

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr Joel Brady, Rector 570 251 1963

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MARCH 19, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 6. Veneration of the Cross. Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, and those with them at Rome: Claudius, Hilaria, Jason, Maurus, Diodorus the Presbyter, and Marianus the Deacon (283). St. Innocent of Komel', disciple of St. Nilus of Sora (Vologdá—1521). Martyr Pancharius, at Nicomedia (ca. 302).

EPISTLE: Hebrews 4:15–5:6: Christ, our High Priest, gives us boldness before God.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:34–9:1: We all must take up the Cross.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Natalie & Marina Next week: Casey, Eileen, & Bernice

ANNUNCIATION: The Great Feast of the Annunciation is this Saturday. Please plan to be in church if you are able. This feast celebrates Our Lord's Incarnation, "the beginning of our salvation." In honor of the Mother of God, whose role in God's plan was revealed on this day, the church will be adorned in the Marian blue rather than the Lenten purple.

CHURCH CLEANING: In order to have the church building in shape for Pascha, we invite volunteers for a church cleaning day on Saturday, April 1 at 3 PM. Please plan to come and help.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: In the Lenten spirit of almsgiving, we've set up a box in the back of church for food pantry donations. During this time of fasting, the Church calls us to use the money that we save by eating a simpler diet in order to help those in need.

LENTEN RECIPE SHARING: Do you want to keep the fast as prescribed by the Church, but feel lost about what to cook? Do you have favorite Lenten recipes that you'd like to share with your parish family? The Lenten recipes sharing email list is up and running, but you can still sign up in the back of the church.

READERS' LIST: To encourage more of the faithful of the parish to read during the Divine Services, a sign-up sheet is now available at the information table on which anyone can select a time to read. All skill levels are welcome. If you want to read but would like assistance preparing for a particular service, see Fr Joel.

LENTEN SERVICES: Services are held throughout the week during the Lenten Season that help us to intensify our prayer life and enter into the spirit of preparation for Our Lord's Resurrection. The mid-week Presanctified Liturgy in particular is an opportunity to receive Christ's Body and Blood to strengthen us in our spiritual struggles. Even one additional service during the week can help maintain the spiritual connection between Sundays.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: The oca Dept of Evangelization, along with Abp Michael, announce a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 4–17, 2017. For more information or to reserve your spot, please visit the diocesan webpage.

LENTEN RESOURCES: Children's lessons for the season of Great Lent are available at <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/zines/lentzine> (Greek Archdiocese) and at <http://dce.oca.org/focus/pascha> (OCA Dept. of Christian ed).

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

PRAYER SCROLL

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H
Apr Herman S
Apr Sergius K
Apr Thomas E
Apr Stephen M
Apr John R
Apr Patrick C
Pr Adam S & Angie
Mother Raphaela
Mother Christophora
Mat Joanna B
Mat Katya
Mat Mary G
Joshua
Brittany
Gretchen
Marianne
Terrence
Helen
Judy
Mary & Susan
John & Carmine
Nathan

Leah
Helen
Lindsey
Elizabeth
Mary
Joe A
Daniel
Andrew & family
Carol
Wilhelmina
Elizabeth
David
Shirley
Christina
Jim & Kim
Rachel
Constantine & Maria
Gaetan
Christine
Samuel
Lisa
Lyudmila
Nickolay
Anetta

Zachary
Iconographer Helena
Natasha, Lena, Vera,
Sergei
Caleb
Danielle
Larry, Mark, Katie
Ann
Dorothy
Ronald
Sheryl & Lacey
Alexander, Angela,
Anton
Peter
Gregory & Ann
Raymond
Vincent
Photini
Robert
Steven, Stephanie,
and family
Diana
Elizabeth

Children: Anthony,
Mia, Isabel, Bear,
Victoria, Iva Bell,
Panagiotis, Ada,
Grace, Elias, Jack
Seminarians: Rdr
Robert & Ivan
Birthdays:
Anniversaries:
Namesdays:

REPOSED:

Apr John U
Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph

Laura
Martha
Stanley
Taissia
Stelujā
Theophan
Lynda
Florence
James
James R
Vasily
Mordecai
Alexandr
Ron
John
Eleanor
Harold
Alfred
Edward
Newly Reposed:
Michael, Mat
Julianna, Mario,
Robert

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$436.00. Building Fund: \$273.
Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$996.91. Monthly Budget: \$4600

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.

