

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



Icon of the Call of Philip and Nathaniel

HOLY GHOST UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

315 Fourth Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania 18042

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Archpriest Fr. Daniel Troyan – Pastor

February 14-21, 2016

1st Sunday of the Great Fast: Lent

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26 32-12:2

Gospel: John 1: 43-51

SATURDAY 6:00PM Health of Karen Bakros- Greg & Dorothy Neff

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT: February 14, 2015

9:00AM (Ukrainian) FOR THE PARISHIONERS

11:00AM (English) +Wolodymyr Naumenko – 40th Day- Tom & Olia Dunigan

The weekdays of Lent are aliturgical days. The Divine Liturgy is always a celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord so it is celebrated only on Saturday's and Sunday's during Lent.

WEDNESDAY 12:00 noon ROSARY

5:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

FRIDAY 12:00 noon: STATIONS OF THE CROSS :

“Lenten Soup” Lunch

5:30PM SOROKOUSTY: Remembrance of the Dead

6:00- 6:45PM Religious Education Classes

SATURDAY 6:00PM Health of Teodozia Sroka- Marion Sroka & family

2nd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: LENT February 21, 2016

9:00AM(Ukrainian) +Volodimir Bilan 1st Anniversary: Michtchak Family

**11:00AM (English) Health and Blessings Julie & Dominic Mazeotta –
Stephania Trusz**

Weekly Income - \$ 2165.00 Thank you for your generosity & support

Eternal Light & Altar Candles: In memory of +John Bryksa – Olga Bryksa

UPCOMING EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES: 10:15AM-10:45AM Sunday's
February 14: St Valentine's Day: LOVE and LENT :Jesus calls us to love
February 17 WEDNESDAY 5:30PM LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS:
studying the ways of Lenten worship
February 21 LOVE AND REPENTANCE

SOROKOUSTY ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

FEBRUARY 20, 2016	Friday 5:30PM	2 nd All Souls Saturday
FEBRUARY 27, 2016	Friday 5:30PM	3 rd All Souls Saturday
MARCH 4, 2016	Friday 5:30PM	4 th All Souls Saturday
MAY 14, 2016	Saturday 10:00AM	5 th All Souls Saturday

FEBRUARY 16-17 Pyrohy Sale : To place an order please call the rectory at 610-252-4266, left your name number and how many dozen ordered, or place your name on the PYROHY LIST in the back of the church. Thank you. Volunteers are always needed and welcome!

PYSANKY CLASSES February 28th and March 6 12:15PM-3:00PM

MARCH 2 Basilian Spirituality Center Fox Chase 6:30PM-8:30PM

CENTERING PRAYER: HOW SHOULD MERCY FEEL ?

Presenter: Dr. Paul LaChance, fee: \$20.00 Registration Forms in the Vestibule

WOMANS DAY RETREAT March 6 and April 24, 2016

March 6 at Shrine of the Holy Family Washington DC

April 24 at St Vladimirs Church in Scranton PA

TOPIC: Women as Caregivers: Spiritual, Pastoral and Practical Matters

Fliers and application in the vestibule

MARCH 8-9 PYROHY SALE:

MARCH 11, 12, 13, 2016 LUC ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT: St Mary's Villa Sloatsburg NY Theme: Merciful like the Father *Fliers & application in vestibule*

March 20: EASTER EGG HUNT AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL for the children and grandchildren of the parish. All are welcome .

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Defense of Icons

Today is the Sunday of the Holy Images or the triumph of orthodoxy . On this First Sunday of Lent in 842 A.D. the iconodules—our “right believing” forefathers who upheld the Apostolic Faith, celebrated their victory over the heretical beliefs of the iconoclasts, the “icon-smashers.”

Now, if there's one charge we hear more often than any other from the Protestants it's this: “You worship icons.” Of course, it's at such times that we have the opportunity to explain that for us, worshiping icons would be blasphemy and heresy; that while we venerate and greatly honor the holy icons, we only worship God the Holy Trinity.

