

March 13, 2016

Fifth Sunday of the Great Lent, St. Mary of Egypt

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may have noticed by now that the Liturgy, and specifically the priest's prayers, are a bit longer during the Great Fast. The reason being that the prayers given are those attributed to St. Basil the Great. These prayers are ancient for they originate in the early church, the 4th century AD. These prayers are powerful for they are rooted in God Himself, the Almighty One, in His holy name and are profuse with declamations of all He has done for us since time immemorial. They are evocative for they bring to mind the many ways He has drowned us in the flood of tears gushing forth from the loving kindness and indulgent mercy of His fatherly heart. Today, we notice this longer liturgy during Lent and may wonder: Okay, the prayers are beautiful, but why does it have to be so long? The interesting thing is that when St. Basil noticed the slothfulness men, how they were wearied by the length of the liturgy, he *shortened* it in order to cure their sloth. Thus, the Lenten Liturgy we think is so much longer is really a *quicky* when we compare it to the length of the liturgies in the ancient church. For example, even today, it is quite normal among our Coptic Orthodox brothers in Egypt to have a 3 hour liturgy.

The question, though, is not why the Liturgy is so long. Rather, the question should be, "Why is my love so short?" If we loved God, not in half-measure, but with hearts consumed, we would not notice the time. After all, have you ever heard it said between two people in love on a date: "Gee, that date took forever!" Of course, not. Those enraptured moments in the presence of the beloved fly by faster than angels can fly. You will notice this on Pascha (Easter) the atmosphere and prayers are so joyous, so loving, so victorious, so exultant, that at the end of a long morning you are left wondering why it has to end so soon. During this season of the Great Fast make an effort to pray the prayers of St. Basil found on pages 245-261 in the big black books found on the pews.

I wish to share with you a moment from my life about how longer prayers changed me. As you may know, I was a Roman Catholic seminarian at one time and stumbled upon the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Visiting Ukraine in 1998, I was taken aback by the love which a deacon had for the liturgy, how he prayed and sang his heart out to God in that liturgy with everything he had. That being the first Byzantine Liturgy for someone not used to long church services, I was exhausted upon completion. But, as I looked at the deacon he was just getting started! Whereas, I was totally emptied by the length of those prayers, he was completely filled by them. In being filled by them he seemed lighter, and I, the emptied one, was weighed down. That day was the beginning of my second conversion and I wish to thank Fr. Teodosy Kraychuk for being that prayer-filled, joy-filled deacon on that long ago summer day.

In Christ,

Jason (priest and sinner)

New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:

- **We wish to welcome Fr. Teodosy Kraychuk** to our parish this weekend. We thank him for leading our parish mission on Friday and Saturday. We are grateful for his continuing this mission by preaching at the weekend Liturgies.
- **In accord with the Particular Law of the UGCC**, our parish will soon begin the practice of reciting the Third Hour prayers before the celebration on the Divine Liturgy on Sundays.
- **Free Premium grade Dill Pickles** are available in the church hall. Help yourself! Located in the 5 gallon bucket in first fridge on the stage.
- **Parish Movie Day: The Passion of the Christ** in Church Hall Palm Sunday from 2pm-4pm.
- **Willows are starting to bloom:** Please bring in any willows from your yard for Palm Sunday –which is NEXT Sunday.
- **Veneration at the Grave of the Lord** sign up sheet is posted in the church vestibule. Please sign your name for the hour you can pray on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.
- **Pascha Pyrohi Marathon** is upon us! **March 14, 15, 17, & 18.** Please help pinch, wash dishes, carry trays, etc. Starting time: 7:00am. Pyrohi Kitchen: 412-276-9897 **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**
- **The Easter Pastoral** of the Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy of the USA is available in the church vestibule in English and Ukrainian. Please take one home. If you need extra copies, call the rectory.
- **PAC (Pastor's Advisory Council) Final Election Ballot** can be found in the church bulletin. Be sure to include your envelope number. **Deadline to return your final ballot is this Monday, March 14th by 4:30pm. Only ballots that include an envelope # will be accepted.** If for any reason you do not have a church envelope #, your name is sufficient. Your ballot will be kept strictly confident in the rectory office.
- **PAC Minutes from the 3-3-16 meeting** can be obtained in the church vestibule. Please take a copy.



