

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

February 21, 2021

8:40 AM Rosary

9:00 AM **Health/Blessings for Holy Ghost Parishioners**

Monday, February 22nd

5:00PM Book Study in the Church basement

6:30 PM CANON OF ST ANDREW OF CRETE

Tuesday, February 23rd

6:30PM Zoom Book Study

Wednesday, February 24th

5:00 PM Confessions in the Sacristy (or by appointment)

6:30PM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, February 25th

NO SERVICES

Friday, February 26th

6:30 PM LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

Saturday, February 27th

9:30 AM **ALL SOULS SATURDAY – Liturgy with Panachyda for Our Deceased Loved One**

5:00 PM **+ Genevieve Benedick – by Jeannette Wolansky**

Sunday, February 28th SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

8:40 AM Rosary

9:00 AM **Health/Blessings for Holy Ghost Parishioners**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

In the Byzantine mentality, the Divine Liturgy is a joyous and festive *celebration*, and, because of the penitential nature of Great Lent, the Church did not consider it proper to *celebrate* the Divine Liturgy during the 40 days, except on Saturdays and Sundays, the Feast of the Annunciation, and on Great and Holy Thursday. Still, the faithful needed the nourishment and comfort offered by the Holy Eucharist. So a communion service was instituted and developed to serve the needs of the people. This communion service, comprised of parts of the Vespers service and parts of the Liturgy, is called the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

The Presanctified Liturgy is one of the most ancient in both form and content. Although there are records of its celebration dating from the 2nd century, the form we know today was not written down until the 7th century. At the 6th Ecumenical Council held in Constantinople in 680, the Presanctified Liturgy was universally recognized and ordered to be celebrated on all Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent, as well as Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Week. There is strong evidence that the form of the Presanctified used in the Byzantine Rite was composed by Pope Saint Gregory the Great.

We need to become better acquainted with this Liturgy, as it plays such an important part in the Lenten liturgical life of the Eastern Church. We urge you to experience this beautiful service every Friday at 6:00 PM during the Great Fast.

CONGRATULATIONS:

This week **Aleksy Wlaszyn (2/22)** celebrates his birthday. We wish you a wonderful celebration, and a year of health and blessings flavored with pure joy, and **many blessed years... mnohaya i blahaya lita!**

In the School of the Holy Spirit:

As we enter into the Lenten season, I'm thrilled to present to your attention another great book written by Fr. Jacques Philippe: "In the School of the Holy Spirit."

What do we have to learn from the Holy Spirit? Through Sacred Scripture, the Spirit consoles us against our weaknesses and failures. We are led back to the right path when we are lost. We learn that the Holy Spirit is essential to our Christian life and is needed to progress on the path on which God leads us.

If you promise to read this book, you can pick it up at no cost – a gift from the parish! Please consider joining our Book Study club on Mondays during Lent based on this book.

SPEND TIME WITH JESUS:

Our Church is open every Wednesday and Saturday between 9:00am-7:00PM. Please come and spend some time with Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist! If for some reason the Church is locked when you come, please call Fr. Sal immediately.

Sunday Epistle: Heb 11,24-40;12,1-2

Sunday Gospel: Jn 1,43-51

UKIE STORE:

If you want to buy something from our ukie store, and there is no one to assist you, please remember to put your money in the envelope and write what you bought and the price as it appears on the price tag. Thank you for your cooperation!

DONATION STATEMENTS FOR 2020:

Statements for tax deductible contributions made to the church 2020 are available in the vestibule. Please contact Fr. Sal if you have any questions or if you need your statement mailed to you.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST:

Originally, the First Sunday of the Great Fast was dedicated to the memory of the Holy Prophets of the Old Covenant. Therefore, in today's Gospel, Philip tells Nathaniel, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the Law, and also the prophets (John 1:45)." Today, however, we call this day the "Sunday of Orthodoxy". On March 11, 843 AD, the Empress Theodora made a solemn procession to celebrate the victory of orthodoxy (true faith) in the controversy over the writing, use and nature of holy icons. This became an annual feast shortly thereafter, and displaced the memory of the prophets. Historically, this feast has evolved to include not only orthodoxy in respect to icons, but to the triumph of God's revealed Truth over all heresies and false teachings.

Listed here are 10 points for fruitful Scripture reading.

1. **Bible reading is for Catholics.** The Church encourages Catholics to make reading the Bible part of their daily prayer lives. Reading these inspired words, people grow deeper in their relationship with God and come to understand their place in the community God has called them to in himself.
2. **Prayer is the beginning and the end.** Reading the Bible is not like reading a novel or a history book. It should begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the Word of God. Scripture reading should end with a prayer that this Word will bear fruit in our lives, helping us to become holier and more faithful people.
3. **Get the whole story! When selecting a Bible, look for a Catholic edition.** A Catholic edition will include the Church's complete list of sacred books along with introductions and notes for understanding the text. A Catholic edition will have an *imprimatur* notice on the back of the title page. An *imprimatur* indicates that the book is free of errors in Catholic doctrine.
4. **The Bible isn't a book. It's a library.** The Bible is a collection of 73 books written over the course of many centuries. The books include royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers' accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. Knowing the genre of the book you are reading will help you understand the literary tools the author is using and the meaning the author is trying to convey.
5. **Know what the Bible is – and what it isn't.** The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to be read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation.
6. **The sum is greater than the parts.** Read the Bible in context. What happens before and after – even in other books – helps us to understand the true meaning of the text.
7. **The Old relates to the New.** The Old Testament and the New Testament shed light on each other. While we read the Old Testament in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it has its own value as well. Together, these testaments help us to understand God's plan for human beings.
8. **You do not read alone.** By reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture, Catholics join those faithful men and women who have taken God's Word to heart and put it into practice in their lives. We read the Bible within the tradition of the Church to benefit from the holiness and wisdom of all the faithful.
9. **What is God saying to me?** The Bible is not addressed only to long-dead people in a faraway land. It is addressed to each of us in our own unique situations. When we read, we need to understand what the text says and how the faithful have understood its meaning in the past. In light of this understanding, we then ask: What is God saying to me?
10. **Reading isn't enough.** If Scripture remains just words on a page, our work is not done. We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be "living and effective."(Hebrews 4:12).

*The Church was a mother to you in life, providing for your spiritual needs; please remember the Eparchy of Saint 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 \$ _____]."*Thank you!