

**February 28, 2010 – Second Sunday of Lent. St. Gregory Palamas – Tone 5.** Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750). Bl. Nikolai, Fool-for-Christ at Pskov (1576). Hieromartyr Proterius, Patriarch of Alexandria (457). Hieromartyr Nestor, Bishop of Magydos in Pamphylia (250). Ven. Marina, Cyra, and Dominica, of Syria (ca. 450). Ven. John Cassian the Roman (435). **Epistle:** Heb. 1:10-2:3. **Gospel:** Mark 2:1-12.

**Next Sunday, March 7 – Third Sunday of Lent. Veneration of the Cross – Tone 6.** **Epistle:** Heb. 4:14-5:6. **Gospel:** Mark 8:34-9:1.

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### THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Feb. 28, 2010)

#### TODAY

11:15 AM Church School & Bible Class  
6:00 PM St. John's Society

#### TUESDAY

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

#### WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM Reading Group (at Borders Café)  
5:15 PM Confession  
6:00 PM Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

#### THURSDAY

6:30 AM Matins

#### FRIDAY

7:00 PM Molieben for Our Country

#### SATURDAY

9:30 AM Memorial Liturgy  
6:00 PM Vigil of the Cross

#### SUNDAY (March 7)

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: Ven. of the Cross  
11:15 AM Church School & Coffee Hour  
5:00 PM Deanery Akathist (at St. Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland)

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### THE LITURGY OF PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

A distinctive service of Great Lent is the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, so named because the Holy Gifts of the Body and Blood of Christ are consecrated, or sanctified, on the Sunday before their reception by the faithful. The Gifts are kept on the Altar in a special box until their distribution during the Presanctified Liturgy.

Two things make this Liturgy distinctive. One, it is *instructive* ("catechetical") in character. Two, the Presanctified Liturgy emphasizes the fact that Jesus Christ is literally our *Daily Bread* for our pilgrimage to the Kingdom of God.

Composed of two parts, the first half of the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts is the evening service of Vespers with hymns, Psalms, and specific readings from the Old Testament (i.e., from *Genesis* and *Proverbs*). We receive instruction ("catechesis") concerning our origins, God's plan of salvation, and true Wisdom.

The second half of the Liturgy is essentially prayers for reception of Holy Communion. Since the Gifts are *pre-sanctified*, there are no offering prayers or Words of Institution for the change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, only recognition of what we are about to receive in faith and love. As such, this Liturgy reflects the practice in the early Church when Christians took the Gifts home with them to partake each day throughout the week.

"Grant unto us also, O Good One...to complete the course of the Fast." Thus we pray to conclude this Liturgy, which itself gives us the strength - Christ Himself - to do this very thing.



The Friend of the Bridegroom

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



**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**

**02-21-10: 110** (attendance); **\$2,034.00** (collection).  
**02-28-10: candle commemorations – Theotokos:** blessed memory of Eva and Joseph Kobasiar; **Altar:**  
 blessed memory of George Kaschak; **Christ:** birthday of Alfred DiGiacobbe.

**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**

- 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**
- March 28    Palm Sunday (Holy Week)**



**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.

+ **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.** The monthly calendars include members of the Parish with their immediate family members.

+ **The Mystery of Confession:**

*Confession* is offered during Lent as scheduled before Presanctified Liturgies, after Great Vespers on Saturday evenings, or by appointment with Fr. Jonathan. *Confession* is not simply an Orthodox religious obligation, or a requirement for going to Holy Communion; rather, *Confession* is *therapy* for sin-sick persons.

*Confession* embodies a healthy three-way relationship: with God, with the Priest (spiritual father), and with one another in the Parish. Through *Confession* we seek to live in repentance, in the faith, and in love as we practice honesty, humility, and trust.

But in order for these virtues to grow through *Confession*, you (the Orthodox Christian) must participate in *Confession*. Great Lent is an opportune time for the fostering of this participation.

**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:**

March 12 & 26; April 23; May 7 & 21

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

+ **Deanery Lenten Service at St. Theodosius Cathedral (in Cleveland), Sunday, March 7, at 5:00 PM: Akathist to the Cross and of the Miracle-working Icon of the Mother of God (“She Who is Quick to Hear”)** – come and pray and venerate this miracle-working Icon of the Theotokos which is kept at St. Tikhon’s Monastery in South Canaan, PA [the original icon from the 10<sup>th</sup> century is at a monastery on Mt. Athos, Greece].

“...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?” (Hebrews 2:3)