- **Fr. Jason has asked Mr. Michael Jula** for help in designing a Museum Room here at Holy Trinity. Space is at a premium, but Michael's creativity is not! The goal is to have a well-appointed space for visitors to see all that parishioners (living and deceased) have done over the years to make this parish a reality. We wish to thank the Estate of Emily Stecko for helping with initial start-up costs of this project. Again, if you have ideas, please put them in the collection basket or contact the office.
- **NUT ROLL-\$12.00 Orders pick up is Thursday March 17th or Friday March 18th** from 9am until 4pm.
- **PYROHI Orders pick up is Thurs., March 17th & Fri., March 18th** from 9am until 4pm.
- **PASKA BREAD -\$7 plain, \$7.50 raisin** will be available for Easter. **Orders** must be in by **Fri., March 18th** and pick up is **Tuesday, March 22nd & Wednesday, March 23rd** from 2pm until 5pm. *LIMITED QUANTITY – Order early.* When ordering you need to specify type of bread and pick-up date. Call 412-276-9897 to place PASKA bread orders.
- **Sarris Candy Orders pick up Next Sun., (Palm Sunday), March 20th.** For more information, call Bo 412-726-8309 or bohdanmykhailiv@yahoo.com.

Prayer List: Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have a prayer list, contact the office and we'll send you one. *Keep in your prayers:* Anastasia Chruszcz, Stephanya Borszcz, Pauline Danesky, Alice Haritan, Luba and Peter Hlutkowsky, Daniel Holowaty, Theophil Konecky, John Maslany, Helen Novak, Joe & Kathleen Popivchak, Mary Simek, Margaret Staskowicz, Anna Szmul, Tillie Volanski, Bishop Richard Seminack, our former pastor, Donald Schultz, & Pat McGuire.



Easter Flowers for the Altar sheets and envelopes are in the church vestibule. We have ordered (70) 6-inch Lilies at \$7.00 each, (2) 8-inch Tulips at \$14.00 each and (4) 8-inch Hydrangeas at \$17.00 each. Please complete your envelopes and **return by March 23rd**.

Ukrainian Technological Society Annual Meeting is **Sunday, March 13th** at 3pm at the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (South Side). If you need a ride, call George (412-215-3303).

Men Following Jesus Christ HTUCC Group has been asked once again to serve dinners at the Light of Life Rescue Mission on this **Monday, March 14th**. We need at

least 7 volunteers to serve dinners from 4:45 pm through 6:15pm. Please call Deacon Myron if you and/or your friends can help at 412-303-9086 or mjspark@verizon.net.

Take responsibility to protect your life! Prepare NOW for a sudden emergency. You could be anywhere - at work, school, home, or in the car. How will you communicate, find each other and know if your children, family members and parents are safe? Where will you meet, where will you go, and what will you eat? Our church's fallout shelter may not provide for everyone's needs - regardless of how many frozen pyrohi are stored. There will be three (1) hour presentations beginning at 1pm in the church hall. Attend these presentations produced by the PA Emergency Mgt. Agency, NRA and the American Red Cross and learn that awareness and preparedness is your key to personal safety and survival. *Class #3 "Disaster Preparedness for Seniors" will be on **April 10th**

PYSANKY Ukrainian Easter Egg decorating workshops will be held at our church hall **March 13th and 20th**, from 2pm until 4pm. All supplies are provided
* Ages: 10 and up * Cost: Free will donations * Registration is required- call Halyna Charron 412-489-6248



Holy Trinity Fundraising. We have a number of costs facing our parish. First, the fresco of the Most Holy Trinity on the ceiling above the altar is chipping again. I understand this happens every few years. We will need to hire an expert to examine the root causes of this problem before we begin restoration work. Any painting done there, however, will have to fit into a color scheme which compliments the rest of the church. Second, the wooden base around the gutters on the church roof are beginning to rot. Third, we will need to do renovation work on the washrooms in the church hall, as well as the floors of the church office itself. Pyrohi funds can help with some of this, but the rest we will need to look at fundraising ideas. If you have an idea, please write it down and put it anonymously in the collection basket.

Chicken & Dumpling Dinner will take place at the Church of the Atonement (618 Washington Ave, Carnegie) Saturday, April 2 4pm until 7pm. Chicken & dumplings, gravy, salad, peas, applesauce, rolls, choice of dessert, beverage. Adults: \$12.95, children 5 to 12 yrs: \$5.95, children 4 & under, Free. Tickets must be purchased by March 28th. Call 412-276-0366 to reserve your tickets.

Easter Bake Sale will take place at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church (404-6th Street, Ambridge, PA) on **March 18th & 19th** from 9am – 2pm in the School Hall (located next to the church). Baked goods include Paska, Nut Rolls & Ukrainian & Easter Desserts, Butter lambs. *Egg decorating Saturday, March 19th from 9am-2pm \$2 per person.

49th Annual Ukrainian Pysanky Sale will take place at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd, Carnegie) on **Sunday, March 20th** from 11am until 4pm. With over 1,200 Pysanky Easter eggs and over 300 specialty eggs, this is still the biggest egg sale in town! For more information, visit www.orthodoxcarnegie.org or phone 412-527-5359 or 412-279-2111.



