

A WORD FOR THE DAY

On fasting

If we are in the habit of eating whatever we want whenever we want it, we are more likely to become slaves to gratifying other bodily desires. The Eastern Fathers say that gluttony is the mother of adultery. There is a lot of truth in that statement, especially in a society with epidemic rates both of obesity and of sex between people who are not married to one another. Overfed and under-disciplined Christians will find it hard to respond to their deep longings for intimacy in a fashion pleasing to God. Fasting is a good tool for fighting many kinds of lust. One good habit leads to another and fasting from our favorite foods really hits us where we live.

We have to be careful, however, because it is possible to fast in ways that do us more harm than good. The Pharisees seem to have done precisely that. If we are self-righteous when we fast, judging others as being worse than we are because of what they eat, we will have missed the point entirely. Better not to fast than to do it in a way that strengthens pride, that most dangerous of passions. In order to be spiritually beneficial, fasting must also be joined with prayer. The Lord said that we live not by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matt. 4:4). If we have not made listening for God in prayer a settled habit in our lives, we will not be able to fast in a spiritually healthy way. We will simply lack the strength to do so.

Fr. Philip LeMasters, The Forgotten Faith

People sometimes pray over and over to be freed from a bad habit or an addiction, but are not freed from it. And they want to give up, because God isn't answering their prayer. Here's why that happens. Whenever persistent prayer is not delivering us from the sin or passion we're praying to be rid of, it's because that sin is anchored by some other sin underneath it—like a boat being held in check by a submerged weight. (For instance, underlying addictions to food or alcohol or other fleshy indulgences is the big passion of Self-Love.) So we often need to pray for God to deliver us from Pride and show us the deeper sin anchoring the one that's a problem.

When we pray for God to reveal what sin is underlying the difficult, involuntary one we can't overcome, it will always bring us to some voluntary one we can get hold of and repent, and anchor we're able to pull up. In that way, even persons who are very weak, say the saints, will find a point where they can begin to turn themselves around and change the whole course of their lives.

Dee Pennock, God's Path to Sanity

He who is drawn away by sin against his will ought to understand that he is being mastered by some other previous sin, which he serves willingly, and is henceforward led under its power even to things which he does not wish.

