

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!!

February 11, 2018

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:31-46

Next Week: Romans 13:11-14:4 **Next Week:** Matthew 6:14-21

*Take time to read the scriptures to prepare your heart and mind for Sunday's Liturgy.

Services Sat., Feb. 17th **Great Vespers (following Lenten Retreat)**
(Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow) **4 pm**

 Sun., Feb. 18th **Cheesefare Sunday – Forgiveness Sunday**
Church School **9:15 am**
Hours **9:45 am**
Divine Liturgy **10 am**

Announcements:

TODAY is the last day for collecting "Socks & Gutchie" for FOCUS Pittsburgh. These gifts will go to needy families served by the local Orthodox charity organization, FOCUS Pittsburgh.

PLEASE NOTE CHOIR MEMBERS: **TODAY** is the first rehearsal of Pan-Orthodox Choir and Prayer Arise at **2 pm** for *Mon Valley Observance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy with a special vespers on Saturday, February 24th at 5 p.m.* There will be a breaking of bread afterwards.

Fr. Stephan will be celebrating Saturday night Vespers with the Sacrament of Confession at **7 pm in the month of February**. The ONLY exception will be on Saturday, February 17th when vespers will be celebrated directly after the Lenten Retreat at 4 pm.

It seems prudent at this time to suggest some precautions associated with the flu pandemic and the reception of Holy Communion. It is possible to receive Holy Communion in a fashion that minimizes the risks of spreading a virus. When you approach the chalice, open your mouth, tilt your head back and allow Father to deposit the Holy Gifts on your tongue. This method serves to minimize contact of the Spoon with your mouth, lips and tongue. Also, it is not necessary to kiss the chalice following Communion. This practice is a pious custom, not a Church law. Once the threat of the pandemic passes, customary veneration of the chalice could be resumed if the communicant feels comfortable doing so. Finally, there have been questions associated with venerating icons and the Holy Cross. Veneration of these holy objects can also be done in a way that minimizes contagion. Father will again demonstrate an alternative way which you might consider adopting until the pandemic runs its course.

Looking ahead: Please note these events on your calendars which will occur in ensuing month or so:

Pre-Lenten Retreat: Saturday, February 17th. This year's speaker will be Second-Year Seminarian Joseph Sharman on the topic "The Orthodox Lenten Family". Reader Joseph will

discuss preparing a family for Lent and Lenten Traditions. Please see today's bulletin insert for more information and how to register. This will be an interactive experience to help prepare us for the Resurrection.

Parish Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 18th after Divine Liturgy.

The **Mon Valley Observance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy** with a special vespers will be held at HROC on Saturday, February 24th at 5 p.m.

Annual Lenten BAKED Fish Dinners: What's For Dinner? On Fridays, February 23rd, March 9th and March 30th. from 12 Noon to 6 pm its baked fish, green beans, coleslaw, potato & cheese perohi and dessert are on the menu. Invite your family, friends and neighbors for some homemade goodness! To help this endeavor run as smoothly as possible, your help and cooperation is always needed and very much appreciated! If you're able to lend a hand please let Marie or Mary know. A big thank you in advance for everyone's cooperation for this fundraising project!

PLEASE NOTE CHOIR MEMBERS: According to the soon to be distributed 11-Week Lenten/Paschal calendar, our Parish will be hosting the *Mon Valley Observance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy with a special vespers on Saturday, February 24th at 5 p.m.* Rehearsals will be held on the following **Sunday at 2 pm: February 18th with a warm-up rehearsal prior to the service on February 24th at 4 pm.** Prayer Arise, the all-male chorus, will be joining the Pan-Orthodox Choir with the singing of the hymns.

Paska! Paska! Paska! Even though Lent will just be starting will be here before you know it! A Paska Order form is an insert in today's bulletin. Orders are due **Sunday, March 4th**. Please leave your orders at the candlestand. Due to the large demand for Baba's Paska, no orders can be accepted after the due date.

Don't forget to include valid telephone numbers on the order form so we can contact you for pick-up!

Also, come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow parishioners by coming to one of the baking sessions:

Fri., March 23rd and Sat., March 24th
Both sessions will start at 7 am.

House Blessings: Father Stephan is making his rounds! **Please let him know if there are any changes to your address and/or phone number.** He will contact you before he arrives. Don't worry about your mess, Father Stephan has had a lot of life experience with a house full of people and stuff. Traditionally one would want to have at least one clean spot with a clean white cloth that has a bowl of blessed water, an icon, candle, and a fresh herb that can be used for the blessing and later as seasoning.

The *2018 Church Calendars* have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

Please remember your *February Fair Share Monthly* envelope. Our monthly obligation to the national church and Archdiocese is \$15 per adult person per month. Not meeting this obligation requires us to draw funds from the General Account to cover them.

Collection: February 4th: \$1,280.00