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Week of February 25, 2024

Sunday, February 25

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. St. Tarasios, Archbishop of Constantinople (806). Tone 5.

9:00am Matins

10:00 The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-mouth

11:45 Sunday school

12:00pm Fellowship

This Sunday's Hymns & Readings

Tone 5. Troparion of the resurrection

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 5. Kontakion of the resurrection

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Tone 4. Kontakion from the Triodion

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior: "Have mercy on us, O only merciful One!"

Tone 5. Prokeimenon

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Tone 5. Alliluias

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

For You have said: Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!

Alliluia, Alliluia, Alliluia!

This week's schedule

Monday, February 26. St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza (420).

1:00-3:00pm Fr. Silviu office hours

Tuesday, February 27. Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn (1915).

Ven. Ephraim of Katounakia (1998).

Wednesday, February 28. Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750)..

3:00-5:00pm Fr. Silviu office hours

6:00-7:00pm Ninth Hour and Daily Vespers

Thursday, February 29. Ven. John Cassian the Roman (435).

Friday, March 1. Martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis (ca. 160-170).

Saturday, March 2. Ieromartyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrenia (ca. 320).

5:00-5:45pm Adult education class with Fr. Kyril

6:00-7:00pm Ninth Hour and Great Vespers

7:00-7:30pm Choir practice

Announcements

The relics of St. Ephraim of Katounakia

Four years ago Fr. Silviu has received relics of St. Ephraim of Katounakia from some Athonite monks. This venerable saint was a disciple of St. Joseph the Hesychast, lived on the Holy Mountain, and died in 1998. He was a close friend of Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, to whom we are all connected through Fr. Silviu. St. Ephraim's feast day is February 27. Therefore, during the entire week of February 25-March 2 Fr. Silviu will display the holy relics. Know how we Orthodox venerate relics: on weekdays we make full prostrations before them, usually two, then we kiss them, then we make another full prostration. On Sundays we make bows instead of prostrations. Please do not forget to venerate them after you venerate the icons!

Memorial Saturday on March 9

March 9 is one of the major memorial Saturdays of the year. This is when we commemorate all the dead of all times during a special memorial service before the Ninth Hour, at 5:30pm. Please bring lists with the first names of your loved ones who have died and kollyva or special memorial bread.

Lent will begin shortly

Today is the first of the Sundays which prepare us for Lent. As you may know, these preparatory weeks and Lent itself have special fasting practices, which are not always indicated clearly in our calendars. In order to explain these practices Fr. Silviu has put together a page on fasting on our website. Please find it under the "Orthodoxy" tab, in the folder "who we Orthodox are." Please see him with any questions.

Please be aware

We are discovering more and more websites, Facebook pages, email addresses, social pages, etc., set up in the name of our parish. And the parish council and Fr. Silviu are trying to clean up this situation, so that there is less confusion out there about our parish. You can help by not visiting these unofficial or old pages, and by reporting them to Fr. Silviu or any member of the parish council if you come across any. Know that we have only one website (<https://www.st-georgetx.org>) and one Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeOrthodoxChurchTX>), which we maintain with up-to-date information.

Quote of the Week

Sorrow, then, is something that stems from restrictions or constraints that are placed on my ego. But in reality it has nothing to do with what others may say or do to me, but rather with what I have inside myself: what I think or feel, what I believe and what I want, especially when you don't do what I want, or you deny what I want, or take it away from me. Seen from this point of view, sorrow is the experience of being closed off within myself. It is the complete, egotistical, stubborn state of self-incarceration within the confines of my individual being; a complete isolation of myself from others. Sorrow is one of the mortal sins because isolation within the ego means isolation from God and neighbor. Yet my neighbor is a member of the body of Christ; his presence to me is the presence of God. Sorrow, on the other hand, is separation from God, and when such sorrow becomes chronic, it becomes a definitive separation from God. If I am continuously sorrowful in this way, I am living my life as if God does not exist.

(excerpt from Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, *The Mystical Marriage. Spiritual Life according to St. Maximos the Confessor*, Newrome Press, 2018, p. 12)