

A WORD FOR THE DAY

It is all too easy to hear these words of Jesus—that “all things are possible to the one who believe” and that such miracles are possible by prayer—and to take them on our own terms. We know what we want: health and avoidance of suffering for our loved ones, success in our career, financial security, a bigger house and another car, and so on. It is such things as these that fill our minds most of the time—even when we are standing in Church! Even when we try to devote a little of our time to God such thoughts plague us. If these things seem to us to be impossible, a pipe-dream, well, then, when we hear these words of Christ, that “all things are possible to one who believes,” we are likely to hear it as if he is speaking of our own concerns: if only we could believe enough so that all our own desires are fulfilled: if only we find the right way to pray, to make all these things possible. Clearly, when we do this, we are not in fact listening to God at all...

All things certainly are possible for God and for the one who truly believes. But we must never forget that what God shows to be miraculously possible overturns all our usual expectations. The Son of God does not simply come down amongst us and put everything in order as we would like it!

No, absolutely not! Rather, we are given this gift of Lent so that when we arrive with Christ at his Passion, we will finally be able to understand how indeed all things are possible. For what is shown in the Passion of Christ is that death itself is conquered, and, most miraculously of all, it is conquered in no other way than by Christ’s own death, trampling down death by death! It is in and through an action which we would not think to be divine, an action which expressed all the impotence and frustration of our lives—by his death—that Christ conquers death and grants us life.

Fr. John Behr, The Cross Stands while the World Turns.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✝ Orthodox Church In America

March 26 2107

Fourth Sunday of Lent — Tone 7. Leave-taking of the Annunciation. Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder).

Hieromartyr Irenæus, Bishop of Sirmium (304). Martyrs Bathusius and Bercus—Presbyters, Arpilus—Monk, Abibus, Agnus, Reasus, Igathrax, Iscoeus (Iskous), Silas, Signicus, Sonirilus, Suimbalus, Thermus, Phillus (Philgas)—laymen, and the women: Anna, Alla, Larissa, Monco (Manca), Uirko (Virko), Animais (Animaida), Gaatha and Duklida, in the Crimea (375). St. Malchus of Chalcis in Syria (4th c.). Ven. Basil the New, Anchorite, near Constantinople (10th c.). Martyr Montanus, Presbyter, of Singidunum, and his wife, Maxima (235)..



Divine Services

Tonight.....Mission Vespers here (Albany Brotherhood).....5:00 p.m.
(followed by Lenten Pot-Luck)
 Wednesday, Mar. 29thPresanctified Liturgy 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday, Mar. 30Canon of St. Andrew with the Reading of the
 Life of St. Mary of Egypt.....6:30 p.m.
(followed by Lenten Pot-Luck)
 Friday, Mar. 31stSmall Compline with Akathist to the Theotokos.....6:30 p.m.
(followed by Study Group)
 Saturday, April 1st.....Great Vespers6:00 p.m.
(followed by Confessions)
 Sunday, April 2ndDivine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great10:00 am
5th Sunday of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt
(Hours 9:40 a.m.)

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20
 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Next Week's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14
 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

For Next Week, April 2nd

Hours and Thanksgiving PrayersTanya Bogaevskaya
 Epistle:Irene Vassos
 Coffee HourPaula Colbert

For the health and well-being of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, Mercy, and Michael.

March Birthdays

March Birthdays: Alla Gadoury (03), Alla Chelukhova (11), Leonard Madzy (19) Sean Salinovici (22), Luke Salinovici (22), Grace Makdisi (23), Andrea Fiscu (24), Richard Goudey (28), Koren Ahlen (29)

Announcements

Many Years! Grace Makdisi, Andrea Fiscu, Richard Goudey, Koren Ahlen

Gift Cards for Shut-ins. Please remember to sign the greeting cards in the back of the Church. We are collecting donations for our shut-ins to spend on gift cards instead of baskets. The donation box is marked and in the back of the church, as well. Thank you.

Seminaries Month. For the month of March, our parish is collecting monies to support our OCA Seminaries. This month we are collecting for St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Please be generous in your support! Our seminaries truly need our support.

Catechism Sessions will continue today during coffee hour. Please come over to the church to listen to what our Orthodoxy spirituality and practice is all about.

Upcoming Events

Church Cleaning. For those who would like to help to do an initial cleaning of the church, we will open the doors for a church cleaning at 9am, April 1st.

Baptism of Fred Feingold. Our parishioner, Fred, will be baptized on Lazarus Saturday. This means we will celebrate a baptismal liturgy on Saturday, April 8th, at 9am. Please be there to support our soon-to-be newest member of our parish. After the baptism, during our children's retreat, we will have a pot-luck meal, both in celebration of the Raising of Lazarus and for the baptism of Fred.

Children's Retreat on Lazarus Saturday. Like Last year, on the Saturday before Holy Week begins, Lazarus Saturday, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 9am. Following the Liturgy, we will host a retreat for our children. We will prepare palms for Palm Sunday, have a luncheon, bake bread, and have an educational session on Confession, followed by confessions. The retreat is open to both children and adults.

Remember that our Mother, the Church, asks that we make a good confession before Pascha. This way, we turn our hearts and minds, in humility, to our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, so that he may truly enter our lives and being—so that his resurrection may be our true joy, and that we may continue to grow in the love that he has offered us. Why do we confess our sins? We confess our sins so that we may grow in Christ and learn to love as Christ loved. We confess our sins to show that we love Christ's light, and we want that light to enter into our own souls.

Last Sunday's Collection\$2,173
 Budget 2017\$96,142
 Progress Towards Budget.....\$16,570