

Cross was set in our midst by the holy Fathers to give us comfort and spiritual strength, to make us ready and eager for the remaining journey to the Holy Pascha.

As we gaze upon the Cross, we see it first as an instrument of Christ's humiliation; of his rejection, of the pain and suffering He endured; and of his eventual death. There is more. This is only half of the Paschal mystery. We are called to venerate the Cross in joy, to go beyond the mystery of Christ's passion to the mystery of the Resurrection. Through the Cross, Jesus became a forgiving victim, revealing a God who is self-giving, compassionate and loving. Jesus died on the Cross to transform all humankind and us.

Upcoming Services

- Wed. Mar. 22** **Reader's Akathist 6 p.m.**
- Fri. Mar. 24** **Reader's Lenten Vespers 6 p.m.**
- Sat. Mar. 25** **Reader's Service (Typika) 9:30 a.m.**
Feast of the Annunciation
Reader's Vespers 4 p.m.
- Sun. Mar. 26** **Reader's Service (Typika) 9:30 a.m.**

Parish News

Parish Education Class –Today, March 19 and March 26 after Typika service.

Choir Rehearsal – Saturday, April 8 at 3 p.m.

Almsgiving – There will be an almsgiving can on the side table throughout the season of Lent. Everyone is encouraged to put their spare change and / or bills in the can. At the end of Lent, the money will be collected and given to a specific charity. Please be a cheerful giver! Let's help those who are less fortunate than us!

Parish Charity Project for Great Lent – This year for Great Lent our parish charity project will be to help Birthright. Birthright is a nonprofit group, located in Frackville, helping area mothers and babies. A list of items they need is on the church bulletin board. Please help in donating some of these items. There will be a box in the church hall to put the donated items. At the end of Lent we will give them to Birthright. Any questions, see Larissa Holowaty.

Birthday Wishes – Sandy Gawley celebrates her birthday, March 25. May God grant her many years.

ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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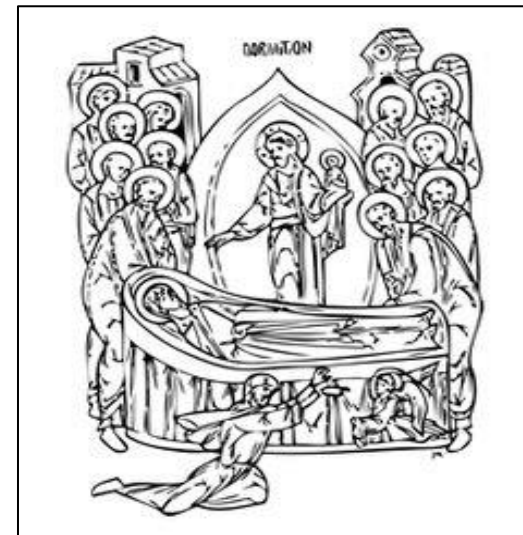
St. Clair, PA. 17970

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*Orthodox Church in America (OCA)
Diocese of Eastern PA*

March 19, 2023

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



Welcome! Please join us for coffee and light refreshments after the service.

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death./ To the thief Thou didst open Paradise./
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy./ and Thou didst command
Thy disciples, O Christ God,/ to proclaim that Thou art risen./ granting the world great
mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion of the Cross

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!

Instead of Holy God

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

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Cross)

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!

Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

Brethren: Seeing then that 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 do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!

V. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Tone 7 Kontakion (Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden./ it has been mysteriously
quenched by the wood of the Cross./ The sting of death and the victory of hell have
been vanquished./ for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell:// "Enter
again into Paradise!"

Hymn to the Theotokos (Instead of It is Truly meet) Tone 6

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!

Sundays of Great Lent

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved.

"He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:38).
For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God"
for those being saved (1 Corinthians 1:24).

The Cross is today presented to us for refreshment and support, for remembrance of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for encouragement. We are like those following a long and difficult path, who become tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, sit in its shadow and rest for a while and then, rejuvenated, continue on their journey. So also today, during this season of fasting and spiritual labor, the life giving.