



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church

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Rev. Myron Badnerosky – Pastor Emeritus

### Liturgical Schedule

#### for the Week of February 18, 2018

**Saturday, February 17 ~ Vigil**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**

5:30 PM +Edward Zapala by wife Mary

**Sunday, February 18 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**

9:00 AM For the Parish Family of OLPH

**Followed by Advisory Committee Meeting**

Everyone is invited to this important meeting.

**Wednesday, February 21 ~ Timothy - Venerable**

7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**Friday, February 23 ~ Polycarp – Bishop Martyr**

Noon Lenten Moleben

**Saturday, February 24 ~ Vigil**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**

5:30 PM For the Parish Family of OLPH

**Sunday, February 25 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**

9:00 AM +Meri (Marie) Nanovich with Panachida  
by Brian Cymbor

### 2018 LOTTERY CALENDARS NOW ON SALE



Margaret Churilla now has the 2018 Lottery Calendars for sale at \$20.00 per calendar. Every night a possible winner based on 3 digit PA Evening Daily Number. Prizes vary from \$20 to \$200. Please sell some to your friends and families. This is an important fundraiser for the parish.

### CANDLE DEDICATION FOR FEBRUARY Tetrapod

In Memory of the Deceased members of the  
+ Dubinsky & + Nazarey Families

#### Rada Knife Sale \* Back By Popular Demand



Catalogs with order forms are available for Rada Knife Products on the table in the vestibule with the previous week's bulletins. Becky Zadnik is running this fundraiser and will be available to take your orders. This cutlery

makes excellent gifts for weddings, showers, and birthdays and even as a treat for yourself. All the proceeds benefit OLPH.



**OUR LENTEN THEME**  
**Jesus Christ Son of God**  
**Have Mercy**  
**on Me a Sinner**

(The Jesus Prayer)

#### Second All Souls Saturday

March 3 at 8:30 AM

Divine Liturgy and the Reading of the Hramoty  
If you didn't turn in an envelope with your names  
You may continue to do so by February 25.

#### The Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian



*O Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power and idle chatter. Instead, grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brother; for You are blessed now and ever and forever. Amen*

#### Offertory – January 27 and 28, 2018

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Regular	\$517.00	\$850.00	\$1367.00
Candles	0	\$39.00	\$39.00
Initial	0	\$5.00	\$5.00
Energy	0	\$40.00	\$40.00
<b>Total</b>	\$517.00	\$934.00	\$1451.00
<b>Attendance</b>	20	47	67

#### Offertory – February 3 and 4, 2018

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Regular	\$227.00	\$906.00	\$1133.00
Candles	0	\$42.00	\$42.00
Initial	0	\$5.00	\$5.00
Holyday	\$22.00	\$30.00	\$52.00
Building Fund	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
<b>Total</b>	\$254.00	\$1018.00	\$1272.00
<b>Attendance</b>	25	43	68

#### Offertory – February 11 and 12, 2018

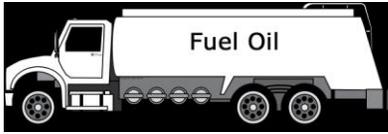
	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Regular	\$1,794.00	\$487.00	\$2,281.00
Lent	\$35.00	0	\$35.00
Holyday	0	\$28.00	\$28.00
Building Fund	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Initial	\$5.00	0	\$5.00
Energy	\$117.00	\$50.00	\$167.00
<b>Total</b>	\$1,976.00	\$615.00	\$2,591.00
<b>Attendance</b>	33	48 Including 40 at Trenton	81

#### Special Gifts Received

**\$1,000.00** from Leonard Martin, a former parishioner now living in New Hampshire.

**\$765.00** from the water jug – a special thanks to Harry Koehnlein who counted the change and supplemented the \$711.55 from parishioners by adding \$53.45 to round up the total to \$765.00. Thank you Harry and Anna!

## HELP!!!



Due to the extreme cold our fuel costs have skyrocketed. We are using in two weeks

what we used in three weeks last year. Please consider making a special donation in your energy envelope to help us make up this cost of keeping you comfortable in church. **THANK YOU!**

## Fashengy!

What a great success! 40 people from OLPH attended. Approximately 160 people from the three parishes participated. A wonderful time was had by all.

(Especially Fr. Ed as he was able to dance several polkas!)

The Music and Magic Show added so much to the event.

A Special THANK YOU to the OLPH Family who brought drinks, appetizers and salads.

Mark your Calendars ....

2019 Fashengy will be on March 3.

## First Sunday of Lent The Sunday of the Holy Images

Lent was in origin the time of final preparation for candidates for baptism at the Easter Vigil, and this is reflected in the readings at the Liturgy, today and on all the Sundays of Lent. But that basic theme came to be subordinated to later themes, which dominated the hymnography of each Sunday. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent.



Teaching about icons was defined at the Seventh Ecumenical Council of 787, which brought to an end the first phase of the attempt to suppress icons. That teaching was finally re-established in 843, and it is embodied in the texts sung on this Sunday.