Sunday, March 19: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Monday, March 20: Rector's Sabbath

Tuesday, March 21: 8:30 AM Lenten First Hour

Wednesday, March 22: 8:30 AM Lenten Daily Matins

6PM Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 23: 8:30 AM No morning service: Fr. Joel at Deanery meeting

Friday, March 24: 8:30 AM Lenten First Hour

9:20 AM Cornell ocf Morning Prayers in Anabel Taylor Hall

6 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 25 (Annunciation): 9 AM Divine Liturgy

6 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 26: 9:10 AM hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

April 8: Tonsuring of a new reader – Watch here for details!

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst 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.

FROM THE TRIODION

O Lord, Thou hast stretched out Thine hands of Thine own will upon the Cross: fill us with Thy light through fasting and through prayer, through abstinence and works of charity; and count us worthy to adore Thy Cross with contrite hearts, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

O Lord all-merciful, in the multitude of Thy mercies blot out the multitude of my sins, and count me worthy with a pure soul to behold and kiss Thy Cross during this present week of abstinence, for Thou alone lovest mankind.

Glory to God for all things!

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017
SUNDAY OF THE CROSS

A SERMON ON THE SUNDAY OF THE CROSS

Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

As we progress deeper and deeper into the weeks of Lent, we can say with an ever-growing sense of gratitude and of joy, of a serene and exulting joy the words of a Psalm, 'My soul shall live, and with gratitude I will give glory to the Lord'.

In the first week of Lent we have seen all the promises of salvation given in the Old Testament fulfilled: God became man, salvation has come, and all hopes are possible. And then, in the second week of Lent, we had the glorious proclamation of all the Saints of Christendom that not only did God come and dwell in our midst, but He has poured out upon us, into the Church, and into every human soul ready to receive Him the presence, the transforming gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us gradually commune ever deeper to the Living God until one day we become partakers of the Divine nature.

And today, if we ask ourselves, 'But how that? How can we be forgiven, how can evil be undone?' – one step brings us deeper into gratitude, deeper into joy, deeper into certainty when we consider, when we contemplate the Cross.

There is a passage of the Gospel in which we are told that when Christ spoke of salvation and of its conditions, Peter said to Him, 'Who then can be saved?' – and Christ answered, 'What is not possible to men is possible for God!'. And He Himself came; the fullness of God abided in a human person, and He has power to forgive because He is the victim of all the evil, all the cruelty, all the destructiveness of human history. Because indeed, no one but the victim can forgive those who have brought evil, suffering, misery, corruption and death into their lives. And Christ does not only forgive His own murderers, when He says, 'Father, forgive – they don't know what they are doing': He goes beyond this, because He had said, 'Whatever you have done to one of My smaller brethren and sisters, you have done it to Me' – not only in good, but indeed, the worst: because in compassion, in solidarity He identifies with every sufferer: the death, the pain, the agony of each of those who suffer is His. And so, when He prays, 'Father, forgive! They do not know what they are doing, what they have been doing', He prays for each of us not only in His own name, but in the name of all those upon whom evil has visited because of human sin.

But it is not only Christ who forgives; everyone who has suffered in soul, in body, in spirit, – everyone is called to grant freedom to those who have made him suffer.

And so, we can see why Christ says, 'Forgive so that you may be forgiven' because both the victim and the culprit are tied in one knot of solidarity and reciprocal responsibility. Only the victim can say, 'Lord – forgive him, forgive her', and only then can the Lord say, 'I do!'.

But do you realise what responsibility it puts on each of us with regard to all and everyone? But also the depth, the glorious depth of hope which opens up to us when we look at the Cross and see that in solidarity with all mankind Christ taking upon Himself all the suffering of the

world, accepting to die an impossible death has said in the name of all the sufferers, 'Yes, – we forgive!'

This is one more step towards freedom, this is one more step towards the moment when we will be faced with Christ's resurrection that engulfs us also because the risen Christ is risen and is offering all and each of us the fullness of eternal life.

And so again, and again we can say that Lent is a spring of a new life, a new time, a time of renewal, not only in repentance, but in being taken by Christ Himself as the shepherd took the lost sheep, as the Lord took up His Cross, brought it to the place of death, and undid death, undid evil by forgiveness and giving His life. Once more we are confronted with another step of our freedom and of newness. Let us enter ever deeper into this mystery, into this wonder of salvation, and rejoice in the Lord, and rejoicing, step after step, more and more, let us also express our gratitude by newness of life. Amen!

