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Week of March 10, 2024

Sunday, March 10

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT — Martyr Quadratus and those with him at Corinth (267-268). Ven. Anastasia the Patrician of Alexandria (567-568). Tone 7.

9:00am Matins

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

11:45 Sunday school

12:00pm Fellowship

This Divine Liturgy's Hymns & Readings

Tone 7. Troparion of the resurrection

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, granting the world great mercy.

Tone 7. Kontakion of the resurrection

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Tone 1. Kontakion from the Triodion

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Tone 3. Prokeimenon

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure.

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Tone 8. Alliluias

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Communion Hymn

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

This week's schedule

Monday, March 11. St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638-644).

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

Tuesday, March 12. Ven. Theophanes the Confessor, of Sigriane (818). Righteous Phineas, grandson of Aaron (ca. 1500 B.C.). St. Gregory Dialogus, Pope of Rome (604). Ven. Simeon the New Theologian (1021).

Wednesday, March 13. Martyr Christina of Persia (4th c.).

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

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

Thursday, March 14. Ven. Benedict of Nursia (543).

Friday, March 15. Martyrs Agapius, Publius, Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303).

Saturday, March 16. Martyr Sabinas of Egypt (287).

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. The relics are displayed in the nave, on the side table on the northern wall. 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!

Lent begins on March 18

This week is the final preparatory week for Lent. During this week we are giving up meat. On March 18, Lent begins in the earnest and we give up all non-Lenten food.

Bring an icon to church on March 24, the Sunday of Orthodoxy!

The first Sunday of Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy and is dedicated to the ultimate triumph of the veneration of icons at the council in 843. On this day we also have the special service ("Synodikon") dedicated to this triumph, in which we profess our faith. During this service, as always, we will have a procession around the church while holding icons. So please make sure that you and all the members of your family bring an icon, of their patron saint or another favorite icon.

Vesperal Liturgy for the feast of the Annunciation on Monday, March 25

On Monday, March 25, we celebrate the great feast of the Annunciation. We will have the Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-mouth in the evening, at 6:00.

Quote of the Week

If something should happen to separate us, this is not from God. It is better to stay with a person who is wrong, and go together with him into hell, than to go to paradise alone—because if you arrive there by yourself, you'll find that the door will be closed. Going with the other means that I deny myself; it means that you are moving in a manner not unlike God, in a manner appropriate and fitting to God. And what is “fitting” to God? The denial of my self, the emptying of my self, in order to be filled by God.

In order for this to happen, we must first uncover our passions. But the passions as a rule are things that are hidden: we are not aware of their influence. This is why St. Maximos tells us that, in order to enter into ourselves, we must hold the reins of the self tightly, and look deeply into ourselves and observe what is taking place, so that we might be able to understand and articulate whatever is at work inside us. For instance, the monastery decides to let a field lie fallow, but in your mind you immediately object. “But,” you'll say, “this isn't right; it will cost us; we will have less to eat,” and so on. In your mind, you think you're defending what is right and just; you believe that you are only concerned about the interests of the monastery. You think your heart is filled with love, and that you are right. But listen to what St. Maximos is telling you: When your mind keeps returning to something, in this case the field in question, it means that what you have inside yourself is not justice, truth, or love, but passion.

(from Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, *The Mystical Marriage. Spiritual Life according to St. Maximos the Confessor*, Newwrome Press, 2018, page 19)