The greatest object of veneration in Israel was the Ark of the Covenant, which God directed the Israelites to appoint with pure gold and decorate with images of golden cherubim, (Exodus 25:18). No Israelite would even think of worshiping the Ark, but they held the Ark in holy awe and fear. The Ark contained the holiest objects of Israel's veneration: the rod of Aaron and the Tablets of the Ten Commandments. But just a few chapters later in Exodus 32, we read that the Israelites were worshiping a golden calf. That is what we truly call idolatry, but the regard they rightly showed the Ark, we recognize as veneration, which gives glory to God.

The holy icons, the Gospel, the cross itself are objects of Christian veneration precisely because they direct us and inspire in us worship of the Holy Trinity. When we see an icon of Christ, we know that He is not some mythical being, but rather the Lord God Himself who became incarnate on our behalf, to enter into human nature as man and defeat our sin and death as God. We can depict Christ iconographically, with great honor and in accordance with Holy Tradition because of and in affirmation of the historic reality of the Incarnation of the Word made flesh.

Likewise, we depict the Saints who have triumphed in the life of Christ precisely because of the reality of changed lives, of deification, growth in holiness that Christ God brings us by virtue of His Incarnation. Our veneration of the holy icons testifies the reality of faith. When we gaze upon an icon of the Holy Theotokos or any of the Saints of the Church and venerate them, we affirm the reality of Christ God's work in them and through them to God's glory.

And so, for us , the holy icons are more than holy ‘pictures’ and they are never “religious art”: our Fathers in the Faith, countless of whom lost their lives in martyrdom to uphold the Apostolic Faith, rightly understood that without the holy icons, the fullness of the historic reality of the Incarnation would be lost, the affirmation that the Word indeed became flesh

and “dwelt among us” and raised up fallen Adam, would come to be understood in increasingly twisted ways that would threaten our faith, our healing, our salvation in Christ.

Our forefathers rightly understood that if the icons of Christ, His Saints, and His miracles were lost, the reality of God’s glorification of His Saints, as depicted in the icons of these holy men and women in their deified states, would also be lost.

The holy icons proclaim this truth: God is glorified in His Saints—in men and women turning from sin to Christ God, finding healing from sin-sickness, and by God’s grace, becoming the men and women He created us to be: full of life, joy, discernment, having rediscovered our first beauty.

“The great cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 12:1), which St. Paul reminds us of today, are paraded around the church. We testify through them to the truth of man’s redemption through Christ and only through Christ. Every icon of a Saint testifies to this redemptive work of God in us: redemption from a life of sin is real, healing is real, a new life is real, love and joy are real, salvation is real, the Kingdom of God is real—we see this reality no clearer than in the faces of the Saints, who worship God and pray for us in Christ God’s near presence as they continue to glorify Him and testify to the truth.

In our own day, we’re challenged by growing relativism, secularism, nihilism, the ‘new-morality’—all of which threaten the faithful proclamation of the “Faith once received.” We don’t compromise the truth, who is Jesus Christ; we keep the Faith. Why? Because our faith is not an idea, a philosophy, or even a theology; it’s communion with the historic Jesus and life with Him and in Him. We’re participating in eternity, the Kingdom, which begins now in His Body, the Church. We don’t shape the faith; the faith shapes us through our relationship with the Truth, Jesus Christ.

We stand here today to bear witness to the Truth of Christ to a people tossed about by “every wind and doctrine” (Eph. 4:14), a people in great need of the hope, faith, and love of Christ—the fullness of life with Him.

For love of God, love of neighbor, for love of those who will come after us, “let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith.” The Saints cheer us on in this race of faith!

The icons of Jesus, Mary, and all the saints are processed around the church today reminding us of the glorification of those whose lives were transformed by the love of God into the joy, beauty and glory of a life well lived. A life lived for God.

