

This Week's Calendar

Wednesday, March 14th

5p Confessions by appt.
6p Presanctified Liturgy
Lenten Potluck following
7:45p-8:15 Catechism
MS/HS Dinner

Friday, March 16th

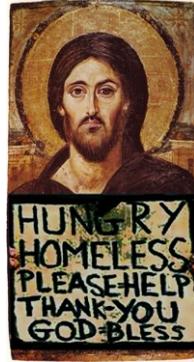
10-12 Women's Bible Study

Saturday, March 17th

Memorial Saturday
5:30p Panahida
6p Great Vespers
6p Riverside Vespers & Fellowship

Sunday, March 18th

St. John Climacus
9a Sunday School
9:40a Hours
10a Divine Liturgy
High School Outing



Helping the Homeless: We are in need of travel size shampoo & conditioner, lotion, and soap. We can also use large size lotions and shampoo/conditioners to refill with. Please drop them off in the office or with Daniel.

**Annual SJM Baseball Night
May 11th**



Tickets only \$8.00
Sign up on Bulletin Board today!

JUSTIN MICMARTYR

ORTHODOX CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Lent
March 11, 2018
Tone 7

Veneration of the Cross

Heb. 4:14-5:6 Having therefore a great High Priest Who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be tempted in all things like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that We may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need... For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: who can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also beset by weakness. Because of this he is required, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins... And no man takes this honor unto himself, but he that is called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but He that said unto Him: "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee." As He saith also in another place: "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"...



"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34-9:1 The Lord said "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

| | COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | READERS | DOOR KEEPERS | CANDLE STAND | Council Leader/ Head Usher |
|-----------------|--|----------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| March 11 | Lee Ann Pisarchuk, Robin Marth, Beth Poe | Andy Johnson | John & Jill Pendarvis | Eddie Gradick | Greg Poe, Robert Levings |
| March 18 | Joanne Long, Lora Lewis, Ondreia Harden | Robert Levings | Andy & Bethany Johnson | Sal Barbieri | Jeff Weita, Rob Pierce |
| March 25 | Judith Gradick, Gina Printy | John Pendarvis | Robin Marth | Rob Pierce | Jill Pendarvis, Kris Sedmera |
| April 1 | Jean Shaw, Bethany Johnson, Mary Starr | Rob Pierce | Judith & Eddie Gradick | Paul Keblish | Judy Greenberg, Daniel Rizea |

Pascha Flower Offering

We ask that you be generous in your offering so that our Lord's tomb will be beautifully adorned!



Riverside Lay Vespers, Fellowship & Compline, March 17th at 6p
At the home of John and Liz Minahan. If you would like to attend, please let John and Liz know, and offer to bring a side dish. See calendar for upcoming dates

Parish Council Meeting: Next Tuesday, March 20th at 6p.

Young Adult Social: This evening, March 11th, 6:30p at the home of Daniel Kindell. Please see Daniel for address and directions to his home.

Elementary Youth Lenten Retreat: March 25th, 12:30p-2:30p

For children ages K-5th grade. *"The Passion of Christ"* Our youth will get to explore and prepare for each day of Holy Week. Contact Daniel Kindell with any questions. Sign-up is located on the Youth board in the Fellowship Hall.

Choir Practice: We will begin choir practices during coffee hour for the next several weeks. We will be rehearsing for Holy Week and Pascha. Seasoned and new singers are welcome!

Let's get it done together!! Community Preparation for Holy Week: As you would prepare your home for a grand feast and guests, please help to prepare our church home for Pascha. There are many jobs from assembling items, decorating, and maintenance, to parking lot preparations. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Pascha Preparations Team Leaders Needed In order to have a smoothly executed Holy Week, we need helping hands to coordinate the many activities that happen beginning Lazarus Saturday through Pascha. As a team leader you will be given detailed instructions of your activity and any supplies you may need. **Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.** Please see *Matushka Lee Ann* or *Bethany Johnson* for more information.

Lenten Almsgiving Opportunity We are collecting nonperishables/canned goods and food gift cards for a family in need. There is a box located in the Fellowship hall to drop off these goods

From
Fr. Ted

Preparing for Holy Confession

Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner (*ill-prepared*) will be guilty of profaning (*disrespecting*) the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, (scrutinize ourselves, reflect on our spiritual state) and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. (1 Cor 11:27-30)

Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Examination today is found in the sacrament of Holy Reconciliation, Holy Confession. In confession we come before God with the priest as a friend and a coach. Before attending confession, we take time alone and examine ourselves. We consider the whole spectrum of our lives: home, family, work/career/business friends, and our relationships

- ◆ **Our relationship with God**--faith, prayer life, reading scripture, attending Vespers, Liturgy, attending Sunday school, preparation for the Eucharist, tithing, sharing your faith in Christ
- ◆ **Our relationship with our neighbor**--am I selfish or self-centered, indifferent to the needs of others, do I give alms, do I envy, gossip, covet, or have love & kindness to my neighbor?
- ◆ **Our relationship with self**--Body as Temple of God- overuse of alcohol, cheap fun, carnal passions, gluttony, irresponsibility

When we come to confession we name our sins. We identify them. We call them out. We do not gloss over them. We do not say, "O, the regular daily sins." Instead we specify--(*eat too much, slothful, lie, gossip*). We need to be specific. God knows what we did better than we do, but you need to name it so that you can own it *and truly repent of it.*

Repentance is to truly confront our sins, reject and renounce them, and confess them, trying not to do them again.

Because of our pride confession can be hard. It can be humiliating to announce our sins to the priest. We have to name our sins so that we can truly repent, and in the end say the words, **I repent. With God's help I will struggle to overcome these sins in my life.**

It is not critical whether we can remember all our sins. What matters is the intention and sincerity of our confession. God judges the repentant heart with great love and mercy.

One saint said: "If you hate your sins, you are truly forgiven."

General thoughts on confession: Your confession is to God. The priest is a guide and coach, and a fellow sinner. There is nothing you can say to the priest that would scandalize him. He is only there to love and guide you, sharing with you the mind of the Church and perhaps giving something to do to help you defeat this sin.

St. Mark the Monk: No one is so good and merciful as God, but even He does not forgive the unrepentant. . . .**We are not condemned for the multitude of our sins, but our refusal to repent.**

"Unrepentant sin is unforgiven sin." On the cross the innocent spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, is sacrificed and becomes our Eucharist. Our unrepentant sins mock the cross of Christ.

Please schedule your confession today! Sign up on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall today!