

March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday of the Great Lent, St. John Climacus

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Why bother going on retreat? We have a parish retreat this coming week, March 11-13th. So, again, I ask you: Why bother going on retreat?

You may have riches beyond telling – and still feel a deep misery inside – if you have not one person in life who truly loves you and cares for you. On the other hand, you could be poor to the point of rags – yet fulfilled and happy – because you have loved ones who care for you. You see, secular social scientists are just now discovering (ex. Richard Layard) what religious thinkers have known for centuries: that the most important piece of the puzzle of personal happiness is being in a relationship. Yet, what personal relationship could be more important than the relationship we should have with God, One in the Trinity?

Saints are people who have shown incredible happiness and who have shown us that such happiness involves belonging to something (*family*, or a *monastery*) and someone (*God*) greater than oneself. I think of all the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops, who in 1946 were arrested by the godless Communists and, despite gruesome torture and martyrdom, stuck together in complete unity to defend the faith. I think of the holy Trappist monks in Algeria in 1996 who decided to all stick together and die as martyrs for Christ at the hands of the Islamist terrorists rather than to go their separate ways and exist, all alone and scattered. I think of those holy nuns of Compiègne who died *en masse* at the hands of the barbarian horde, whom others call the enlightened fathers of the French Revolution, for the crime of loving Jesus with their whole hearts. Those brave nuns died together, all singing hymns of joy and psalms on their way to meeting the Bridegroom. It was their friendship with God discovered through each other that gave them strength.

These religious men and women died well together because they lived well together. The same is true for those of us who live in the world. For example, married couples with strong marriages will impart this secret: make time alone and invest in conversation! I believe that you share this understanding with me when I say that we need to do the same with God. For this reason, our mother, the Church, encourages us to make an annual retreat. In case you don't know, a "retreat" is a time when we pull back from the mirage of this world and make time for God. During this time we examine our life and make resolutions for our betterment, with God's help and divine grace. Got a wart on your personality? Go on retreat!

Before the Blessed Savior began His public ministry, he spent 40 days in the desert praying and fasting. Let's follow His example! This coming Friday, Saturday and Sunday, you will have an opportunity placed on your lap: a retreat by a wonderful and holy priest-monk, Fr. Teodosy Kraychuk. Cost of admission? Bring a friend, relative or neighbor!!! See schedule in this bulletin...

In Christ,

Jason (priest and sinner)

New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:

- **Parish Retreat:** *“Transformed in the Life-Creating Vision of God”*
Retreat Master: Fr. Teodosy Kraychuk, Hieromonk

Dates: Next Weekend- March 11th – 13th {Friday – Sunday}

Times: Friday: Mission Talk I: 7pm

Saturday: Akathist: 9am

Mission Talk II: 10am

Brunch: 11:30am

Mission Talk III: 1pm

Confessions: 2pm – 3:45pm

Liturgy and Sermon: 4pm, followed by social hour

Sunday: Liturgy 8:30am & 11am, followed by social hour



•Confessions •Prayer Services • Lenten talks • Refreshments

After a life of drugs, drinking and partying, this former biker heard the voice of Christ Jesus telling him to choose a path. He chose the path of life. Come and be renewed by the power of this voice crying out in the wilderness!

- **PAC Final Elections** start this weekend. The Primary elections are over. Please vote using the ballot in this bulletin. Be sure to include your envelope number. **Deadline to return your final ballot is Monday, March 14th.** *Only ballots that include an envelope # will be accepted.*
- **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.

- **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.
- **Sheptytsky Arms** is in need of some furniture for 2 of their residents: a small kitchen table with 2 chairs, a coffee table, a bed stand, table lamps or tall standing lamps, a small sofa or 3 or a love seat. Thank you. Please call the rectory or call Sister Olga at 412-766-8802 if you can help.
- **PYSANKY** Ukrainian Easter Egg decorating workshops will be held at our church hall **March 6th, 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 
- **A Food Drive** will be sponsored by our CCD program to benefit the local food bank **through March 13th**. Please be generous and place your items in the boxes near the entrances to our church. 
- **NUT ROLLS-\$12.00** Orders pick up is **Thursday March 17th or Friday March 18th** from 9am until 4pm.
- **PYROHI** will be available for Easter. Orders must be in by **Fri., March 11th** and pick up is **Thurs., March 17th & Fri., March 18th** from 9am until 4pm. When ordering, please specify type of pyrohi and pick-up-date. Call 412-276-9897 to place PYROHI orders.
- **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** will be ready for pick up on **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 Popivchak, Mary Simek, Margaret Staskowicz, Anna Szmul, Tillie Volanski, Most Rev. Richard Seminack, our former pastor, Marika Zaliszczuk, and Donald Schultz.



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.”

MOTHER TERESA, Nobel Lecture, Dec 11, 1979

Men Following Jesus Christ HTUCC Group has been asked once again to serve dinners at the Light of Life Rescue Mission on **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 mjspak@verizon.net.



