

February 21, 2010 – Sunday of Orthodoxy – Tone 4. Ven. Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia (9th c.). St. Eustathius, Archbishop of Antioch (377). St. George, Bishop of Amastris on the Black Sea (802-811). **Epistle:** Heb. 11:24-26, 32-12:2. **Gospel:** John 1:43-51.

Next Sunday, Feb. 28 – Second Sunday of Lent. St. Gregory Palamas – Tone 5. Epistle: Heb. 1:10-2:3. **Gospel:** Mark 2:1-12.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Feb. 21, 2010)

TODAY

11:15 AM Church School & Bible Class
5:00 PM Orthodoxy Vespers (at St. Nicholas)

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Vespers
6:30 PM *Path to Salvation: Route 321*

WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM Reading Group (at Borders Café)
6:00 PM Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & Potluck Supper+ (see below)

THURSDAY

6:30 AM Matins

FRIDAY

4-7:00 PM Fish Dinner
7:00 PM Molieben for Our Country

SATURDAY

9:30 AM Memorial Liturgy
6:00 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY (Feb. 28)

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: St. Gregory Palamas
11:15 AM Church School & Bible Class

+ **Lenten Potluck Supper** – following the Presanctified Liturgy this Wednesday evening, Feb. 24; bring a dish, come, and share the fellowship.

THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

The First Sunday of Lent is called the Sunday, or Triumph, of Orthodoxy. The *triumph* of the Church is linked, or embodied, with the making and venerating of icons by the faithful. The practice of icons does not merely represent a persistent custom of stubbornly religious people. The practice of veneration of icons demonstrates the victory of the true Faith over the false worship of idols.

Icon means “image,” contrasted with the *idol*, meaning “idea,” or “mental picture.” The difference is profound. Christ Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, “is the *icon* of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15). We human beings are created “in the *icon* of God” (Gen. 1:27). On the other hand, “For all the gods of the Gentiles are *idols*” (1 Chr. 16:25); and, “we know that an *idol* is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one” (1 Cor. 8:4).

The Orthodox Faith understands how to *see* God, that is, in the *icon*, the image. The precise *icon* of God is the Son of God Who became a man for our sake. In Christ Jesus we *see* God, and thus we make icons of Him, His Mother, and the saints who participate by grace in Christ, and we venerate holy relics such as the Cross and the bodies of the saints in which holiness resides. The *icon* is the image of life transformed and revealed in the glory of the Kingdom of God.

Apart from this true iconic vision there are only *idols*, that is, what people *think God looks like*. Darkened from the true vision of God, men “exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen” (Rom. 1:25). An *idol* is a picture, or portrait, of “god” merely in the terms of this world, like a digital photo, a naturalistic painting, or a symbolic statue. An *icon* depicts its subject as a creature in communion with the uncreated energies of God. This communion with God is the longed-for goal of the Christian life and the very purpose of the Church’s mission in the world. Christ became a man that we, in His grace, might become divine.

The Friend of the Bridegroom

“He Must Increase and I Must Decrease” (John 3:29-30)



THE RESTORATION OF THE HOLY ICONS

**St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
Orthodox Church in America**

2220 Reeves Road NE Warren, Ohio 44483
Church Phone: 330-372-3895 www.stjohnswarren.com
General Office Hours: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (TThF)

Fr. Jonathan H. Cholcher, Rector...330-980-0134 (Cell)
Pastoral Emergencies 10 PM - 7 AM ... 330-469-2907
Judy Reed, Sisterhood/Repasts...Home: 330-793-5145
Cell: 330-519-5730
John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator.....330-469-9531

Saturday: Vespers at 6:00 PM Sunday: Liturgy at 9:30 AM
Feast Day Liturgy – 9:30 AM Sunday School (after Liturgy)

GENERAL INFORMATION

02-14-10: 110 (attendance); **\$3,221.00** (collection).
02-21-10: candle commemorations – **Theotokos:** -----; **Altar:** blessed memory of Lillian Motil; **Christ:** -----.

