

240 Center Street – Nanticoke, PA 18634
Nanticoke Rectory: (570)735-2262
Church Email: TransfigurationUCC@comcast.net
WebSite: www.transfigurationucc.org
Pastor; Fr. Walter Pasicznyk CELL PHONE NUMBER: (570)-406-5882

**Divine Liturgy Schedule
February 18, 2024 A. D.**

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!



**Saturday, February 17
6:00 PM**

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
†John Sr., John & Helen Lipowski
-Virginia Palermo

**Sunday, February 18
10:30 AM**

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
†Joanne Rydzewski, Charles & Joan Sailus
-MaryAnn Sailus

**Wednesday, February 21
6:30 PM**

LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

Saturday, February 24

8:00 AM

SOROKOUSTY-(2nd)

6:00 PM

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Unity in the Church & Nation- A Concerned Parishioner

**Sunday, February 25
10:30 AM**

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

God's Blessings on Joseph Becker - Maria Becker

**Remember, there are no weekday Liturgies during the
Great Fast. Communion is distributed as part of the
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.**

SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH (20 Nottingham Street, Plymouth)

Saturday Liturgy 4:00 PM

Sunday Liturgy 8:30 AM

LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS Friday 4:00 PM

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
February 18, 2024**

The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints Basil the Great is celebrated ten times per year: January 1 (Feast of Saint Basil); December 24 (Christmas Eve); January 5 (Theophany Eve); First thru Fifth Sundays of Lent (not Palm Sunday); and Holy Thursday & the Virgil Liturgy of Easter Sunday.}

FIRST ANTIPHON:

Bless the Lord, O my soul and let all that is within me bless His Holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits. He forgives you all your iniquities, He heals all your diseases. He redeems your life from corruption, He crowns you with mercy and compassion. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and abounding in mercy. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy name, Blessed are You, O Lord.

GLORY BE: ONLY BEGOTTEN SON:

THIRD ANTIPHON:

Remember us, O Lord, in Your Kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peace-makers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of evil word against you falsely because of Me.

Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.

TROPAR: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

TROPAR: We bow before Your most pure image, O kind Lord, and beg pardon for our sins, O Christ our God. Of Your own will You consented to ascend the Cross in the flesh to free Your handiwork from enslavement to the enemy. In thanksgiving we cry aloud to You: by coming to save the world, our Savior, You filled all things with joy. **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever and ever. Amen.**

KONDAK: The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed when He took flesh of you, O Mother of God, and when He restored the divine image to its ancient glory, He suffused it with the beauty of God. Therefore, confessing our salvation in deed and word, we portray it in images.

PROKIMEN: Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever. For You are righteous in everything You have done to us. Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

A reading of the Epistle from the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40; 12:1-2:

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia (3). Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name. Alleluia (3). They called on the Lord, and He heard them. Alleluia (3).

Gospel of John 1:43-51

At that time Jesus desired to set out for Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus the son of Joseph of Nazareth." And 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 a true Israelite in whom there is no guile." Nathanael said to him, "From where do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him and said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel." Answering, Jesus said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, you do believe. Greater things than these shall you see." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

INSTEAD OF "IT US TRULY RIGHT...": In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



O Joyful Light"

O Joyful Light, Holy Glory of the Immortal Father, Heavenly, Holy, Blessed Jesus Christ: Having reached the setting of the sun, having seen the evening light, let us sing of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit of God. It is proper at all times to praise You with reverent voices O Son of God, the Giver of Life, the whole world glorifies You.



PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

CHURCH NEWS Every day is a Holy Day of Opportunity. Pray Always.- Father Daniel Gurovich

THANK YOU: Johanna would like to thank her crew of assistants for Flea Markets, Ukrainian Tables & Raffles: Joan Cominski and Donna Kelley & MaryAnn Kelley. They were a **BIG** help getting everything together for sale and presentation and working these events!

ROOF DONATIONS: Thank you for the anonymous donation of \$1,000 to the REPAIR THE ROOF FUND.



PYROHY FOR SALE: We have potato pyrohy for sale in the church basement for \$10.00 a dozen.

