

## OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

### SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

**“To this disoriented world, the icon brings a testimony of the authenticity of the reality of another way of life, of other norms of existential relationships brought about in the incarnation of God and unknown to a man enslaved by biological laws.”**

**Leonid Ouspensky**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Lanie, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie and Tyler.

**\*\*\* To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski\*\*\***

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# The Weekly Bulletin

## HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

[www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

**March 24th, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** - The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm. The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes. In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel. Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

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

**Gospel Reading:** John 20:19-31

**Troparion – Tone 6**

*No one could describe the Word of the Father; / but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, / and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. / We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.*

## Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5pm Saturdays

**Hours:** 9:45am Sundays

**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00am Sundays

**Confessions:** Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

**Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

## Dates to Remember

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March**

**Baptism of Sophia Urilov at 12 pm (Noon)**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of March – Sunday of Orthodoxy**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of March**

**ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS**

**Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 9 am**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of March**

**Presanctified Liturgy with Archbishop Michael at 6:30 pm**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of March**

**Presanctified Liturgy at 6:30 pm**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of March**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of March – St. Gregory Palamas**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Deanery Vespers at St. John Baptist Church, Passaic NJ**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation, and ask any questions you may have. The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts.

### March 23 – Baptism of Sophia Urilov

Sophia Urilov, daughter of Edgar and Anna Urilov will be baptized on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 12 (Noon). Everyone is welcomed and please join us for this wonderful occasion. May God bless and protect newly to be baptized handmaiden of God, Sophia for many blessed years.

### Archbishop Michael pastoral visit

Please plan to worship at Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, with His Eminence Archbishop Michael and many other priests from Greek and Romanian Archdiocese. The presanctified liturgy is scheduled to start at 6:30 pm. Please plan to attend this service and bring your favorite Lenten meal to share for the potluck meal that will take place after Presanctified Liturgy.

### Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers 2024

The first Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers will take place at St. John the Baptist Church, 170. Lexington Avenue, Passaic NJ. The Vespers will start at 5 pm and His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be main celebrant. Everyone is welcomed.

### Potluck Meal

Throughout Great Lent we will aim to have agape potluck dinner after every presanctified liturgy. Please bring your favorite Lenten dish to share. Thank you.

### Confessions

Will be heard every Wednesday before Presanctified Liturgy and Saturday evening before or after Vespers. Alternatively, you can always make an appointment with me.

### Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

In order to read Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon for the Beginning of Great Lent, please follow the link: [Holy Synod - Encyclicals - Beginning of Great Lent 2024 - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](https://oca.org)

### Food Donation Cart – Update

Dan Taylor informs us that the needs of Sussex Help Center have changed. They have been blessed with a great deal of food over the past few months. The food pantry still needs baby diapers. Also baby supplies, pet foods (cat and dog) and household cleaning supplies.

### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com)