

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church
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CIX! Slave Isusu Kristu!
Divine Liturgy Schedule
March 2, 2025 A. D.

Saturday, March 1

6:00 PM

Sunday, March 2

10:30 AM

3:00 PM

Monday, March 3

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

✠Billie Johnson- Barno Family

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

God's Blessings for James Campbell Sr.

-Ulana Campbell

FORGIVENESS VESPERS

LENT BEGINS- FAST FROM MEAT & DAIRY

Wednesday, March 5

6:30 PM

LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

Saturday, March 8

6:00 PM

Sunday, March 9

10:30 AM

1st SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

✠Ihor & Olympia Pasicznyk- Pasicznyk Family

1st SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

God's Blessings & Good Health for All Parishioners

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



Saint Peter & Paul Church (Plymouth)

Divine Liturgy: Saturday 4:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM

LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS Friday at 5:00 PM

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

March 2, 2025

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.}

TROPAR: You came down from on high, O Merciful One, and accepted three days of burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory be to You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever and ever. Amen.

KONDAK: O Master, Guide to Wisdom, Bestower of prudent counsel, Instructor of the foolish and Defender of the poor ones; make firm my heart and give it understanding. Give me a word, O Word of the Father: Behold, I shall not stop my lips from crying out to You: In Your mercy, have mercy on me who am fallen.

PROKIMEN: Pray and give praise to the Lord our God. In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.

A Reading of the Epistle from the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans 13:11-14.4:



Brethren, besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.



ALLELUIA:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

They called on the Lord, and He heard them.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel of Matthew 6:14-21



For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you

fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



Petitions & Prayers for Our Parishioners: Please pray for our Parishioners

Assisted Living: Mary Hoolick. **At Home:** Geraldine Adamchak; Shirley Kozar, Dolores Miller, Rita Kurtz, Diane Petry, Mary Louise Bailey. **Away:** Leona Kobela.

Prayer Request: Michelle Miller; Kerri; Ellen Kobela, Fr. Peter Waslo; Sister Evhenia Prusnay MSMG; Mary Oresick; Fr. Paul Wolensky, Pavlyk Motychka (baby in Ukraine with SMA); Joyce Kishbaugh, Ken Weber; Marie Slota; Fr. Gregory Maslak, Angel Ocasio, Elizabeth Biasci, Dolores Jennings, Mike Oresick, Mark & Debbie Schwartz, Mary Schwartz, Helen Lipowski, Raquel Camelia, Marie Neimeyer & all Parishioners who are experiencing health issues.

CHURCH NEWS Every day is a Holy Day of Opportunity. Pray Always.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: Begins Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2 am.. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring Saturday evening.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!: Happy Birthday to MaryAnn Jarolen who celebrates her Birthday on Sunday, March 2. Happy Birthday to Father Walter Pasicznyk who celebrates his Birthday on Friday, March 7! We also celebrate the Birthday of Paul Nicholas Pasicznyk who celebrates his birthday on March 9! Mnohaya Lita!! Mnohaya Lita! God Bless Them & Their Families with Many Happy Years!



UKRAINIAN PYSANKY CLASSES: Classes are being offered by St. Cyril's Church in Olyphant. March 2nd and March 16th, with two classes each day: 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. Students will learn about this beautiful Ukrainian tradition. The cost is \$25 per person, with supplies included. Class size is limited, and registration is required.

Contact: Tammy Budnovitch 570-766-1919 to register for this parish fundraiser held at St. Cyril's Parish Hall, 207 River St., Olyphant.

LENT: Remember the first day of Lent is a day of fast from Meat and Dairy Products. Lent begins with Forgiveness Vespers, Sunday, March 2nd at 3:00 PM at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church. The first full day of Lent is Monday, March 3rd. The Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts at Ss. Peter & Paul Church will be on Fridays at 5:00pm and at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.



PYROHY FOR SALE: We have potato pyrohy for sale in the church basement for \$12.00 a dozen.

THE FIVE SATURDAYS OF THE DECEASED (SOROKUSTY or Сорокоусти): The Church Typikon designates the five Sorokousty/ Saturdays of the Deceased for 2025 as February 22nd; March 15th, March 22nd, March 29th and June 7th. It is a tradition of our Holy Church to commemorate the memories of our beloved deceased at Matins of the Deceased (Parastas) on these five Saturdays of the year. There is an envelope in your box or in back for Sorokousty. Or write a note and put it in the basket.