FLEA MARKET: A Spring Flea Market Sale will be held March 2, 9, 16, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weather permitting We are collecting "stuff" for the sale at the church hall. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE TO THE CHURCH BASEMENT. Call 570-256-7883 and we will gladly open the hall for you. We are collecting clean & gently used or new books, kitchenware, jewelry, knick-knacks, pictures. curtains, spring decor, tools, electronics, purses, dishes, silverware, vintage. antiques, etc. For questions or information please call 570-256-7883 or 570-592-5776. We will once again be selling garden items at the flea market such as: bird seed, potting soil, & Lawn supplies.

SOROKOUSTY SERVICE: The second Sorokousty Saturday is Saturday, February 24 at 8:00AM. The Third Sorokousty is the following Saturday, March 2 and will be preceded by liturgy at 8:00am and Sorokousty at 9:00 am. The fourth Sorokousty is March 9 at 8:00 am. The fifth Sorokousty is Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 am.



LENTEN REFLECTION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS: On Sunday, March 3 at 1:00 PM, Walter Camier will give a presentation, “The Grand Return: What it is and Why We Need it.” – Come hear the miraculous story about “Our Lady of Boulogne” who statue arrived in a boat with no oars, sails or men on board in the harbor of the French city, Boulogne-sir-Mer in 636A.D., what is the significance of the miraculous arrival and how is it

linked to Our Lady’s Fatima Message, come and hear the uplifting message, why She came and how it is meant for our century. Don’t miss this intriguing story that most of men know nothing about. Immediately following that presentation, we will have Stations of the Cross.

A light social will be served prior to the presentation. EVERYONE IS WECOME.

If anyone would like to help, please contact lisa at 570-574-1016.



February 2024

The Eternal Light is given by the Yanoshak Family in
Loving memory of Ryan Yanoshak.

The Altar Candles are given by the MaryAnn Jarolen in
loving memory of her father, Michael Hvozda.

The St. Nicholas Candle is given by Brian & Joanne Kawczenski
In loving memory of Rev. Dr. Nick Kostiuk.

The Proscmedia Table is given by the Lee Family
In loving memory of Helen & Red Lee.

The Candle Before the Icon of Jesus Christ is given by Donna Lee-Hischak
For God’s Blessings & Good Health for Irene Beckwith.

The Candle Before the Theotokos is given by
Pasicznyk Family in loving memory of Anhel Pasicznyk.

The First Sunday of Lent



FATHER A QUESTION? Father, I have a question, I attended the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies for some time now, we sing the Psalms of David, who is constantly talking about being protected or saved from someone. Who? For example, “they have set a snare for me.” Who is David referring to? Is this a stupid question? No, the question is not stupid, the only stupid question is the question you have but don’t ask. The answer to your question is on one hand clear and obvious and on the hand complicated and difficult, and the correct answer comes in both hands. The answer that is obvious is the enemy is Lucifer and the fallen angels who lead men into sin. It begins to get complicated when you involve the human agents of Lucifer. Who are these human agents? Some of these human agents claim to love God and are promoting the Scriptures and are promoting God’s Laws, however; they are promoting their personal interpretation of God’s Laws as a stick to beat David and make him do what they want. Some of the other human agents of Lucifer are literal Satanists who follow the Devil and his way of live and through temptations into sin, they try to make David live an unholy life. Some of these people are not just enemies of God and David, but all nations of Israel. Do not forget that God teaches us and reminds us constantly through all the prophets and the saints that the gods of the gentiles are all devils in hell. As you heard in the Readings this First Week in the Presanctified Liturgy, Lucifer is the most cunning of creatures and how cunning and subtle he was to lead Adam and Eve to reject God even though they walked with God, just as you walked with your father when you were a child. How much easier is it for the devil to tempt man into sin who didn’t walk in the garden with God like Adam and Eve? King David recognizes this and knows that even though God is not intimately present with us like our close relatives are or once were, but through prayer we can still be close with God, who loves us and created us. You might notice that the First Psalm in the Presanctified Liturgy is called the Psalm of Creation, Psalm 104, written in love by David to the God who created us in wisdom and goodness.

Readings from the First Week of Presanctified Liturgies: Genesis: (Chapt 1:1-3:20); Proverbs: Chapt (1:1-3-34)

Deny thyself, take up thy cross, and follow Jesus. - Matthew 16.24.

