

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055

www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (office)

646-387-5494 (cell)

fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Biblical Challenge from Saint Andrew

As Great Lent begins tomorrow, March 14, 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."

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Mary Fechisin, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

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."

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, MARCH 14

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 1

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 2

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 3

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 4

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 - ST THEODORE TYRO (THE RECRUIT)

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Kolivo

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 - SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

9:00am - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Scott Cahayla**, who celebrates his birthday today, and **Robert M. Czech**, whose birthday is tomorrow. Happy Wedding Anniversary to **Bob & Betty Czech**, also tomorrow. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ Today after the Divine Liturgy we will have **Maslenitsa** in our church hall, followed by the Forgiveness Vespers. Please join us for this delicious celebration before we start Great Lent.

◆ **Daylight Saving Time** this year started today. Please don't forget that starting tomorrow we return back to our normal Vespers schedule, so that **ALL Vespers services will begin at 6:00pm.**

◆ **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** this year will be celebrated at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY. There will be a bus departing from Wayne that Sunday at 3PM. If you are interested to travel by bus, which will be filled on "first come first served" basis, please contact Fr. Joseph Lickwar @ 201-434-1986.



March 13, 2016

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

**The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise.
Forgiveness Sunday.**

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14:4
Gospel: Mt. 6:14-21
- **Maslenitsa** – everyone is invited for this pre-lenten celebration.
- **Forgiveness Vespers** with the Rite of Forgiveness. The service will start after Maslenitsa.

BEGINNING OF LENT – STRICT FAST