

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

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FEBRUARY 15, 2015

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 3. Sunday of the Last Judgment. Apostle of the Seventy Onesimus (ca. 109). Ven. Paphnúti (Paphnutius), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Ven. Paphnutius and his daughter, Ven. Euphrosyne, of Alexandria (5th c.). Ven. Eusebius, Hermit, of Syria (5th c.).

EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 6.12-20: Do you know that your bodies are members of Christ?

GOSPEL: LUKE 15.11-32: The Parable of the Prodigal Son.

VESPERS NEXT WEEK: Rdr Bob.

HOURS: Sam C. **NEXT WEEK:** Casey.

EPISTLE READER: Stephen. **NEXT WEEK:** Stephen.

COFFEE HOUR HOST: Johnson Family. **NEXT WEEK:** Worthington Family.

ANNUAL MEETING: We will hold our annual parish meeting after the Divine Liturgy on March 1st. Please make every effort to be present as we plot the coming year for our mission parish!

EVANGELIZATION WEBSITE: The Department of Evangelization recently announced that its new web site is now accessible at goodnews.oca.org. The site also will highlight current and past Planting Grant Missions; develop and offer Spanish Language and Russian Language resources in a single location; develop a renewed appreciation for our missionary roots, particularly in Alaska; and point to several OCA resources available to help rejuvenate parishes.

CHOIR: The choir will be meeting Tuesday night at Casey's house for rehearsal. All are invited to come and practice. And as always, all are invited to the choir or to sing along with the entire congregation.

Fr James' contact information: Cell: 315-706-6185 E-mail: adelphotheos@gmail.com

WELCOME! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next class will be February 17 at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be reading and discussing chapter 13 of the Gospel of St John: The Last Supper: Washing of Disciples' Feet; Foretelling of Judas' Betrayal & Peter's Denial. The time is also being changed to 7:30. Invite your friends to join us. The complete syllabus is available on the information table and online.

MEMORIAL SATURDAY(S): During Great Lent, there are several Soul Saturdays on which we pray for the souls who have reposed in the Lord. Please fill out a prayer slip and come to the Divine Liturgy to ask God to be merciful to their souls, and ours, and pray for your loved ones at the Saturday Divine Liturgy.

CHEESEFARE: Next Sunday is Cheesefare Sunday, the last day on which we eat dairy and other items until PASCHA. We also celebrate Forgiveness Vespers before we begin our Lenten journey. Please bring something cheesy that you would like to share next Sunday.



PRAYER SCROLL: LIVING: Archpriest Timothy Holowatch, Archpriest Herman Shick, Archpriest John Chupeck, Archpriest Thomas Edwards, Archpriest Michael Thier, Archpriest Stephen Mack, Dn Symeon, Abbess Silouana, Mother Raphaela, Mother Christophora, Mat Cecelia, Mat Katya, Mat Catherine, Mat Dorothy, Joshua, Brittany & Isaac, Gretchen, Toni, Peter, Marriane, Terrence, Helen, Judy, Gretchen, Mary & Susan, John & Carmine, Nathan, Leah, Helen, Lindsey, Christopher E, Susanne H, Olga S, Elizabeth, Mary, Joe A, Daniel, Andrew and family, Harold, Wilhemina, Children Anthony, Mia and Isabel, Gordon, Elizabeth, David, Madeline, Shirley, Larry, Christina, Caleb, Jim & Kim, Rachel, Constantine & Maria, Gaetan, Jean, Christine. **BIRTHDAYS:** Shiloh, Patrick. **ANNIVERSARIES:** None. **NAMESDAYS:** Leaf.

REPOSED: Priest John, Archpriest Alexander, Rdr Gregory, Daniel, Ada, Walter, Lillian, Joseph, Marie, Joseph, Laura, Martha, Stanley, Helen, Charles, Arthur, Taissia, Steluta, Theophan, Lynda, Florence, James. **NEWLY DEPARTED:** James (1-9). **ANNIVERSARIES:** None.

FB Check-in



Mailing Address: PO Box 333, Lansing NY, 14882

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17: 8:30 Morning Prayers

6 PM Choir Rehearsal

7:30 Know Your Faith at Unwind Café in Ithaca Mall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18: 8:30 Daily Matins

7 PM Cornell OCF in Anabel Taylor Hall

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19: 8:30 Morning Prayers

9:15 Cornell OCF Morning Prayers

8 PM Ithaca OCF in Mueller Chapel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20: 8:30 Morning Prayers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21: 6 PM Great Vespers

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that you would renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only Merciful and loving Lord Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: We pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Troparion to the Apostles

First enthroned of the Apostles, And teachers of the Universe; Entreat the Master of all
To grant peace to the world, And to our souls great mercy!

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE
SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT
Troparion Tone 3 (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Kontakion Tone 1 (*from the Lenten Triodion*)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire//
and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Prokeimenon Tone 3

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps 146/147:5)
v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps 146/147:1)

Alleluia Verse Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps 94/95:1)
v: For the Lord is a great God and a great King over all the earth. (Ps 94/95:3)

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and we wept
When we remembered Zion. Alleluia.
Upon the willows in the midst thereof did we hang our instruments. Alleluia
For there they that had taken us captive asked us for words of song. And they that had
led us away asked us for a hymn saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion." Alleluia.
How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Alleluia.
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither. Alleluia.
Let my tongue cleave to my throat, if I remember thee not, if I set not Jerusalem above all
other, as the head of my joy. Alleluia.
Remember, O Lord, the sons of Edom, in the day of Jerusalem, who said: "Lay waste, lay
waste to her even to the foundations thereof." Alleluia.
O daughter of Babylon, thou wretched one, blessed shall he be who shall reward thee
wherewith thou hast rewarded us. Alleluia.
Blessed shall he be who shall seize and dash thine infants against the rock. Alleluia.

THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

The two past Sundays spoke to us of God's patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come *as our judge*. 'Behold the goodness and severity of God' (Rom. 11: 22). Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes. In the words of the Great Canon:

The end draws near, my soul, the end draws near;
Yet thou dost not care or make ready.
The time grows short, rise up: the Judge is at the door.
The days of our life pass swiftly, as a dream, as a flower.

This Sunday sets before us the 'eschatological' dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Saviour, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come. (This is a theme that will be taken up in the first three days of Holy Week.) Nor is the judgement merely in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts towards others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgement on ourselves.

THE ORTHODOX SAINT VALENTINE

Saint Valentine lived in Rome in the third century and was a priest who helped the martyrs during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II the Goth.

SAINT VALENTINE: PATRON OF LOVERS

Apart from the historical data we have for Valentine's life, there is accompanied various legends, such as from those who say he is the patron saint of lovers. The Saint had a reputation as a peacemaker, and one day while cultivating some roses from his garden, he heard a couple quarrel very vigorously. This shocked the Saint, who then cut a rose and approached the couple asking them to hear him. Even though they were dispirited, they obeyed the Saint and afterwards were offered a rose that blessed them. Immediately the love returned between them, and later they returned and asked the Saint to bless their marriage. Another tradition says that one of the charges against Valentine was that he did not adhere to the command of the emperor which stated that men who had not fulfilled their military obligations were not allowed to marry; meanwhile the Saint had blessed the marriage of young Christian soldiers with their beloveds.

MARTYRDOM

For his catechetical activities, he was arrested and brought before the imperial court. "Why, Valentine, do you want to be a friend of our enemies and reject our friendship?" asked the Emperor. The Saint replied: "My lord, if you knew the gift of God, you would be happy together with your empire and would reject the worship of idols and worship the true God and His Son Jesus Christ." One of the judges stopped the Saint and asked him what he thought about Jupiter and Mercury, and Valentine boldly replied: "They are miserable, and spent their lives in corruption and crime!" The judge furiously shouted: "He blasphemes against the gods and against the empire!" The Emperor, however, continued his questions with curiosity, and found a welcome opportunity to finally learn what was the faith of Christians. Valentine then found the courage to urge him to repent for the blood of the Christians that was shed. "Believe in Jesus Christ, be baptized and you will be saved, and from this time forward the glory of your empire will be ensured as well as the triumph of your armory." Claudius became convinced, and said to those who were present: "What a beautiful teaching this man preaches." But the Mayor of Rome shouted: "See how this Christian misled our Prince." Then Claudius brought the Saint to another judge called Asterios, who had a little girl who was blind. Listening about Christ, that He is the Light of the World, he asked Valentine if he could give that light to his child. St. Valentine put his hand on her eyes and prayed: "Lord Jesus Christ, true Light, illuminate this blind child." The child could see! So the judge with all his family confessed Christ. Having fasted for three days, he destroyed the idols that were in the house and finally received Holy Baptism. When the Emperor heard about all these events, he initially thought not to punish them, thinking that in the eyes of the citizens he will look weak, which forced him to betray his sense of justice. Therefore St. Valentine along with other Christians, after they were tortured, were beheaded on 14 February in the year 268 (or 269).

APOSTLE ONESIMUS OF THE SEVENTY

Saint Onesimus, Apostle of the Seventy in his youth was a servant of Philemon, a Christian of distinguished lineage, living in the city of Colossae, Phrygia. Guilty of an offense against his master and fearing punishment, St Onesimus fled to Rome, but as a runaway slave he wound up in prison. In prison he encountered the Apostle Paul, was enlightened by him, and was baptized.

In prison St Onesimus served the Apostle Paul like a son. St Paul was personally acquainted with Philemon, and wrote him a letter filled with love, asking him to forgive the runaway slave and to accept him like a brother. He sent St Onesimus with this letter to his master, depriving himself of help, of which he was very much in need.

After he received the letter, St Philemon not only forgave Onesimus, but also sent him back to Rome to the apostle. St Philemon was afterwards consecrated bishop of the city of Gaza (January 4, February 19, and November 22).

After the death of the Apostle Paul, St Onesimus served the apostles until their end, and he was made a bishop. After the death of the holy apostles he preached the Gospel in many lands and cities: in Spain, Carpetania, Colossae, Patras. In his old age, St Onesimus occupied the bishop's throne at Ephesus, after the Apostle Timothy. When they took St Ignatius the God-Bearer (December 20) to Rome for execution, Bishop Onesimus came to meet with him with other Christians, as St Ignatius mentions in his Epistle to the Ephesians.

During the reign of the emperor Trajan (89-117), St Onesimus was arrested and brought to trial before the eparch Tertillus. He held the saint in prison for eighteen days, and then sent him to prison in the city of Puteoli. After a certain while, the eparch sent for the prisoner and, convincing himself that St Onesimus maintained his faith in Christ, had him stoned, after which they beheaded the saint with a sword. A certain illustrious woman took the body of the martyr and placed it in a silver coffin. This took place in the year 109.