Prayer for Friends

Lord Jesus Christ, while on the earth You had close and devoted friends, such as John, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. You showed in this way that friendship is one of life's greatest blessings. Thank You for the friends that You have given me to love in spite of my failures and weaknesses, and to enrich my life after Your example. Let me ever behave toward them as You behaved toward Your friends. Bind us close together in You and enable us to help one another on our earthly journey.

Prayer to Achieve Inner Peace

Slow me down, Lord. Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amid the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in memory. Help me to know the mystical restoring power of sleep. Teach me the art of taking minute vacations- of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book. Slow me down, Lord.

Prayer For The Unity of the Church

Heavenly Father, Your Blessed Son asked that His Church be one as You and He are one, but Christians have not been united as He prayed. We have isolated ourselves from each other and failed to listen to each other. We have misunderstood and ridiculed each other and even gone so far as to attack each other. In so doing we have offended against You, against all our brothers and sisters in the Church, and against all who have not believed in you because of our scandalous disunity. Forgive us, Father, and make us fully one. Blot out sins, renew our minds, enkindle our hearts, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit into that oneness which is Your will.

The glory of a good man is the testimony of a good conscience. - 2 COR 1.12.

Great Martyr Theodore the Tyro (Recruit)



The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit¹ was a soldier in the city of Amáseia in Pontus (Asia Minor) on the coast of the Euxine (Black) Sea, under the command of the Praepositus (regimental commander) Brincus. Saint Theodore was ordered to offer sacrifice to idols, but he proclaimed his faith in Christ the Savior in a loud voice. Brincus gave him a few days to think it over, during which time the Saint prayed. Theodore was accused of setting a pagan temple on fire and destroying the idol of Rhea, and so he was thrown into prison to be starved to death. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him there, comforting and encouraging him. When he was brought before the Governor Publius, Theodore boldly confessed his faith, for which he was subjected to new torments and condemned to be burnt alive. The Great Martyr Theodore mounted an enormous pyre, and after he made the Sign of the Cross, the wood was lit, but the Holy Spirit cooled the flames. Saint Theodore stood in the flames, praising and glorifying God. Then he gave his holy soul into God's hands, and the onlookers saw his soul ascending to Heaven, according to the author of his Life, who was also an eyewitness. This occurred in about the year 306 under the Roman Emperor Galerius (305-311). Unharmful by the fire, Saint Theodore's body was buried under a widow's house in the city of Eukháïta, not far from Amáseia. Later, his relics were transferred to Constantinople, to the church which bears his name. His head is in the city of Gaeto, Italy. Fifty years after the Saint Theodore's martyrdom, Emperor Julian the Apostate (reigned 361-363), planned to commit an outrage upon the Christians during the first week of Great Lent. He ordered the city magistrate of Constantinople to sprinkle all the food in the marketplaces with blood which had been offered to idols. Saint Theodore appeared to Archbishop Eudoxios in a dream and told him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything in the marketplaces, but to eat boiled wheat with honey (kolyva) instead. In remembrance of this occurrence, the Orthodox Church commemorates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit each year on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, after the prayer at the Ambo, the Canon to the Holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by Saint John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was established by Patriarch Nektarios of Constantinople (381-397). The Troparion to Saint Theodore is very similar to the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths (on the Sunday Before the Nativity of the Lord). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate.

(see I Thessalonians 5:8). In iconography, Saint Theodore the Recruit is depicted in four different ways: either alone in military garb, battling a large snake, or together with Saint Theodore the Commander, standing upright or riding horses. He always wears his military uniform. We pray to Saint Theodore the Recruit for the recovery of stolen articles.

¹ His title comes from the Latin word tiro, because he was a newly enlisted recruit, not because he came from the city of Tyre, as some misinformed persons imagine.

