

March 31, 2019

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**

*Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America*

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**The Gospel according to John 21:15-25  
(11th Matins Gospel)**

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish. This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.” Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.” Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?” This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 3. Veneration of the Cross. Repose of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to the Americas (1879). Veneration of the Cross. St. Hypatius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Gangra (ca. 336). Repose of St. Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1461). Ven. Hypatius the Healer, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Ven. Apollonius, Ascetic, of Egypt (4th c.). Hieromartyr Abdas, Bishop of Persia, and Martyr Benjamin the Deacon (418-424). Ven. Hypatius, Abbot of Rufinus in Chalcedon (ca. 446). Appearance of the “IVERON” (IBERIAN) Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been signed upon us. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Thou hast given a sign unto them that fear Thee, that they may flee from before the face of the bow. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Thou hast ascended on high, Thou didst lead captivity captive. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Thou hast given an inheritance to them that fear Thy Name. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

### **SECOND ANTIPHON**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Let us worship at the place where his feet have stood. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

God is our King before the ages, He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

High above all nations is the Lord; Thou art Lord Most High over all the earth. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at the footstool of His feet. (Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

**O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**

**(Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

**Shepherd them and bear them up unto the ages.**

**(Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

### **TROPARIA**

**(Tone 3) Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down Death by death. He has become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.**

**(Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

**(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.**

### **KONTAKION**

**(Tone 8) O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from ev'ry calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

### **IN PLACE OF THE TRISAGION, WE SING:**

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.

*The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance.*

*v: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

**THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (4:14-5:6)** Brethren: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

*Alleluia, Tone 8*

*v. Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.*

*v. God is our King before the ages: He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (8:34-9:1)** At that time Jesus called to him the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If any man 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 and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of 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 he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power." **GO TO PG. 120 IN THE PEW BOOK.**

**INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET ... ,":** All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

**COMMUNION HYMN** The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**INSTEAD OF "WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT":**

**(Tone 1)** O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

**The Third Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross**

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal

glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

March 31, 2019



### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

For all you do Dn. Kerry & family and Sharon Jernigan & family

Connie Maxim

Fr. Tom, Fr. Roman, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Matushka, Rose Marie, Angelo, Christine,

Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Irene, Rimi, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, David,

Anna, Walt, Calvin, Vladimir, Dorothy, John, Rose, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa,

Jeanette, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

Mary, Anna & Alex

Alex & Magda Popoff

### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Germanos Batcos

Batcos family

Peter Popoff

Alex & Magda Popoff

Helen Ethington

Stojan & Mira Prusac

Gerry Batcos. Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal

Dorothy Goodman



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors.



**COFFEE & BAGELS** are provided by the Ethington family in honor of Helen Ethington (40 days).

**ANNOUNCEMENT** The special parish meeting scheduled for April 7 has been CANCELLED. God bless all of you who have increased your donations. This has helped the parish’s financial situation. Donations have been increasing since the Annual Meeting in January and the letter was sent to the parish families. Please keep up the good work of God by each of us doing our part.

**COIN BOXES** have been placed on the tables in the church hall to help support the OCA Missions here in the US and around the world. Please be generous.

**PRAY FOR YOUR PRAYER PARTNER** throughout Lent especially. At Pascha you may want to let them know you were praying for them with a card or note.



**SWEET BREADS FOR PASCHA** please use the sign-up sheet in the hall. Loaves are \$12 each.

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** We serve our brothers and sisters in Christ on Thursday, April 3 from 9 am to 1 pm.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting **deodorant** for the month of April. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

**FOOD DRIVE** Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Today**                      **3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – VENERATION OF THE CROSS**  
40 day Parastas for Helen Ethington

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Monday, Apr 1**

6:30 pm                      Great Compline at St. George

**Tuesday, Apr 2**

Fr. Matthew in Toledo

**Wednesday, Apr 3**

10 am                      Lenten Hours  
11:15 to 12:15              Adult Education  
6 pm                      Presanctified at St. George followed by a Lenten potluck (bring a lenten dish to pass)

**Thursday, Apr 4**

9 am                      North End Soup Kitchen

**Saturday, Apr 6**

**Memorial Saturday**

4:45 pm                      Trisagion with the reading of the names of the fallen asleep  
5 pm                      Great Vespers

**Sunday, Apr 7**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – ST. JOHN OF “THE LADDER”**

9:30 am                      Hours  
10 am                      Divine Liturgy followed by Church School  
Parastas – Zina Pyatenko (1 year)  
Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School Meeting

**Offerings for the week March 24, 2019**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 7,704.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	<b>\$ 4,668.00</b>

*82 people were in attendance on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.*

**Here's the shortest and easiest path to salvation: Be obedient, restrained, don't judge, and guard your heart and mind against wicked thoughts. Think well of everyone and bear in mind that the Lord loves them. Because of these humble thoughts, the grace of the Holy Spirit will dwell in your heart and you'll say: 'The Lord is merciful'.**

**- St Silouan the Athonite**