Please Pray for:

Living: Vera (Campbell, at home); **Chariessa** (Stitchik, sister of Mark Malacky); **Charles & Ed** (co-workers of Diane Cholcher); **Kerya** (Brisbine); **Melanie** (Smith, cousin of Vera Campbell); **Aaron** (Meterko); **Helen** (Stan); **Maryann** (Lalli) & **Craig** (Parana, friends of the DiGiacobbes); **Raymond** (Flannery); **Joseph** (Yez, Sr.; at home); **Denise** (Hafely, daughter of Larry and Ev Carr); **Helen** (Molnar, at Trumbull Memorial); **Barbara** (Johnson).
Departed: Lillian (Motil; d. 1/25/10; cousin of Pauline Struble); **Margaret** (Quinn; d. 2/2/10).

This Month's Charity – February 2010:

[charity envelope or baskets after Liturgy]
OCA Midwest Diocese Missions

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Feb. 21 Sunday of Orthodoxy; Annual Parish Meeting (Orthodoxy Vespers at St. Nicholas Church, 5 PM)
- March 7 Sunday of the Cross – Cleveland Deanery Akathist Service, 5 PM at St. Theodosius Cathedral in Cleveland
- March 18 Cleveland Deanery Mtg. at St. John's Monastery (Hiram, OH) with Presanctified Liturgy at 6 PM
- March 25 Feast of the Annunciation; Vesperal (evening) Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at 6 PM



SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

1) Church (Sunday) School & Bible Class:

for all ages, following Divine Liturgy – adults are studying the Divine Liturgy.

2) Path to Salvation: Route 321

Tuesdays following Vespers (about 6:30 PM), specifically designed for newcomers to the Orthodox Tradition;

3) Classic Literature Reading Group:

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM, at Borders Café (near the Eastwood Mall) – currently reading *The Odyssey*, by Homer; engaging the culture with the Faith!

4) St. John's Society (for teens):

most Sundays at 6:00 PM, for fellowship, mutual education, service, and encouragement!

+ **Charity of the month, February, 2010: Missions in our Midwest Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America** – please give as you are able this month using your Charity Envelope or the basket collections following Liturgy.

+ **Fasting before Evening Liturgies:**

We always fast before receiving Holy Communion, to prepare ourselves with attention. Before evening Liturgies (e.g., the Presanctified Liturgy), you may have breakfast, but try to abstain from food throughout the rest of the day, especially snacks after the lunch hour if you need a light meal in the middle of the day.

+ **Path to Salvation: Route 321**

- an 8-week class for inquirers, seekers, and newcomers to the Orthodox Tradition;
- Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, following Vespers (concluding March 23);
- Anyone is invited to attend and grow in the Faith!

+ **Weekly Lenten Worship:**

Throughout Lent we gather for special services. These include the **Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts** (on Wed.), a **Service of Supplication** (*molieben*) for our country (on Fri.), and Divine Liturgy (on Sat.) **to remember the faithful departed**.

On Sunday mornings, we serve the **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**. This Liturgy includes the longer *Anaphora* (“offering”) prayers presenting God’s plan of salvation and extensive prayers for all sorts and conditions of people.

+ **NURSERY NEEDS:**

Please consider donating the following items for our Baby and Toddler Room at Church:

- a) a crib;
- b) mommy chairs;
- c) a changing table.

See Fr. Jonathan if you would like to contribute these or other items for those with early childhood needs.

FISH DINNERS – DESSERTS NEEDED

Please make/donate a dessert if you are able.

[We usually need about 30 per dinner.]

REMAINING SCHEDULE FOR THIS SEASON:

Feb. 26; March 12 & 26;

April 23; May 7 & 21

See Denise Higgins, Paul Kapp, or Carol Nicholl for more information or opportunities to serve.

+ **Monthly Calendars with Birthdays and Anniversaries** have been printed and posted on the bulletin board. These are the calendars used for the weekly “Many Years!” commemorations. Please check over the calendars to update them. **Circle any names to be omitted, and write in any names to be included.** We’re trying to maintain monthly calendars primarily to include members of the Parish with their immediate family members.