

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



Icon of the Holy Images

February 18, 2018: First Sunday of the Great Fast

Epistle: Heb. 11: 24-26.32 - 12:2

Gospel: Jn. 1: 43-51

Mon., Feb. 19	8:00	+ Theresa Krenitsky (Jean & Steve Krenitsky)
Tues., Feb. 20	8:00	+ Fr. Demetrius Wysochansky, OSBM (Father Nestor)
Wed., Feb. 21	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thurs., Feb. 22	8:00	+ Ann Slaboda (Maryann McConnell)
Fri., Feb. 23	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy for + Dominick Fiorenza (Wife Annette)
Sat., Feb. 24		No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Michael Hermanovich Sr. (Family)
Sun., Feb. 25	9:00	+ William Hinko (Sister Elaine) 11:30 For Our Parishioners) 3:00 pm Sorokousty



+ Fr. Demetrius Wysochansky

January 21, 1930 - February 15, 2018

Fr. Demetrius Wysochansky, OSBM, the brother of Fr. John Wysochansky and Fr. Walter Wysochansky, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in Chicago, IL.

Please remember +Father Demetrius and the entire Wysochansky family in your prayers and may Our Lord grant him rest in the bosom of Abraham, may he be numbered among the saints and may his memory be eternal!

Vichnaya Pamyat!

Great Fast Pastoral Letter

“The light of Your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord. Behold, this is the favorable time, the season of conversion. Let us turn away from the works of darkness, and let us clothe ourselves with the armor of light, so that crossing the ocean of the fast, we may come to the harbor of the resurrection on the third day with our Lord Jesus Christ the Savior of our souls.”

Aposticha, Cheesefare Sunday Vespers

During the upcoming days of the Great Fast, it is an opportune time to examine ourselves, to see how we are progressing spiritually, and to beseech our Lord Jesus Christ for the special graces necessary for authentic Christian living.

In the Great Fast our purpose is to become more fully aware of our human condition. It is true that we, through Baptism, have participated in Christ’s redemption and in spirit are wholly purified. On the other hand, it is also true that we are still living within the sphere of sinfulness, and that even the redeemed can often fall. The Great Fast is crucial for us because it reminds us of the sense of sin which our contemporary society plays down.

The Great Fast calls for repen-

tance. Repentance presumes sin, and sin requires a forgiving God. Our Lord set before us the model of repentance – the parable of the “Prodigal Son” (which rightly should be labelled the “Loving Father”). Although the father in the story was always watching and waiting for the son’s return, nevertheless, the son had to make up his mind to move towards the father to be reconciled. Our Church recommends prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as practical means for our spiritual move in the direction of our Father.

Therefore, we constantly seek God’s grace, but we must remember that God’s grace does not abolish the freedom of the human will, and therefore human weakness and sinfulness will constantly lead us away from God. And we can return to God only by prayer and doing penance. These activities form a bridge between our sinfulness and the forgiveness whereby God in His mercy comes to meet us. God turns His countenance towards us if we turn ourselves to Him. The Great Fast, with its discipline of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving can be difficult. Our repentant return to the Father in love can make it a joy. The Great Fast should be a time of spiritual joy dur-

ing which we seek God and renew our lives.

The Great Fast is the traditional annual retreat of our Church, a holy time for reflection on the manner of life, on the evil of sin, and on the salvation granted to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Such is the disposition in which we must conduct the whole of our life. Let us live this way during the Great Fast while preparing ourselves for the festival of Easter – the annual celebration of our salvation.

We, your bishops, hope and pray that you may be able to renew yourselves during this holy season. Also, let us continue to remember in our prayers and good works all the people of the world who need our help. We especially remember our brothers and sisters of Ukraine in their untiring struggle against unjust aggression.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

+Stefan Soroka

Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (Eparch of Stamford)

+Benedict Aleksiychuk (Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago)

+ Bohdan J. Danylo (Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma)

+John Bura (Author & Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

+Andriy Rabiy (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

Spiritual Regulations for the Great Fast

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinance from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great

Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinance from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy

Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

All the faithful are urged to attend

the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy, Akafist of the Passion and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sorokousty).

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful. This year, families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

Great Fast Liturgical Guidelines

On Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated for Sunday Liturgies during this time.

Flowery (Palm) Sunday, March 25 is also the Feast of the Annunciation this year and the liturgical propers and scriptural readings for both feasts are to be taken at the Divine Liturgies.

During Holy Week, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There is no Divine Liturgy celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On Holy Thursday evening, Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great should be celebrated. On Holy Saturday evening, Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated.

