



HOLY GHOST ORTHODOX CHURCH

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

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MARCH 9, 2025 – FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 4

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

<u>Scripture Readings</u>	<u>Services</u>
MONDAY, MARCH 10 Genesis 3:21-4:7 Proverbs 3:34-4:22	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 Presanctified Liturgy.....5:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 11 Genesis 4:8-15 Proverbs 5:1-15	SATURDAY, MARCH 8 Great Vespers.....4:00 p.m. Panikhida in loving memory of parents, Ann & John Sencio and Aunt Margaret Belas, from Subdeacon Brian & Ruth Sencio (<i>before Vespers</i>)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 Genesis 4:16-26 Proverbs 5:15-6:3	<p style="text-align: center;">[Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.]</p>
THURSDAY, MARCH 13 Genesis 5:1-24 Proverbs 6:3-20	SUNDAY, MARCH 9, FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT, Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. “Second Sunday” Lenten brunch Lenten Vespers, Holy Trinity, Bridgeport and CT Deanery Saints Peter & Paul, Meriden.....4:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, MARCH 14 Genesis 5:32-6:8 Proverbs 6:20-7:1	
SATURDAY, MARCH 15 Hebrews 3:12-16 Mark 1:35-44	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 Presanctified Liturgy.....5:30 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MARCH 15 Great Vespers.....4:00 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MARCH 16, SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT, St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. Lenten Vespers, St. Dimitrie, Easton and CT Deanery St. Alexis, Clinton.....4:00 p.m.
<hr/> <p>All services will also be streamed online via Facebook Live as follows: https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Ghost-Russian-Orthodox-Greek-Catholic-Church-681248091936330/</p> <p>Reminder: The schedule of services can be found on the front page of our website, https://holyghostbpt.com/ The schedule is recorded on the Google Calendar of the church’s acct. You can add it to your own Google Calendar by clicking the + sign on the bottom right corner of the calendar window.</p>	

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Commemorated on March 9

Rejoicing today in the triumph of Orthodoxy on this first Sunday of Lent, we joyfully commemorate three events: one event belonging to the past; one event to the present; and one event which still belongs to the future.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rejoicing today in the triumph of Orthodoxy on this first Sunday of Lent, we joyfully commemorate three events: one event belonging to the past; one event to the present; and one event which still belongs to the future.



Whenever we have any feast or joy in the Church, we Orthodox first of all look back — for in our present life we depend on what happened in the past. We depend first of all, of course, on the first and the ultimate triumph—that of Christ Himself. Our faith is rooted in that strange defeat which became the most glorious victory — the defeat of a man nailed to the cross, who rose again from the dead, who is the Lord and the Master of the world. This is the first triumph of Orthodoxy. This is the content of all our commemorations and of all our joy. This man selected and chose twelve men, gave them power to preach about that defeat and that victory, and sent them to the whole world saying preach and baptize, build up the Church, announce the Kingdom of God. And you know, my brothers and sisters, how those twelve men — very simple men indeed, simple fishermen — went out and preached. The world hated them, the Roman Empire persecuted them, and they were covered with blood. But that blood was another victory. The Church grew, the Church covered the universe with the true faith. After 300 years of the most unequal conflict between the powerful Roman Empire and the powerless Christian Church, the Roman Empire accepted Christ as Lord and Master. That was the second triumph of Orthodoxy. The Roman Empire recognized the one whom it crucified and those whom it persecuted as the bearers of truth, and their teaching as the teaching of life eternal. The Church triumphed. But then the second period of troubles began ...

... Today is the triumph of Orthodoxy, and a hymn sung today states solemnly and simply: This is the Apostolic faith, this is the Orthodox faith, this is the faith of the Fathers, this is the faith that is the foundation of the world.” My dear brothers and sisters, this is also our own faith. We are chosen. We are elected. We are the happy few that can say of our faith, “apostolic,” “universal,” “the faith of our fathers,” “Orthodoxy,” “the truth.” Having this wonderful treasure, let us preserve it, let us keep it, and let us also use it in such a way that this treasure becomes the victory of Christ in us and in His Church. Amen.

To read the entire passage, see: <https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr-alexander-schmemann/sunday-of-orthodoxy>

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (*Epistle*)

24

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

32

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

33

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34

quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to fight the armies of the aliens.

35

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

36

Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented –

38

of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

40

God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

1

Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-10 (*Epistle, Martyrs*)

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Hebrews 12:1-10*(Epistle, Martyrs Cont'd.)*

3

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

4

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6

for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”

7

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

8

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

John 1:43-51*(Gospel)*

43

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”

44

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

46

And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

47

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

48

Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

49

Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

50

Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

51

And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Matthew 20:1-16

(Gospel, Martyrs)

1

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

2

Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3

And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4

and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.

5

Again, he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.

6

And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'

7

They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

8

So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'

9

And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.

10

But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.

