

**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 – FR. Timm Holowatch, Helen Baburchak, Lydia Boras, Laura Chapin, Elaine Costello, Kyra Davis, Marilee Driggs, Paul Farbanish, Liz (Farbanish) Quackenbush, Anthony Gallis, Justin Garcia, Kathy Gregory; Stella Holowatch, Daniel Karlgut, John Koch, Alicia Laskowski, Linda Main; George Murphy, Alexander Newsom, Janeel Rahman, Sheila Ransom, Mohamed Rawoof, Joni Mitchell, Ann Sawchak, Rachelle Vitale, Bob Wartonik, Valentina Yelangy, Velma Fotorny & 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 18th, 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 for us 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.

**ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL VISIT – FRIDAY, APRIL 19th for Presanctified Liturgy at 6 pm. A Lenten Meal will follow the Presanctified Liturgy. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!**

**CHEESEFARE BRUNCH – Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>. Bring your favorite non-meat dish to share and enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ! Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!**

**Adult Study: Sundays 12 - 12:30, March 2024****Let us Attend: A Journey Through the Orthodox Divine Liturgy**

The Orthodox Divine Liturgy is the heart of Orthodox spiritual practice. In 98 pages, Let Us Attend by Fr Lawrence Farley analyzes the structure, content and historical context of the Orthodox Liturgy, all the while developing the spiritual mystery of the Liturgy. This book is brief and easy to read. It appeals to those at the beginning of their spiritual journey and those well advanced. The reader will gain insights that will help them in the journey to the Kingdom of God. Copies of the book are available to borrow free for study. I can also get the book wholesale for those who wish to own their own copy. Here is part of an Amazon review: "This is a beautifully written book. It is both informative and inspirational. After all these years in the Church, I still have learned so much about the liturgy. It brought the liturgy to new life for me. It would be a fabulous book for a group study..."



*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](mailto:sspeterandpauloffice@gmail.com)

Visit us at our website: [ssppeny.org](http://ssppeny.org)