Please remember to pray for the sick and all those who have requested our prayers

Helen Terleski	Teodozia Sroka	Catherine Kutzler	Olga Turczyn
Mae Kulczykcki	Sophie Troyan	Jean Lakomski	Michael Trusz
Paulette Bellis	Peg Hutnik	Richard Suter	John Vedomsky
Olga Bryksa	Julian Trusz	Michael Sidlar	Walter Kiniuk
Joseph Bodnar	Lillian Opp	Frank & Betty Maitiski	Sarah Shanks
Kim Lightcap	Gregory Neff	Karen Bakros	Stephen Terleski
Margaret Dashe	Helen Potak	Anna Drozd	Olga Trusz

COMMUNITY DAYS 2016: NEW CHAIR LIFT FOR FRONT STAIRS

The Bon-Ton Community Days is held twice a year to help non-profit organizations in the area to use sale of the Bonton coupon booklets to raise funds for their groups. We are asking that each family take 5 booklets to sell or buy for \$5.00 each. There are \$500 worth of coupons in the booklet, plus a \$10 off any purchase you make online or at the stores included. The books are provided free to our church and everything we collect in sales is our's to keep, plus depending on how many books we sell, we also get a percentage of the profits from the sales of the booklets.

It is a good way to raise funds for our church,. The funds from this project will be used specifically towards a **Chair-rail lift** for the steps at the front of the church. It will help some of our parishioners to attend services who presently cannot do the stairs.

PYSANKY CLASSES

The Ukrainian art of making intricate dyed eggs for Easter is a wonderful tradition in our church. The egg has long been a symbol of Resurrection and new life. John Drozd Jr will again be offering PYSANKY classes on February 28th and March 6th from 12:15PM – 3:00PM. Cost is \$10 for one class \$15.00 for both classes. Children are free but small children must be accompanied by an adult. Classes will be in the church hall. Please register for the classes by calling the rectory at 610-252-4266 or by signing up on the registration sheet in the vestibule of the church. All are welcome. A good opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to learn more about your heritage

FOOD COLLECTION

Wednesday and Friday during Lent are days we traditionally fast from meat. Fasting helps us in our prayer life to rely on God and use what money/food we save to help the poor. There are FOOD COLLECTION boxes in the vestibule of the church for canned and dry good donations.

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
(Commemoration of Holy Images)

Troparion (5):

Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion (2):

We bow before Your sacred image, O gracious Lord, and beg forgiveness for our offenses, O Christ our God; for You, of Your own will, deigned to ascend the cross in Your human nature to deliver from bondage under the enemy, those whom You created. Therefore, we gratefully cry out to You: Through Your coming to save the world, O Savior, You have filled all with joy.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and for ever and ever: Amen.

Kontakion (8):

O Mother of God, through you, in the incarnation, the indescribable Word of God became describable; for through the divine goodness, the Word spoken from eternity became an image. May we, who believe in salvation, clothe ourselves in the same image both in word and deed.

Prokimenon (4):

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our fathers. Your Name is praised and glorified forever.

Verse: In all that You have done Your justice is apparent.

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (Heb 11,24-40;12,1-2)

Brethren: By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. He considered the reproach of the Anointed greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the recompense.

What more shall I say? I have not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; out of weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Some were tortured and would not accept deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about in skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, in caves and in crevices in the earth. Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so

great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

Alleluia Verses:

Verse: Among His priests were Aaron and Moses; among those who invoked His name was Samuel.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

They invoked the Lord and He answered.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: (Jn 1,43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

It is truly right... (Or the Hirmos of the Feast):

In you, O Woman Full of Grace, the angelic choirs and the human race -all creation - rejoices. O Sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise, and Glory of Virgins! He, Who is our God from before all ages took flesh from you and became a child. He made your womb a throne, and greater than the heavens. In you, O Woman Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. All praise be to you!

Communion Verse:

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest.

Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Lenten Anthem

Having endured your Passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Preterpeeviy za na strasty, Isuse Christe, Sineh Bozhiy, pomiloiy nas.

UPCOMING CLASSES AT BASILIAN CENTER FOX CHASE

February 22: 7:00-9:00PM The Divine Liturgy and Forgiveness: Reflections for the year of mercy. Conducted by Rev. Dr Mark Morozowich Fee \$20

February 28, March 6, March 13 2:00-4:00PM The Byzantine Understanding of the Old Testament: Conducted by Msgr Peter Waslo Fee \$10.00 or \$25 for series

March 2 6:30PM-8:30PM How should mercy feel? An invitation to Centering Prayer.

Centering Prayer is rooted in both Christian tradition and psychology.

Conducted by Dr Paul LaChance. Fee \$20

PYROHY SALE THIS WEEK

We will be making pyrohy on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Pyrohy are \$6.00 doz.

Potato prep will begin 9:00AM-12:00 noon and from 3:00PM -7:00PM

Pyrohy will begin 9:00AM- ? Wednesday.

If you can come to help us it would be greatly appreciated. We are short a few volunteers due to illness so any and all help would be appreciated.

Orders can be taken by signing the order sheet in the vestibule of the church or by calling the rectory at 610-252-4266. Thank you

CATHOLIC BIBLES FOR THE PRISONS

We are sponsoring Catholic Bibles for the local prisons in our area. There have been several requests for Bibles by the inmates locally . It's a great opportunity to help those who are trying to change their lives around through God's word. Anyone interested in donating a Bible or working on this project with Fr Dan please call the rectory office.

PLEASE KEEP THE DATE OF JUNE 26th open on your calendars. It is the date of our CHURCH PICNIC. We will be having food, beverages, polka band and live music. Your help and support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

We try to live differently during the 40 days of Lent: we increase our prayer, we take inventory of our lives, fast and give alms. Please make use of the extra services during Lent to be able to keep that awareness alive and important.

We passed out wrist bands last Sunday with the Jesus prayer written upon them *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner.* We encourage you to wear them during the next 40 days as a sign of our commitment to this time of spiritual growth and love.

'LENTEN SOUP' FRIDAYS

On Friday's during Lent we will be celebrating the Stations of the Cross at noon, followed by a Lenten Soup Lunch. There is no fee for the lunch, a free will offering is accepted, with the proceeds benefitting the local food bank. We hope you can join us and invite a friend to join you for Stations and Soup.

LITURGY OF ST BASIL

During the Sunday's of Lent, the Divine Liturgy of St Basil is celebrated. The beautiful prayers of St Basil, remind us of the history of our salvation in an extraordinary manner. Pray those prayers with us as we turn our attention during these 40 days to all that was done by our God out of love for us.

The Beatitudes will be sung during this time in place of the regular Sunday antiphons.

LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC RETREAT

Annual Lenten Retreat March 11.12.13 2016 at St. Mary's Villa Retreat Center in Sloatsburg NY. This year's theme is "Merciful, like the Father". It is a time of exploring the meaning of mercy and allowing God's love to transform our lives. The chapel of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate has been designated as a "Door of mercy" during this jubilee year by Bishop Paul of Stamford Ct. The retreat Director is Fr Dan Troyan. Registrations are in the vestibule of the church for anyone wishing to participate. Cost for the weekend is \$175.00

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND ENVELOPES Donations :2015:

Your financial record for 2015 is being distributed in the vestibule of the Church. In reviewing your financial donations for the year if there are any discrepancies in your report please contact the rectory office. Thank you very much for your generous support of our church. God bless you.

