

Prayer List

We offer our prayers for all of our shut-ins who are unable to attend church services. Also offer your prayers for those in need especially Helen Baburchak, Jessica Barton, Lydia Boras, Laura Chapin, Elaine Costello; Janet Cross; Bill Dranchak, Marilee Driggs; Tony Fiacco, Anthony Gallis, Justin Garcia, Kristine Garner; Kathy Gregory; Marge Herciga; Stella Holowatch, Alicia Laskowski; Linda Main; George Murphy, Alexander Newsom; Tanya Pylypciw, Janeel Rahman, Sheila Ransom, Mohamed Rawoof, Joni Mitchell, Ann Sawchak, Tyler Sunday; Millie Sviatyla, Dorothy Tarasevich, Rachelle Vitale, Elayna Volock, Jack Wanchisen, Bob Wartonik, Valentina Yelangy & all of our parishioners who are ill. To add or remove names from the prayer list in the bulletin, please let Fr. Alexey or Fr. Timm know.

Great Lent begins on a Monday, March 15th, the eve of this day is known as Forgiveness Sunday. The way to resurrection and life, the path to Christ's eternal victory over death, begins with forgiveness. God will not forgive our sins and raise us from the dead unless we forgive the sins of others and work for their salvation as well as our own. In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ clearly teaches us the importance of forgiveness; If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Meditation: (Joel 2:12-26):

The scripture for the Wednesday before Lent begins serves as an announcement that we are on the threshold of Great Lent. In the text, God calls for the people to come back to Him. Practically in the same breath, He orders a period of fasting for His people. Clearly, there is a connection between God's beckoning and His calling for a fast. God calls me back to Him because He knows that my heart is far from Him. I acknowledge that I have strayed, seeking nourishment, happiness, security, and fulfillment everywhere and in everything but in Him. And I realize that no matter how much of this life I try to consume and take in, I am never really satisfied. My heart still remains unfulfilled. When I am true to myself, I know that I am far from Him because my heart is cold and like stone. My prayer is weak and I easily grow bored with reading His Word. I go through the motions during church services, yet they have no effect on me and my life. I am usually discontent, unhappy and complaining. I have no joy. Instead, I feel spiritually shipwrecked. Sometimes, I feel nothing. These symptoms tell me that I have moved away from the Lord and haven't even noticed it. He calls me back, however. He calls me to turn around and to focus on Him. And He has promised that if I do, He will receive me gladly and provide the fulfillment that escapes me now. To make this possible, He has set aside a time, a fast, for me to reflect, repent, and make my way back. He shows the way and provides the strength. Given His Grace and my work, He will begin to fill me with the Life for which my inner heart hungers.

Meditation: Genesis 2:20-3:20

"Where are you?" This is God's question to Adam and Eve when they hid themselves after eating the forbidden fruit. It is probably the most important question in the Bible. God certainly knew where they were. His question, therefore, was one for Adam and Eve to answer. The relationship between them and God had changed by eating the fruit. Trust and faithfulness were broken. Now, they were lost. This "lostness" doesn't have to do with geography. It is a condition of the heart. It is the result of a broken relationship with God. It has to do with a sense of being cut off from God by our own actions, a sense of alienation. I feel it whenever I choose to do things that I know are contrary to Him. I feel it when I willingly allow certain things to govern my life rather than the Lord. I feel it whenever I am satisfied with the least kind of relationship with God. You and I are offered this same question and in the way it was intended to Adam and Eve—derived in love and concern. God seeks us out and never ceases to do so. His search is active, but it never attempts to force us, or twist our arm. Do we want to be found? Great Lent is an opportunity to decide—and not only to decide—but to take concrete and specific actions to reach out to a Hand that is already extended to save. Instead of reaching for the deadly fruit, let us reach out to cling to His hand.

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to all our visitors and guests who participate in our celebration of the Divine Liturgy! While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross & receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We invite all of our guests to join us for our Fellowship Hour & to visit our Bookstore.

For bulletin inputs, contact Fr. Alexey, Fr. Timm or e-mail us at sspeterandpauloffice@gmail.com