave publike dhe shtëpitë e njerëzve. Ky sinod nuk ishte vetëm një lëvizje politike nga sunduesit për të fituar pushtet mbi Kishën, por nxorri edhe një argumentim të veshur me arsye dhe të përgatitur me mjeshtri kundër nderimit të ikonave. Baza e pozicionit të sinodit u morr, kryesisht, nga mësimi biblik se Perëndia është i padukshëm, prandaj nuk duhet të bëhen dhe nuk duhen adhuruar nga besimtarët e vërtetë imazhet e dukshme dhe të gdhendura. Ka mundësi që ky argument të ishte frymëzuar nga kontakti i ngushtë me myslimanët, të cilët ishin fanatikisht strikt në këto pika.

Peshkopët e Kishës ishin nën presionin e fortë perandorak për të dënuar zyrtarisht nderimin e ikonave. Kur ata e bënë, pasoi një persekutim i egër ndaj atyre që vazhdonin t'i mbanin dhe t'i nderonin imazhet e shenjta. Koha ndërmjet 762 dhe 775 njihet si “dekada e gjakut” meqë qindra të krishterë, kryesisht murgjër, u burgosën, u torturuan dhe, madje u vranë ngaqë i ruajtën dhe i nderuan ikonat.

Monthly Name Days

March 9 - 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste - St. Pericles

Albert Foundos

March 17 - St. Patrick the Bishop

Petrika Troja, Nicholas Patrick Brehl

- St. Alexis the Venerable

Aleko Bode, Alex Oswald

(continues next page)

March 18 - St. Edward the Martyr

Edi Sera, Eduart Shkurti

March 23 - St. Nikon

March 25 - Annunciation (Evangelismos)

Evangelibe Lass, Vangjeli Family

March 26 - Archangel Gabriel

Gabrielle Peters

March 27 - St. Robert

Robert Korra

If you don't see your name please contact Fr. Nikodhim.

Nese nuk sheh emrin tend, te lutem lajmero priftin.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AND BECAME PART OF THE VALENTINE PARTY!

The following are some pictures from the event





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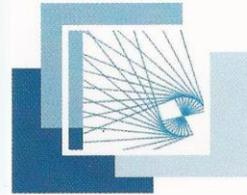
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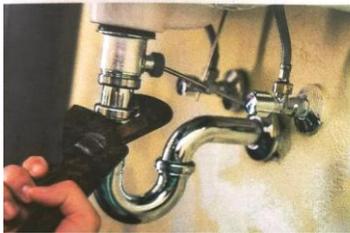


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Major Church Activities and Events for March

Sun. 1—Liturgy, 10am: Forgiveness Sunday

Beginning of the Great Fast

Mon. 2 - Canon of St. Andrew

Tue. 3 - Canon of St. Andrew

Wed. 4 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm

Fri. 6 - Akathist, 7pm

Sat. 7 - Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 8 - Liturgy, 10am: Sunday of Orthodoxy

- Icon Procession

- Pan-Orthodox Service, 4pm @ St. Nicholas Antiochian Cathedral

Wed. 11 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm

Fri. 13 - Akathist, 7pm

Sat. 14 - Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 15 - Liturgy, 10am: St. Gregory Palamas

- Fan Noli Memorial

- Pan-Orthodox Vespers, tbd

Wed. 18 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm

Fri. 20 - Akathist, 7pm

Sat. 21 - Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 22 - Liturgy, 10am: Sunday of the Cross

-Pan-Orthodox Vespers, tbd

Tue. 24 - Great Vespers, 7pm: Annunciation

Wed. 25 - Liturgy, 7pm: Annunciation

Fri. 27 - Akathist, 7pm

Sat. 28 - Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 29 - Liturgy, 10am: Sunday of the Ladder

-Pan-Orthodox Vespers, tbd

**Bring your children to
Sunday School**

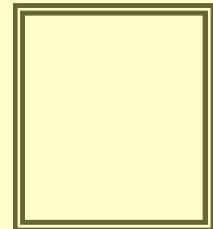
For the 2019-2020 school year, Sunday School classes will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month @ 10:30am. There will also be a children's sermon on the 1st Sunday of each month.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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