VOLUNTEERS FOR UKRAINE: SISTERS OF ST BASIL

The Sisters of St Basil are sponsoring a English catechetical Camp in Ukraine for 2016. The camps a week long for children 10-16. The Sisters are looking for volunteers to teach English, basic grammar etc). Room and board will be provided. Volunteers may come for one , two or three weeks and they will also be visiting the orphanages and psychiatric institutions. The Program will run from May 27- June 27 and will presently be limited to Western Ukraine. For application please contact Sr Ann Laszok OSBM at 412-260-1607.

There are application forms in the vestibule of the church for anyone wishing to reigister for the Ukraine Trip.

SUGGESTION BOX AND PRAYER BOX

In the back of the church there is an opportunity to have your requests heard for suggestions for the parish, **SUGGESTION BOX** and also for prayer requests for yourself, family and loved ones **PRAYER BOX**. Simply write your request or suggestion and place it in the box

TOWER REPAIR

We have entered into contract with Fania Roof Company of Allentown for the repair of our church tower. The fabrication of the louvers will take 8-10 weeks, so we are looking to begin the project in the spring. The tower repair will correct the leak in the ceiling of the choir loft , replace the louvers which have deteriorated, with aluminum louvers, and repair the concrete and brick pointing . .

Roof Repair: Memorial Account Donations : \$2000.00 anonymously

\$500.00 Sharon Komanesky DeVito \$300.00 Michael & Olga Trusz

\$150.00 Providence Association

\$100 Stefania Trusz \$60.00 Yaroslawa Zuk

\$25. Anonymously

SCHEDULING DIVINE LITURGIES

Anyone wishing to schedule anniversary Liturgies for their families or loved ones for 2016 please use the Divine Liturgy envelopes in the back of the church. Please indicate whether it is for the living or the deceased, and that the names are clearly marked.

Prayer of St Ephraim: After the Divine Liturgy

O Lord and Master of my life,
Keep from me the spirit of indifference
And discouragement,
Lust of power, and idle chatter.
(Prostration)

Instead, grant to me, Your servant,
The spirit of wholeness of being,
Humble-mindedness, patience, and love.
(Prostration)

O Lord and King,
Grant me the grace to be aware of my sins
And not to judge my brother and sister,
For You are blessed,
Now and ever and forever. Amen.
(Prostration)

Господи і Владико життя мого!
Духа лінивства, безнадійності,
владолюбства і пустослів'я
віджени від мене.
(земний поклін)

Натомість даруй мені, слугу Твоєму,
духа доброчесности, смиренности,
терпеливості і любови.
(земний поклін)

Господи і Царю!
Дай мені ласку бути свідомим власних гріхів
і не осуджувати брата чи сестру,
бо Ти є благословенний на віки віків. Амінь.
(Земний поклін).

Forgiveness and Generosity

Let us flee to the mercy of God, everywhere present, so that the holy Passover of the Lord may be celebrated with a worthy observance. Let the hearts of all the faithful sanctify themselves. Let harshness be softened, let wrath be calmed, let all forgive faults one to another, and let those who seek forgiveness not exact vengeance. When we say, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us," we bind ourselves with the most unyielding chains unless we fulfill what we profess. If the sacred pact of this prayer is not yet observed in its totality, now at least all know their own consciences. By forgiving others' faults, people can obtain the forgiveness for their own sins. For the Lord says, "If you forgive others their failings, your Father who is in heaven will forgive you yours." What He demands from all does not lie far from them, since the sentence of the Judge depends on the kindness of the sup-

pliants themselves. He who is merciful and just in hearing the prayers of humanity has ordained His justice according to our kindness, so that the law of severity would not hold for us, whom he had found not greedy for vengeance.

Generosity also is proper to merciful and gentle souls. There is nothing more worthy of human beings than to be the imitators of their Creator, and, according to the measure of their own faculties, to be executors of divine work. When the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, the sick cared for, does not the help of God fill full the hands of the minister, and is not the kindness of the servant a gift of the Lord? Although He has no need of help in applying His mercy, He so regulates His power that He supports the sufferings of human beings through human beings.

St. Leo the Great

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
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