Meditation for the First Sunday of the Great Fast

When Philip told Nathaniel that they had found “the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth”, Nathaniel asks “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (Jn 1:46).

Nathaniel reveals a common human characteristic, namely a tendency to make quick judgments. Jesus repeatedly instructed his disciples and the people to whom he preached to “Stop judging that you may not be judged”

(Mt 7:1) He would ask why we look at the splinter in another person's eye and not the wooden beam in our own eye. Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone! Quick judgments are often revealed through the occasional use of inappropriate words or swearing. Jesus told his disciples that "on the day

of judgment, people will render an account for every careless word they speak" (Mt 12:36). We ought to set aside any careless use of words. Setting aside our tendency to judge others while realizing our own huge imperfections is a necessity before welcoming the Lord into our hearts.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Annual "All You Eat Spaghetti Dinner" sponsored by Eureka Hose Co. No. 4 will be held Saturday March 3rd at the Fire Station #717 East Grant St. Olyphant. Dinner includes pasta, salad, bread and butter, dessert and

beverage. Take will be from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and sit down dinners from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Tickets can be obtained from any member or at the door. Donation is \$10.00.

Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant will again be offering Pysanky Classes. At this time there will be three dates, March 4, 11, & 18, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The beginner class is approximately two hours long. The

cost will be \$20 and includes the supplies needed to make your egg. For more information or to sign up for the class, please call Sonia Maslar at 570-489-9608 or Tammy Budnovitch at 570-766-1919 (after 5 pm).

Baked Fish Dinner

Our Parish will once again be sponsoring a "BAKED HADDOCK" FISH DINNER on FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the REGAL ROOM (Ballroom/side entrance), 216 Lackawanna Avenue.

Sit Down or Take Out!! Tickets are: \$13.00 per ticket/dinner: Baked haddock, potato, vegetable, roll and dessert. Call 570-383-9487 for Reservations. *LIMITED amount of Dinners will be available at the Door \$15.00.

Bus Trip

Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is sponsoring a spring-time bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 19, 2018. There will be two stops in Manhattan: the 911 Memorial Museum at Ground Zero and the 42nd annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival on the Lower East Side. Adults \$70.00; Seniors 65+ \$64.00; Youth 7 to 17 yrs. \$62.00. Participants can follow the above two-stop itinerary or are free to do their own thing for part or all of the day. For those not visiting the Museum, the cost is \$44.00. Departure from St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue will be at 8:00 am and departure from New York City for home will be at 8:30 pm. For additional details and to make reservations contact Dave Pietryka at 570 954-8517 or Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275. Due to the large number of visitors, Museum staff strongly recommends early confirmation of number of tickets to be ordered, therefore we ask that reservations and nonrefundable payment be made preferably before April 1. Check should be made out to St. Vladimir Church.

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2018 Ukrainian Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

You are cordially invited to join St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ, on a once-in-a-lifetime journey following in the footsteps of Jesus with an opportunity to celebrate our Divine Liturgy at sacred places along the way. Trip dates:

October 14 – 23, 2018. For a brochure or further information contact Annette@select-intl.com, by phone 1-800-842-4842, 973-471-9727 or on Facebook, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Passaic.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2018 is Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

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Sunday Collection for February 10 & 11, 2018: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for February 24 & 25, 2018

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nicholas Borowski -- Nicholas Muchisky	John Sakson
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko -- John Nasevich	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Jordan Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Greater Mystery

Our first parents, shamed by guilt for their transgression, made aprons for themselves from fig leaves. The fig tree can fittingly designate the tendency toward sin, which is wrongfully filled with sweetness for the human race. Those placed under it can be His elect, those who do not yet recognize the grace of their election – just as the Lord saw Nathanael when he was situated under the fig tree though Nathanael did not see Him. “For the Lord knows who are his” [2 Tim 2:19], and the very name Nathanael is most suitably appropriate to their salvation. For Nathanael is interpreted “gift of God,” and unless one is called by the gift of God, one will never evade the guilt of the first transgression; he will never evade wrongfully enticing things under the shelter of his daily-increasing sins; he will never be worthy to come to Christ to be

saved. Hence the Apostle says, “For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and not of yourselves. It is a gift of God, not a result of your works, lest anyone glory” [Eph 2:8-9].

There follows: Jesus said to Nathanael, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, you believe. You will see a greater thing than these.” He subsequently discloses what is the greater thing of which He speaks, by giving His pledge of a future opening of the kingdom of heaven to believers, and of a proclamation to the world of both His natures in one person. This in reality is a much more excellent hidden mystery than the fact that He foresaw us enlightened by Him while we were still placed in the shadow of sin.

St. Bede the Venerable

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