HOAGIE & SOUP SALE: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church is holding a Vegetable Soup, Turkey Hoagie, Ham & Cheese Hoagie, Italian Hoagie and Bake Sale on Thursday, March 13th from 11AM to 4PM. The cost of the hoagie and quart of soup is \$8.00. Orders can be placed by calling Debbie at 570-736-6908 by Sunday, March 9th. A Basket Raffle to benefit Ukraine and the Church will be held at the same time.

MYASOPUSNA REPORT: The report from our event will be in next week's bulletin.

MYASOPUSNA BASKET RAFFLE WINNERS

<u>Basket</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Beauty Basket	Parishioner	Helen Lipowski
Cash Filled Eggs	Parishioner	Tyler Donaldson
Ukrainian Mugs	Parishioner	Kathy Niznik
TV	Mary Schwartz & Family	Stewart Caladie
Bunny Money \$100	MaryAnn Jarolen	Patty Dinelli
Wine/Liquor Basket	Barno, Placek, Fr. Walter	Lisa Placek
Lottery Tickets	Parishioner	Denise Klus
Fire Pit	Stanley Bogdan	Corey Miller
Cash \$100	M/M Tom Potsko	Susan Braden
Dog Treats	Parishioner	Ann Finley
Ukrainian Beer	Kawczenski Family	Denise Klus
Rosary/Pysanky	Parishioner	Barbara Kozmarczy
Coach Purse	Placek/Lipowski	Tom Potsko
Easter Wreath	Parishioner	Bob Miles
Whiskey Shots	Lisa Chokola	Andre Jeen
Wine/Snacks	MaryMae Alberola	Adam Gaway
Wine & Cheese	Parishioner	John Ferrato
Gift Cards	Ellen Alqrainy	Mary Podlosky

Psalm 104 (vv. 27-35)

(Psalm of Creation)

They all wait for You
To give them their food in due season.
You give to them, they gather it up;
You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good.
You hide Your face, they are dismayed;
You take away their spirit, they expire
And return to their dust.
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;
And You renew the face of the ground.
Let the glory of the LORD endure forever;
Let the LORD be glad in His works;
He looks at the earth, and it trembles;
He touches the mountains, and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
Let my meditation be pleasing to Him;
As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth
And let the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!



Hospodi Isuse Christe, Sine Bozhe, pomiluy mene hreesh-no mu.

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner.

Господи Исусе Христэ, Сыне Божий, помилуй мя грэшного.





ASK FATHER A QUESTION..... Father, if the focus of our Eastern faith is “Resurrection” and not the “Agony of the Cross” why have Lent at all? The Feast of Resurrection does not come without the journey that precedes it. Lent is a forty-day period to remind us that the journey to salvation begins with preparation (i.e. prayer, fasting, alms giving, contemplation). If you notice the calendar in the back of the church, placed by Father Walter, this provides all the readings for Matins (morning prayer) and Vespers (evening prayer) throughout all of Lent and Holy Week. You will see that we read the following books almost in completion, Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Proverbs and Isaiah. Just as you being a long journey in this life by first looking at a map and charting the path you will take and perhaps write out your directions, Lent is likewise our spiritual preparation for the journey to heaven. You will notice that in Genesis and Exodus there is part of the history of the salvation of mankind. In Isaiah, you will notice that the history of salvation is told in completion, what has been done, what is being done, and what will be done. If we follow these directions, in humility, we will end up in heaven. If we ignore these directions, in human arrogance, we will end in hell. Lent in preparing for our resurrection is a surrendering of our will to the will of God. We especially prepare for the Feast of all Feasts, Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, just as we are preparing for Judgement Day, our Eternal Feast of Resurrection which is our planned last step of our life’s journey.

THE JESUS PRAYER

(reprinted www.royaldoors.net) by Brent Kostyniuk

When Peter Pan wants to teach Wendy and the other children how to fly, one of the prerequisites is the need to think a happy thought. A happy thought, it is said, will give you wings. For me, there is a happy thought which gives wings to my spirit – it is the Jesus Prayer. One of the hallmarks of Eastern spirituality is meditation; a discipline brought to near-perfection by the Desert Fathers. The Jesus Prayer is a short repetitive prayer, which is profound and deeply mystical. Indeed, in a few short words, it expresses all of our Christian belief, including the need to be humble before God. Although there are minor variations, the most common form of the prayer is “Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner.” The words stem from a number of biblical passages. It was Peter who first acknowledged Jesus. “Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” (Matthew 16:16) In the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee it is the publican’s prayer which is pleasing to God. “Lord have mercy on me, a (in some translations the) sinner.” (Luke 18: 13) Also in Luke, Jesus encounters ten lepers who call