11

And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,

12

saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'

13

But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'

14

Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

15

Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'

16

So, the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.'"

Please find attached, a Lenten letter from His Grace, Bishop Benedict.

Also attached, is an updated version of the Lenten Mission Vespers, which now includes not only the Bridgeport area services, but the OCA Connecticut Deanery services as well.

CANDLE DESK DUTY

March 9 – Daria Ploski-Slavin

March 16 – George Kasper

If you are unable to make your scheduled day, please switch with another member.

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP ... This week's cleanup crew is Group A through J. If this is your week to help, please see crew chief Bob Denhup for instructions. Thank you!

CANDLES / DONATIONS

- Lampatki over Royal Doors in loving memory of Michael Kasper from his family.
- Altar Boy candles in loving memory of Steven Tyler Smith, love from mom (March 8 & 9).
- Table of Oblation in loving memory of Sophia Zujewski from grandsons, Alex & David.

SECOND SUNDAY TODAY ...

Pls. bring a Lenten dish.
Thank you!



LENTEN SOUP FUND RAISER ... Please place your orders for soup if you have not already done so. For those who ordered soup on the 9th, you can pick them up today. Thank you.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE ... Please take the opportunity in this Great Lenten season of repentance to come to confession. According to the holy canons of the Orthodox Church, confession and communion at least once per year is required for membership in good standing. Fr Mark will be available to hear your confession at church every Wednesday 30 minutes before Presanctified Liturgy, and every Saturday for 30 minutes before and after Vespers. You can also schedule confession individually with Fr Mark if you are not available those times. May God give us all grace and courage to come and be reconciled to Christ and His Church!

MARCH 23, SUNDAY OF THE CROSS, LENTEN VESPERS ... Holy Ghost is hosting the 4:00 p.m. Mission Vespers, and cooks/bakers are needed for a Lenten meal. Please see the sign-up sheet downstairs, and talk to LoveAnn Curran if you have any questions. It is FORCC Sunday (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians of Connecticut), an organization that does great work bringing Orthodox Christians of all jurisdictions in CT together. Thank you!

POT-LUCK MEAL FOLLOWING PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY ... As discussed at our last parish council meeting, there will be a potluck snack on March 19th (*originally March 12th*) and April 2nd. Please bring a Lenten snack for fellowship following liturgy. Nothing fancy – humus, soup, etc.

FORCC ZOOM MEETING, MARCH 27 ... FORCC will be holding a ZOOM presentation on March 27th by Fr Steven Hosking on St. Olga of Alaska. The link will be sent out at a later date. Details for this event are included in the attached flyer.

STEWARDS OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND APPEAL ... Attached is an appeal from the Stewards of the Diocese of New England. Their budget goal for 2025 is \$25,000.

MARCH 2, FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT, RITE OF FORGIVENESS



*Working behind the scenes...
a form of almsgiving this
Lenten season.*

MONDAY, MARCH 3 – Canon of St. Andrew



PARISH METRICS (MARCH 9 THRU MARCH 15)

BIRTHDAYS

Susan Maugeri, March 10th; Edward Moyher, March 15th

God Grant them Many Years!

Многая лета!

ANNIVERSARIES

None Listed

DEPARTED FROM THE PARISH METRICS

MARCH 9 – Adam George Bochnak, 1967 (2 days); Michael Tabak, 1968 (94); Olga Sosik, 1993 (101); Sergei Ledovsky, 2003 (90)

MARCH 10 – Alexei Timoshevsky, 1922 (18 weeks); Zinaida Scherbach, 1922 (2); Michael Kasper, 1967 (67); Sophia Karpowich Scherbach, 1977 (81)

MARCH 11 – Walter Shauchuk, 1970 (59); Michael Zigmont, 1978 (40)

MARCH 12 – Anne P. Gotta Jacques, 1995 (74); Mary (Tanych) Gaydos, 1999 (78); Alexander Lucas, 2001 (84); Mary Horelick, 2004 (97)

MARCH 13 – John Sivetz, 1900 (35); Nicholas Dirga, 1919 (38); Mary Sivec, 1992 (96); Irene (Bobko) Balint, 1998 (81); Sophia Zujewski, 2012 (94)

MARCH 14 – Maria Gerak, 1909 (2); Maxim Merezhsy, 1914 (44); Julia Shenchuk, 1942; Mary Alesevich, 1956 (63); Dorothy Hubenko, 1968 (48); Nicholas Leschik, 1989 (87); George Robert Charak, 1987 (63); Michael Darak, Jr., 2004; Ekaterina Dynnikova, 2012; Matthew J. Pronechen, 2021 (33)

MARCH 15 – John Shomsky, 1901 (5); Michael Dennis, 1945 (54); Mary Babey Jankura, 1963 (54); Mary Gardula, 1981 (85); Nicholas Breyan, 2000 (81)

Memory Eternal!

Вечная память!