SAINT ISAAC THE SYRIAN ON LOVE AND THE CROSS

The sign of those who have attained perfection is this: if, for the sake of his love for man, a man were to be given over to the fire ten times a day, he would not be content with this, even as Moses said to God, "if Thou wilt forgive their sin, forgive it, and if not, blot me out from the book which Thou hast written" [Ex 32:32]; and like the blessed Paul who said, "For I could wish that myself were anathema from Christ for my brethren" [Rom 9:13]; and again, "I now rejoice in my sufferings for the nations" [Col 1:24]. And likewise the other apostles accepted many kinds of death because of their fervent desire that men should receive life.

But the sum of all is that God the Lord surrendered His own Son to death on the Cross for the fervent love of creation. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son over to death for its sake" [cf. Jn 3:16]. This was not, however, because He could not have redeemed us in another way, but so that His surpassing love, manifested hereby, might be a teacher unto us. And by the death of His only-begotten Son He made us near to Himself. Yea, if He had had anything more precious, He would have given it to us, so that by it our race might be His own. Because of His great love for us it was not His pleasure to do violence to our freedom (although He is able to do so), but He chose that we should draw near to Him by the love of our understanding. For the sake of His love for us, and in obedience to His Father, Christ joyfully took upon Himself insult and sorrow, as Scripture says, "For the joy that was set before Him He endured the Cross, despising the shame" [Heb. 12:2]. For this same reason the Lord said on the night in which He was betrayed, "This is My body which is given for the remission of sins" [Matt 26:26, 28]. And again He said for our sakes, "I sanctify Myself" [Jn 17:19].

In like manner, when the saints become perfect, they all attain to their perfection, and by the superabundant outpouring of their love and compassion upon all men they resemble God. The saints seek for themselves this sign of complete likeness to God: to be perfect in the love of their neighbor.

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Troparion, Tone 6 (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You took hell captive,
not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Troparion, Tone 1 (for the Cross)

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation!

Kontakion, Tone 7 (for the Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;
it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;
for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell://
“Enter again into Paradise!”

In place of the Trisagion:

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Prokeimenon, tone 6 (Cross)

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance! (Ps 27/28:9)
v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!
v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

Communion Hymn

The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

A PRAYER TO THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST

By St. Isaac the Syrian

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Thou that didst weep over Lazarus, and shed tears of sorrow and compassion over him, accept the tears of my bitterness.

By Thy Passion, cure my passions.

By Thy Wounds, heal my wounds.

By Thy blood, purge my blood; mingle the fragrance of Thy life-creating Body with my body.
Let the gall Thou didst drink at enemies' hands sweeten my soul from the bitterness which the foe hath given me to drink.

Let Thy Body, O friend of man, which was stretched on the Tree of the Cross, extend toward Thee mine understanding which is dragged evilly down by demons.

Let Thy Head, which Thou didst bow on the Cross, raise up my head, which is buffeted by mine adversaries.

Let Thine all-holy Hands, which were nailed to the Cross by the unbelieving Jews, lead me out of the abyss of perdition to Thee, as Thine all-holy Mouth hath promised.

Let Thy Countenance, which received blows and spittings from accursed men, brighten my countenance, which is stained with iniquities.

Let Thy Soul, which on the Cross Thou didst commend to Thy Father, guide me to Thee by Thy grace.

I have not a mournful heart wherewith to seek Thee, I have no repentance, I have no compunction, which brings children to their proper inheritance. O Master, I have not a comforting tear.

My mind is darkened by the affairs of this life, and hath no strength to look steadfastly toward Thee with groaning. My heart is grown cold from the multitude of temptations, and cannot warm herself with the tears of love for Thee.

But Thou, my Lord and God Jesus Christ, the Treasury of good gifts, grant me through repentance and a sorrowing heart, that with all my soul I may go forth to seek Thee. For without Thee, I am a stranger to all that is good.

Therefore, O Good One, freely grant me Thy grace. Let the Father, Who hath timelessly and everlastingly brought Thee forth from His bosom, renew in me the features of Thine image.

I have forsaken Thee, do not forsake me. I have gone out from Thee, come out to seek me, and lead me up to Thy pasture, and number me among the sheep of Thy chosen flock, and nourish me with them on the verdure of Thy Divine Mysteries; for their pure heart is Thy lodging-place, and therein is the illumination of Thy revelations clearly beheld, which is the comfort and refreshment of those who for Thy sake have travailed in afflictions and every kind of outrage.

May we also be deemed worthy of this illumination by Thy grace and love for man, O our Savior Jesus Christ, unto the ages of ages.

Amen.