



## ST. ANTHONY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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PARISH

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## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (ORTHODOXY SUNDAY)

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

St. Tarsios of Constantinople

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Tone: Five

#### THE EPISTLE

Prokeimenon: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our Fathers.

For you are righteous in all things you have done for us.

The reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

BRETHREN, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets --who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And in all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

#### THE EUCHARISTIC OFFERINGS

The Holy Oblations are offered at the offertory of the Great Entrance for the health and welfare of those living members, and for those departed this life in Christ of the Maaya Family.

The Dedes, Nasserri and DeBenedetto Families offer the Coffee Hour today. We ask our parishioners **NOT TO WAIT** to sign up for offering the Coffee Reception; this is a vital part of our parish life! The Chart is posted in the "Coffee Room" and the items needed are both in that room and on our web site (see our web page address above). The Coffee Reception does not need to be "fancy;" just "Coffee'n." See Barbara DiNovi or Sandy Eliopoulos for information, but please take your turn, perhaps with another family.

1. Today, the First Sunday of Great Lent is known as "The Sunday of Orthodoxy." It is a day upon which we commemorate the Restoration of Iconography to the worship life of the Church. This followed 100 year of "Iconoclasm" the breaking of the Icons, which were banished from the Church as "idolatry." The Seventh Ecumenical Council restored the Icons as a true expression of "right believing" (Orthodox) Christians. Thus the First Sunday in Lent was declared the Sunday of Orthodoxy.
2. Due to the weather last Sunday, we delayed the last of the EPIPHANY LECTURES; it will be given after liturgy by Father Michael, and its title is "The Place of the Church Building" in the Orthodox Church. There will be a short "Question and Answer" period at the end of the lecture.
3. Today we will be led by our Church School in the Procession of the Icons into the church. During this period we all will participate in the reading of the **SYNODIKON** (Confession of Faith) which is read in all Orthodox Churches throughout the world on the First Sunday of Great Lent. Please remember: this is **NOT** a prayer; it is a "Proclamation," and therefore should be "proclaimed" with strength.
4. The Sunday of Orthodoxy vespers will be celebrated this afternoon at SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 76 Whitehead Avenue, South River, NJ at 4:00 PM. Members of our choir will be singing with their choir and our clergy will be attending. This year's vespers is being hosted by the Diocese of NY and NJ Orthodox Church of America.
5. **SCHEDULE FOR SERVICES THIS WEEK:**
  - A.) Wednesday Evening, February 28 – Presanctified Divine Liturgy at 6:45 PM, followed by Choir Rehearsal.
  - B.) Friday Evening, March 2, 7:30 PM – 2<sup>nd</sup> Akathyst Hymn to the Theotokos, followed by Lenten Adult Program.
6. As is our custom, there will be a SECOND COLLECTION today for the Orthodox Seminaries, as they prepare future leaders.
7. **SPRING YARD SALE: ITEMS NEEDED** Items are needed for the annual Yard Sale scheduled for May 17, 18, & 19. Are there some items sitting in your attic, basement or garage that you haven't used in a few years? Do you have any unwanted or unused Christmas gifts? If so, please put them aside to donate in May for this major fundraiser, which is entirely, profit for our church. See Valerie Joseph with any questions.
8. Is there something you want to know about, but didn't know how to ask? The Religious Education ministry team is looking for your ideas of topics, dilemmas, questions you'd like to learn more about. We'd like to host lively and informative discussions during Lent. Please place your anonymous ideas in the box in the narthex.
9. **HOW TO APPROACH THE CHALICE:** When you are approaching to receive the Holy Eucharist, please **CROSS** your arms over your chest, **SAY** your full baptized name, **TILT** your head slightly back, and **OPEN** your mouth wide. Please keep your arms folded until you are far from the Chalice and of course, this is not a time for conversation anywhere in the Church. The rule is absolute silence during the distribution of the Eucharist. Only the Choir should be heard.
10. Parents are reminded that children should NOT be downstairs in the church school or Toddler Room without adult supervision.
11. **Parking.** Please **do not park** on the west side of the church in the **exit driveway. This is very important.** Besides being illegal, it is a danger to the pipes buried there and to cars trying to exit from the parking lot. **Please be considerate of our church property and your fellow parishioners.**

*"Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something."*

Plato