*“We have moved forward from unbelief to true faith, and have been enlightened by the light of knowledge. Let us then clap our hands like the psalmist, and offer praise and thanksgiving to God. And let us honor and venerate the holy icons of Christ, of his most pure Mother, and of all the saints, depicted on walls, panels and sacred vessels, setting aside the unbelievers' ungodly teaching. For the veneration given to the icon passes over, as Basil says, to its prototype. At the intercession of your spotless Mother, O Christ, and*

*of all the saints, we pray you to grant us your great mercy. We venerate your icon, good Lord, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God. For you freely willed in the flesh to ascend the cross, to rescue from slavery to the enemy those whom you had formed. So we cry to you with thanksgiving: You have filled all things with joy, our Savior, by coming to save the world.”*

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Eastern Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Eastern faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Eastern churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Eastern Christian home is complete without an icon corner, where the family prays.

Icons are venerated by burning lamps and candles in front of them, by the use of incense and by kissing. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative; it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry.

Although the theme of the victory of the icons is a secondary one on this Sunday, by its emphasis on the incarnation it points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

# DON'T BE SHY, SAY HELLO.

**SAY HELLO** .... If you see someone in church that you do not know – stop and say hello and welcome them to OLPH. Your friendly greeting will help them to decide to make OLPH their spiritual home. Make sure you introduce newcomers to Fr. Ed. Don't be shy!

## The Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

During the period of holy and Great Lent, the prayer written by St. Ephrem is said frequently. It is truly a prayer on which each and every one of us should carefully mediate, as in many ways it reflects the pattern of our own everyday lives. Allow the prayer into your heart and mind,

meditate upon it, and it will inevitably speak to you in some way or another. In fact it is like a warning to us; we need to spiritually be on our guard, avoiding the temptations that each day brings, and making amends for our failings, first by recognizing them, and then bringing them before our Lord God with humility and contrition.

All of us should now take part in this richly rewarding prayer, reflecting upon it spiritually, and asking ourselves how we can overcome our weaknesses and faults. In most cases each of us can relate to this prayer, allowing it to raise such issues in our hearts as, for instance: Have I been, perhaps, impatient? Have I allowed my mind to wander off into dangerous or forbidden thoughts? Or the prayer can illuminate the state of our relationships by making us realize “I did not really show love to my brother, who is indeed also the servant of our Lord, and is precious in the sight of the Lord, just as we are precious in the sight of the Lord also, as His servants.”



How many of us have fallen into the trap of judging others, even our own brothers - whether our own family, our relatives, our neighbors, our friends, our church, and even our priest? We are truly quick to judge as individuals, and what this prayer of St. Ephraim expresses so well is that we must not judge our brothers, but rather to forgive them. When we do so (in humility, recognizing our own faults) we are then blessed by our God, and can truly offer up humble prayer before Him, living up to the virtuous pattern for our lives that He has shown us.

It is true, too, that so often we have become slothful, and even faint-hearted, in our prayers, meditations and readings. This season of Great Lent reminds us to be awake, alert, concentrating anew on the Glory and that has been revealed to us. There is a similar danger that we might have been led into seeking to be “more important” or “more influential” - even “lording it” over our

brothers and sisters! Isn't it so easy, and so displeasing to our Lord God, for us to fall into idle talk and gossip? These and similar things act like a block before us, preventing us from seeing that what we should really be doing, during this period of Holy and Great Lent, is seeking to overcome these faults, and learning to be loving Christians! Now you have read this, the block has been removed and the truth has become obvious! Let us all take advantage of this rich period of time given to us, by going to Church to pray, and praying steadfastly at home. Let us all, with great love in our hearts, go to Church more frequently - as the Church offers for us more services during this time of the 40-day fasting period, and Holy Week, eventually leading up to the joyful celebration of our Lord's Holy Glorious Resurrection, which is celebrated on April 1.

This is not only a period of time to pray in Church, and to pray at home, but also to reflect upon the spiritual writings of the Church. There is such great wealth here for us, starting with reading the Holy Scriptures, then the lives of the saints and martyrs of our church, and the teachings of the Holy Fathers. It really is a high time to read the spiritually rewarding materials available from our Church, putting aside secular books and shutting off the T.V. Stop and reflect on that which will help us understand more about our Lord God and His Church.

Then again, Great Lent is also a time to go to both Holy Confession and Holy Communion. The Church has frequent Liturgies during this period to help us to prepare ourselves. Finally all through Holy and Great Lent there is the emphasis on fasting, in which we not only watch what goes into our mouths, but just as importantly what comes out! Watch how we speak to one another - it is with love, or is it with faint-heartedness, lust for power and influence, with nothing but idle talk? Or do we have spirit of chastity, and humility? Do we act with patience, and have love for each other? This is a time to look at our own errors, and not to judge one another, but instead to love each other, and give due honor in glorifying our Lord God in prayer, and seeking out humbly our repentance. What a blessed time this is for us all! Let us now begin humbly, and with love to pray.