

February & March Announcements

Supplication Service to St. Raphael of Brooklyn in February and March

We will offer our Supplication Services to St. Raphael of Brooklyn in December and January on the following dates and times:

- 5 p.m. Saturday, February 4
- 5 p.m. on Saturday March 4

This service will be in place of our usual Saturday Vespers service. As the “patron saint of missions” in our Archdiocese, we offer this service as an intercession for our community as it embarks upon a building program.

“Shoeboxes for Our Kids” Ministry.

We will be assembling shoeboxes for this year’s “Shoeboxes for Our Kids” ministry at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 11 at St. Matthew Orthodox Church (10383 Albion Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133).

Church School Continues.

Church School continues for the spring, meeting every Sunday at 9 a.m.

February and March Building Committee Meetings

Scheduled Building Committee meetings in February and March will meet at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, February 9
- Thursday, February 16
- Thursday, February 23
- Thursday, March 2
- Thursday, March 9
- Thursday, March 16

Town Hall Meetings in February and March

Our next two parish town hall meeting will take place **after coffee hour** on **Sunday, February 19** and **Sunday, March 26**.

February & March Parish Council Meetings

The February Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **4:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, February 19**. The March Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **4:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, March 19**.

Church School Resumes in the New Year

Church School will resume after the holidays. Our first session in the New Year will be on Sunday, January 15 at **9 a.m.**

Shoebboxes for Our Kids

We are participating again in the "Shoebboxes for our Kids" ministry. This year, we are asked to contribute 110 deodorant sticks for needy school kids. In the next few weeks, please bring any brand of deodorant to Church.

Who's Got a Question?

Question: Sometimes there are items in the Sunday bulletin that are "from the *Synaxarion*." What is the *Synaxarion*?

Answer: The *Synaxarion* is a set of books containing the lives of the saints for each day of the year. The life of a particular saint of the day is typically given in the Sunday bulletin.

The Triodion Season & Fasting

The Church's "Triodion Season" begins the weekend of February 4/5, which includes the four Sundays before Great Lent and Great Lent proper. As we approach the Lenten season, there are often questions about the Church's traditional fasting discipline for the coming weeks. A brief summary:

- **Sunday 2/5** - Sunday of the Pharisee & Publican. Fast-free week.
- **Sunday 2/12** - Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Begins "Meatfare Week" with regular fasting on Wednesday and Friday
- **Sunday 2/19** - Sunday of the Last Judgment/Meatfare Sunday. Last day to consume meat until Pascha. Begins "Cheesefare Week" with dairy products allowed every day of the week.
- **Sunday 2/26** - Forgiveness Sunday/Cheesefare Sunday. Last day to consume dairy until Pascha.
- **Monday 2/27** - First day of Great Lent. No meat or dairy products until Pascha (4/16).

From the Synaxarion: Major Feasts in February & March

February 2: The Meeting of Our Lord (celebrated with Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, February 1.)

On February 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms. The Greek word for the feast is "Hypapante" [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means "Encounter" or "Meeting." However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus' first official encounter and manifestation with His people in the person of Simeon. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel." His endearing prayer endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her connection in the work of her Son. The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to His sacrifice for humanity.

March 9: The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

These holy Martyrs, who came from various lands, were all soldiers under the same general. Taken into custody for their faith in Christ, and at first interrogated by cruel means, they were then stripped of their clothing and cast onto the frozen lake which is at Sebastia of Pontus, at a time when the harsh and freezing weather was at its worst. They endured the whole night naked in such circumstances, encouraging one another to be patient until the end. He that guarded them, named Aglaius, who was commanded to receive any of them that might deny Christ, had a vision in which he saw heavenly powers distributing crowns to all of the Martyrs, except one, who soon after abandoned the contest. Seeing this, Aglaius professed himself a Christian and joined the Martyrs on the lake, and the number of forty remained complete. In the morning, when they were almost dead from the cold, they were cast into fire, after which their remains were thrown into the river. Thus they finished the good course of martyrdom in 320, during the reign of Licinius. These are their names: Acacius, Aetius, Aglaius, Alexander, Angus, Athanasius, Candidus, Chudion, Claudius, Cyril, Cyrion, Dometian, Domnus, Ecdicius, Elias, Eunoicus, Eutyches, Euty chius, Flavius, Gaius, Gorgonius, Helianus, Heraclius, Hesychius, John, Lysimachus, Meliton, Nicholas, Philoctemon, Priscus, Sacerdon, Severian, Sisinius, Smaragdus, Theodulus, Theophilus, Valens, Valerius, Vivianus, and Xanthias.