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**.

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 #2 “Refuse to be a Victim” will be **this Sunday, March 6th**

Class #3 “Disaster Preparedness for Seniors” will be on April 10th

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.

\$2,000 post-secondary scholarship will be awarded to a student by Pennsylvania American Water (PAW). To apply, students must complete the Stream of Learning Scholarship application at pennsylvaniaamwater.com. Deadline is March 21, 2016. **All applications** must be postmarked by **March 21, 2016**. Questions? Call 724-743-3103.

PAW is also 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.

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: \$2,072.50 was offered in the collection last weekend with another \$101 for candles, \$50 for the Eparchy, \$140 for Utilities, \$50 Special Offering, \$15 for Synod of Bishops, \$25 for Church Feasts, \$10 Initial Offering, \$20 for Theophany, \$30 for “The Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund”, \$10 prosphora donation, \$10 donation for the Young mother in Crafton, and \$3,000 Unrestricted Donation for a grand total of \$5,533.50. The Pyrohi Project brought in a *net amount* of \$2,813.06. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

Lector Schedule:

- Friday: March 11 (Pre-Sanct.) at 7pm: Cantor
- Saturday: March 12 at 4pm: Sandy Krivonyak
- Sunday: March 13 at 8:30am: Serhiy Chovnyk & at 11am: Cantor
- Friday: March 18 (Pre-Sanct.) at 7pm: George Honchar

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

Sat. 3/5	Climbing the Stairs to Mercy: <i>The holy martyrs Conon and his wife Maria</i>	
8:00am	Parastas for those enrolled in Sorokoustialso Confessions available until 3:00pm. Ask a priest...	JC
9:30am	Registration for Mercy Conference, which ends 3:30pm	
10:00am	<u>Presentation #1:</u> “ <i>What do we know about Mercy from the Scriptures?</i> ” {Rev. Fr. Jason Charron}	
11:00am	<u>Presentation #2:</u> “ <i>Do we pray for Mercy in the Liturgy?</i> ” {Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Appleyard}	
12:00pm	Lunch (catered)	
1:00pm	<u>Presentation #3:</u> “ <i>How can we practice Mercy in our lives and parishes?</i> ” {Rev. Fr. Michael Polosky}	
2:00pm	Priests available for Confessions	
4:00pm	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Rose & Julie Showrank, and Antoinette, John, Walter & Mary Hurey requested by an anonymous person	JC
also Divine Liturgy to mark the 47 th anniversary of the late Stephen Zinski and Anastasia Zinski requested by their son, Stephen	IS
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Sun. 3/6	<i>The 42 holy martyrs of Ammoria in Phrygia</i>	
8:30am	Divine Liturgy for health & blessings for Peter & Luba Hlutekowsky requested by the St. Josaphat Society	IS
11:00am	Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish	JC
also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Michael & Julia Konecky requested by Bohdan & Anne Konecky & Family	IS
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Mon. 3/7	<i>Holy priest-martyrs in Kherson</i>	
8:30am	Matins	

Tues. 3/8 8:30am	<i>Our venerable father and confessor Theophilactus</i> Matins	
Wed. 3/9 8:30am	<i>The holy 40 martyrs of Sebastia</i> Matins	
Thurs. 3/10	<i>The holy martyr Quadratus & his companions in Corinth</i>	
Fri. 3/11 7:00pm	Lenten Retreat: <i>Our father among the saints, Sophronius</i> Pre-sanctified Liturgy to mark the 19 th anniversary of the late late Michael Mischuk and the 10 th anniversary of the late Halya Mischuk requested by Mike & Nadia Morozowichfollowed by Mission Talk I with Fr. Teodosy	JC
Sat. 3/12 9:00am	Lenten Retreat: <i>Holy Confessor Theophanes of Sigriana</i> 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)also Divine Liturgy to mark the 3 rd anniversary of the late Helen Makar requested by Mike Makar and Chris Ruehrshneck	JC IS
Sun. 3/13 8:30am	Lenten Retreat: <i>Transfer of the relics of St. Nicephorus,</i> 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 parishalso Divine Liturgy for the repose of Peter Wheat requested by Charles & Donna Sradomski	JC IS



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

March Birthdays continued.....

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:

“In all your undertakings and in every way of life, whether you are living in obedience, or are not submitting your work to anyone, whether in outward or in spiritual matters, let it be your rule and practice to ask yourself: Am I really doing this in accordance with God's will?”

---St. John Climacus

"Let us charge into the good fight with joy and love without being afraid of our enemies. Though unseen themselves, they can look at the face of our soul, and if they see it altered by fear, they take up arms against us all the more fiercely. For the cunning creatures have observed that we are scared. So let us take up arms against them courageously. No one will fight with a resolute fighter."

---St. John Climacus