out to Him from a distance. "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." (Luke 17:13) In the Jesus Prayer, we call on Him to be merciful. Of course, Jesus does not need to be reminded to be merciful. Just as the prodigal son's father ran out to greet and forgive his lost son before he had reached home, so too does Jesus constantly shower His mercy without us asking. It is not He who needs reminding, it is we who must be reminded that we are in need of His mercy. The Jesus Prayer does just that. Through constant repetition, it instills the humility needed seek God's mercy. Like Peter when he began to sink into the sea, we call out to Jesus, "Lord, save me." (Matthew 14:30) The Jesus prayer can be our hand reaching out to Jesus in time of distress. The Jesus Prayer is often recited with the aid of a chotki (prayer rope) having anywhere from 50 to 500 knots. When not in use, the prayer rope is traditionally wrapped around the left wrist so that it continues to remind one to pray without ceasing. As well, the Jesus Prayer may be accompanied by the sign of the cross each time it is prayed. As a more profound expression of humility, great prostrations (kneeling down and lowering one's forehead to the ground) may be done. In this sense, we pray with not only our mind, but our body as well. This action reinforces our goal of humility. The second goal of the Jesus Prayer stems from Saint Paul's appeal to the Christians in Thessalonica. "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Ultimately, the Jesus Prayer can lead to this. Through persistent use, it is internalized; it becomes a part of your very being. This may seem an impossible goal. However, like all good things, it may come about through habit and perseverance. Many years ago, when I first decided to take up running, my initial goal was to be able to run around the block without stopping. The first time I went out I had to stop twice. A few days later I managed it and within a month could run a mile. I continue to run every day (yes in -35° blizzards) and a strange thing has happened to my body. If, for some reason, I have not gone for my daily run by about 6:00, I get a strange feeling, which, apparently, is similar to the withdrawal symptoms drug users experience. Running has become a part of my essence. Like the physical discipline of running, the Jesus Prayer is a spiritual discipline. Eventually it can enter into your heart, so there is no longer any effort in reciting it, but it recites itself spontaneously. In this way, we are told, prayer will become as natural as breathing. "Let His most sweet name be joined to your breath; and then you will know the profit of silence," wrote Gregory the Theologian. So how does a prayer that is intended to instill humility uplift one's spirit? Luckily Both Lungs is written from an Eastern perspective, so, like much else, the answer to that question will be consigned to the realm of mysteries.

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 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.



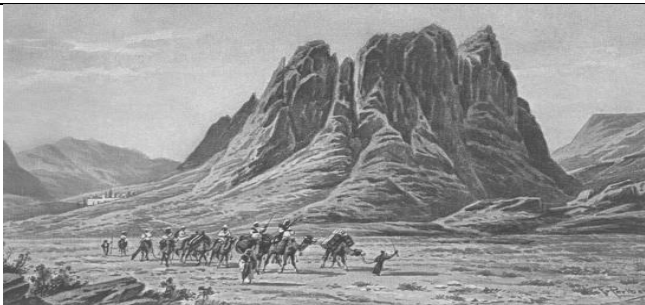
PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through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



In last week's homily you pointed out that the four Sundays before Lent, and that through Lent, we relive our own journey through this life like Moses in the desert, and it got me to thinking what this Journey is all about. I don't know what this Journey is about, can you explain some more?

Our Journey through this life has a final destination, if you desire to be eternally with God in heaven then follow Jesus in everything that you do. That is the point of Lent that just as Jesus recapitulates the journey of Israel from Egypt to the promised land as a "type" of journey of mankind through this life to the Resurrection. You may feel as some people do, that you are just repeating the same steps year after year, but I assure you that it is not the same – if you put an honest effort into making a holy lent. The big picture, journey, and the path that Christ shows us to be successful is that of all mankind from Genesis Chapter 1 verse 1 through to the Resurrection of Christ and the final judgement and the triumphant entry of all the holy ones into heaven as found in the Book of Revelation. For example, in the beginning God created everything and then finally God creates man. Through man whom the devil tempts to sin successfully, sickness, suffering and death enter God's creation. As we journey through our life as the nation of Israel journeyed through the desert, we are changed by this experience.

The Great Fast is our penitential preparation for the great feast of Pascha (Passover). As such, it is one of the most ancient parts of the liturgical year. It's forty days symbolizes the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of the mana as St. John wrote, "So Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.'(John 6:32)" I the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, who fasted 40 days in the desert following His Baptism. The feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and so the Great Fast was a time of preparation for baptism. Our observance of the Great Fast, therefore, is our renewal of our baptismal fervor when we first came to Christ.



Mount Sinai.