The Sufferings of Daily Life

CHRIST:

My Child, as you advance in the virtue of patience, I shall you draw you closer to My Heart. I will show you how great a privilege it is to bear anything for My sake. When you see what I have suffered for you, and when you reflect on great trials and troubles which my Saints suffered for My sake, you will realize how little you are doing for me. You have not been asked to shed your blood nor to suffer tortures. You will find it much easier to bear your daily burdens and trials when you realize the agonizing sufferings of My earthly life and the great trials of my glorious martyrs. My loyal followers had to fight violent temptations. Their patience was tested in so many ways, but they passed through all this with the clear vision of unselfish love for Me. If this consideration fails to make you think less of your own trials, this only a proof that you still think more of yourself than of Me. I will not permit anything in your life which does not help your highest interests. Therefore, learn a valuable lesson from Me, be less anxious to enjoy this earthly life and more willing to bear your daily trials for My sake. Prepare to face the disappointments, misunderstandings, contradictions, and labors with greater resignation and patience. I will not be outdone in generosity. I shall give you the grace to act more wisely and calmly in time of trial. Do not expect to reach Heaven's Eternal Happiness by a life and ease and contentment on Earth. My heavenly gifts are not given to those who are impatient with suffering and adversity. Patience will help you to think clearly. You will come to look on suffering as a privilege for it is just that, when accepted and embraced for my sake. You will then understand the joy of My Apostles who rejoiced when they were punished for preaching My Words. They knew what a privilege it was to suffer for My sake,

THINK & PRAY: It is truly a privilege to suffer anything for Jesus's sake.

Pray: My Jesus, so many people recommend patience and admire it with their lips, but so few are so willing to exercise it in their daily life. Please do not allow me to be a

theoretical follower of Yours, but an active one. I desire to be generous with You in real life. You deserve so much more than I can ever offer You. It is little enough that I have to suffer when compared with the Cross which You embraced for love of me, or compared with what Your Saints did for Your sake. Let me at least find joy in embracing, for love of You, the trials, contradictions, disappointments, and labors of this day. I hope to rise higher than this later on, by wishing to suffer more than my ordinary share of daily tasks and trials. All this let me do for Your sake, my all-deserving Savior. Amen.

Chapter 52: The Sufferings of Daily Life; My Daily Bread; A Summary of the Spiritual Life, A Daily Reading Reflection & Prayer by Rev. Fr. Anthony J. Paone.

The Ladder of Divine Ascent by Saint John Climacus

“If there is a time for everything under heaven, as Ecclesiastes says, and by the word ‘everything’ must be understood what concerns our holy life, then if you please, let us look into it and let us seek to do at each time what is proper for that occasion. For it is certain that, for those who enter the lists, there is a time for dispassion and a time for passion (I say this for the combatants who are serving their apprenticeship); there is a time for tears, and a time for hardness of heart; there is a time for obedience, and there is a time to command; there is a time to fast, and a time to partake; there is a time for battle with our enemy the body, and a time when the fire is dead; a time of storm in the soul, and a time of calm in the mind; a time for heartfelt sorrow, and a time for spiritual joy; a time for teaching, and a time for listening; a time of pollutions, perhaps on account of conceit, and a time for cleansing by humility; a time for struggle, and a time for safe relaxation; a time for stillness, and a time for undistracted distraction; a time for unceasing prayer, and a time for sincere service. So let us not be deceived by proud zeal, and seek prematurely what will come in its own good time; that is, we should not seek in winter what comes in summer, or at seed time what comes at harvest; because there is a time to sow labors, and a time to reap the unspeakable gifts of grace. Otherwise, we shall not receive even in season what is proper to that season” (Step 26, Section 87)

“Prayer is by nature a dialogue and a union of man with God. Its effect is to hold the world together. It achieves reconciliation with God.” (Step 28, Section 1)

“Pray in all simplicity. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single utterance.” (Step 28, Section 5)

MONDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

“The fast has come, the Mother of chastity. “ What was the time before this day? A time of fornication. The soul has fornicated with all that has struck it’s eye as pleasant—both with people and with things, more fully, with sinful passions. Everyone has his own passion which he pleases in every way. It is time to put an end to this. May each of you comprehend your Delilah, who binds you and hands you over to evil enemies and abandon her. Then you will be given more than Samson was given: Not only shall your hair grow, but also good thoughts; and not only shall your strength return but so also your strength of will. Your eyes shall also open, your mind shall have sight, and it shall see the Lord, yourself, and everything around you in the proper light. Behold, now is the favorable time! Behold now is the Day of Salvation! -Saint Theophan the Recluse

Son, be not curious nor give thyself to useless cares. - 1 Timothy 1.4.