Remember---PRAY TO END ABORTION! “Many people are very, very concerned with the children in India, with the children in Africa where quite a number die, maybe of malnutrition, of hunger and so on, but millions are dying deliberately by the will of the mother. And this is what is the greatest destroyer of peace today. Because if a mother can kill her own child -- what is left for me to kill you and you kill me - there is nothing between.” ~Bl.Mother Teresa

PAW is conducting its 13th annual Protect Our Watersheds **Art Contest** which is open to 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. **Deadline for entries: Wed., March 30th**. The Grand Prize winner receives a \$100 gift card to Barnes & Noble, plus will have his/her artwork printed on unique seed-filled cards that when planted and watered produce flowers. For more information go to www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com.

Sheptytsky Arms is in need of some furniture for 2 of their residents: a small kitchen table w/ 2 chairs, coffee table, bed stand, table lamps or tall standing lamps, a small sofa or 3 or a love seat. Please call, Sister Olga at 412-766-8802

The Church was a Mother to you in Life, providing for your Spiritual Needs: Please Remember the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma in your Last Will and Testament. The wording to do this is as follows:

“I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, located in Parma, Ohio, ___% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$ ____].”

Vital Stats: \$2,343 was offered in the collection last weekend with another \$153.75 for candles, \$20 for the Eparchy, \$326 for Utilities, \$25 Special Offering, \$144 for Veneration of the Holy Cross, \$21 for “The Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund”, \$100 donation towards the Pysanky Workshop, and \$5,000 Memorial Donation in memory of Emily Stecko for a grand total of \$8,132.75. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

The Pyrohi Project brought in a *net amount* of \$2,721.37. Many blessings to all of our pyrohi volunteers!

Lector Schedule:

- Friday: March 18 (Pre-Sanct.) at 7pm: George Honchar

- Saturday: March 19 at 4pm: Stephanie Fedora
- Sunday: March 20 (Palm Sunday) at 8:30am: Ben Ciarallo & at 11am: Cantor

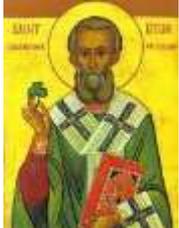
What's happening in our parish this week . . .

Sat.	Lenten Retreat: <i>Holy Confessor Theophanes of Sigrina</i>		
3/12	9:00am	Akathist	
	10:00am	Mission Talk II with Fr. Teodosy	
	11:30am	Brunch	
	1:00pm	Mission Talk III with Fr. Teodosy	
	2:00pm	Confessions until 3:45pm	
	4:00pm	40 th day Divine Liturgy for Peter Wheat (moved from 3-11-16)	JC
	also for the late Helen Makar requested by Mike Makar and Chris Ruehrshneck	IS
Sun.	Lenten Retreat: <i>Transfer of the relics of St. Nicephorus,</i>		
3/13	8:30am	Divine Liturgy to mark the 3 rd anniversary of the late Mary Zorey requested by Russ & Donna Zorey	IS
	11:00am	Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish	JC
	also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Peter Wheat requested by Charles & Donna Sradomski	IS
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Mon.	<i>Our venerable father Benedict of Nursia</i>		
3/14			
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Tues.	<i>The holy martyrs Agapius & the six martyrs with him</i>		
3/15	8:30am	Matins	
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Wed.	<i>The holy martyr Sabinus</i>		
3/16	8:30am	Matins	
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Thurs.	<i>Our venerable father Alexius, man of God</i>		
3/17	8:30am	Matins	
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Fri. *Our father among the saints, Archbishop Cyril of Jerusalem*
 3/18 7:00pm Pre-sanctified Liturgy for the health of Pauline Danesky
 requested by the St. Josaphat Society JC

Sat. *The holy martyrs Chrysanthus & Daria, his wife*
 3/19 4:00pm Divine Liturgy to mark the 12th anniversary of the late
 George Fedora requested by Stephanie and Family JC
also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Pete Wheat
 requested by Helen Moskal IS

Sun. **Palm Sunday: *Our venerable fathers martyred at the***
 3/20 *monastery of St. Sabbas*
 8:30am Divine Liturgy to for the health of Tillie Volanski
 requested by the St. Josaphat Society IS
 11:00am Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish JC
also Divine Liturgy for the health of Theophil
 Konecky requested by the St. Josaphat Society IS



St. Patrick

March Birthdays

Jo Ann Pretka	Olga Medwig	Richard Hurey
Peter Hlutkowsky	Anna Karpa	Frank Zuk
Evhen Czuczman	Mary Ann Volanski	Arlene Esterburg
Mary Suzanne Dennis	Veronica Alstad	Frances Wengryn
Janet Dupilka	Tim Davis	Irene Was
Pat McGuire	Roseann Duhig	Tetyana Chubko
Katherine Volanski	John Maslany	Helen Marie Zaletski
Stanislav Davyda	Thomas Medwig	Victoria Ulrich



Quotes:

“Every evil is a sickness of soul, but virtue offers the cause of its health.”

St. Basil

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”

St. Basil