March 25: The Annunciation to our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos (Celebrated with Divine Liturgy on Friday, March 24.)

On March 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Annunciation to our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary. When the All-Holy Virgin completed the fourteenth year after her birth and was entering her fifteenth year, after having spent eleven years of living and serving in the Temple of Jerusalem, the priests informed her that, according to the Law, she could not remain in the Temple but was required to be betrothed and enter into marriage. The All-Holy Virgin surprised the priests when she told them that she had dedicated her life to God and that she desired to remain a virgin until death. Then, Zacharias, the high priest and father of the Forerunner, under the inspiration of God, and in agreement with the other priests, betrothed the Virgin Mary to Joseph of Nazareth to preserve her virginity and to care for her. When the fullness of time had come, as prophesied by Daniel the Prophet, and when God was pleased to fulfill His promise to the banished Adam and to the Prophets, the great Archangel Gabriel appeared in the chamber of the All-Holy Virgin and, as some priestly writers wrote, precisely at that same moment when she held open the book of the Prophet Isaiah and was contemplating his great prophecy: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son! (7:13)" Gabriel appeared in all of his angelic brightness and saluted her: "Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with thee," and the rest in order as it is written in the Gospel of Luke. With this angelic annunciation and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Virgin, leading to the incarnation of our Lord, the salvation of mankind and restoration of all creation began.

Schedule of Services & Events

February

1	Wed	6:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy	Presentation of Our Lord
4	Sat	1:00 p.m.	Prosphora Workshop @ the Bifanos	
		5:00 p.m.	Supplication Service to St. Raphael of Brooklyn	
5	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Orthros	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
		9:00 a.m.	Church School	
		9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
			<i>(Note: Week is fast-free.)</i>	
9	Thu	6:30 p.m.	Building Committee	
11	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
12	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Orthros	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
		9:00 a.m.	Church School	
		9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
16	Thu	6:30 p.m.	Building Committee	
18	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
19	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Orthros	Sunday of the Last Judgment/Meatfare
		9:00 a.m.	Church School	
		9:30 am.	Divine Liturgy	
		11:00 a.m.	February Town Hall Meeting	
		4:30 p.m.	February Parish Council Meeting	
			<i>(Note: Fast from all meat this week. No fasting from dairy.)</i>	
20	Mon		<i>Presidents' Day Holiday</i>	
23	Thu	6:30 p.m.	Building Committee	
25	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
26	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Orthros	Forgiveness Sunday/Cheesefare
		9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
			(No church school)	
		Noon	Forgiveness Vespers	
27	Mon			Great Lent begins

March

1	Wed	6:00 p.m.	Presanctified Liturgy	
3	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Small Compline / Akathist Hymn	
4	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Supplication Service to St. Raphael of Brooklyn	
5	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Orthros	1st Sunday of Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy
		9:00 a.m.	Church School	
			Divine Liturgy	
			<i>Children's Sermon</i>	
			<i>Procession with icons & reading of the Synodikon at the end of Liturgy)</i>	
		5:00 p.m.	Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ St. Theodosius	
8	Wed	6:00 p.m.	Presanctified Liturgy	
10	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Small Compline / Akathist Hymn	
11	Sat		5:00 p.m. Vespers	
12	Sun		<i>Daylight Savings Begins</i>	2nd Sunday of Lent: St. Gregory Palamas
		8:30 a.m.	Orthros	
		9:00 a.m.	Church School	
		9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
15	Wed	6:00 p.m.	Presanctified Liturgy	
17	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Small Compline / Akathist Hymn	
18	Sat	4:30 p.m.	Vespers @ St. George w/ His Grace Bishop ANTHONY	
19	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Orthros	3rd Sunday of Lent: Sunday of the Cross
		8:00 a.m.	Church School	
		9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
			<i>(Procession of the Cross at the end of Liturgy)</i>	
		4:30 p.m.	March Parish Council Meeting	
22	Wed	6:00 p.m.	Presanctified Liturgy	
24	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy	Annunciation of the Theotokos
25	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
26	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Othros	4th Sunday of Lent: St. John of the Ladder
		9:00 a.m.	Church School	
		9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
		11:00 a.m.	March Town Hall Meeting	
29	Wed	6:00 p.m.	Presanctified Liturgy	
31	Fri	6:00 p.m.	Small Compline / Akathist Hymn	