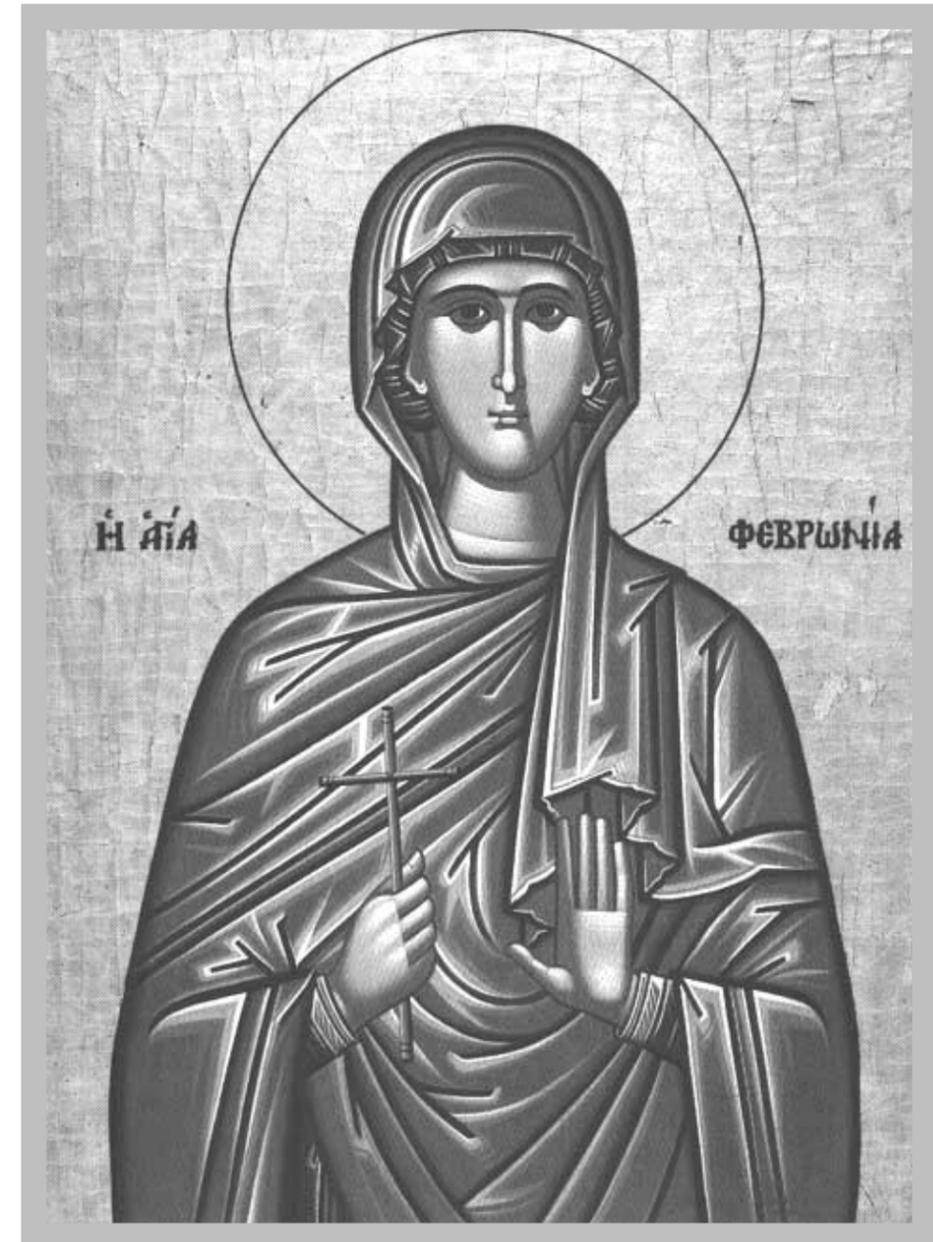
Basil the Great

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

June 25 2017

3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. All Saints of Britain and Ireland. Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis (ca. 304). Ss. Peter and Fevronia (ton-sured David and Euphrosyne), Wonderworkers of Múrom (1228). Ven. Dionysius the Hagiorite (1375). Ven. Dometius of Dionysiou (1405). Monk Martyr Procopius of Iveron.



Divine Services

Wednesday, June 28thVesperal Liturgy for Sts. Peter and Paul6:30 p.m.
(followed by a non-fasting pot luck)

Saturday, July 1st.....Great Vespers6:00 p.m.
(followed by Confessions)

Sunday, July 2nd.....Akathist to the Theotokos9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 10:00 a.m.
(Hours Begin at 9:40 a.m.)

Monday, July 3rd.....Baptism of Alexandra5:30 p.m.

Today's Readings

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Next Week's Readings

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

For Next Week, July 2

Hours and Thanksgiving PrayersTanya Bogaevska
Epistle:Lisa Goudey
Coffee Hour:Irina Trioufanova

In Memory of: Joseph George Eshleman and Vernon

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, and Michael.

June Birthdays

Diana Fiscu (11), Real Gadoury (22), Fr. Joseph (30)

Announcements

Tony Makdisi Update. Glory be to Jesus Christ! Tony has had a successful surgery. Both he and his sister (who donated her kidney) are doing well in and good recovery. Thank God! Please continue to pray for Fadia, Tony, and the children as Tony remains in Lebanon to recover.

Please continue to pray for Nick Bobrovsky. Nick will be having a procedure done on his heart at the end of July. It's a procedure that replaces one of his heart

valves. For this reason, we will be praying for Nick during our services that God's will be done for the healing of Nick's soul and body.

June Charities OCMC. OCMC stands for Orthodox Christian Mission Center. OCMC's headquarters is located in Florida. They provide missionaries and funding to countries around the world to help spread the gospel. They run charitable programs, provide education, help build churches, train and send missionaries. Fr. Joseph's brother, Aaron, went on mission trips through OCMC three times—to both Albania and Argentina. Like IOCC, OCMC is a worthy Orthodox cause to support. Please donate charitably.

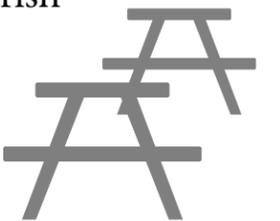
Youth Rally Aug. 7-12. For children who have completed the 5th grade (or equivalent) and have not yet turned 18 are eligible to attend Youth Rally. As a parish, we are willing to cover any costs for children who cannot afford to pay the full price. The details are in the application. The deadline to return the application is Monday, July 3rd 2017. For those interested, please contact Fr. John Hopko at 860-582-3631 or terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com. If you have any financial concerns, please contact Fr. Joseph.

Upcoming Events

Parish gathering on July 1st before Vespers. At 5pm, Saturday, July 1st the church doors will be open for us to gather and discuss matters concerning the parish before Fr. Joseph's, Matushka Mary's, and John's move to Princeton, New Jersey. It is important for us to have the opportunity to bring closure to this chapter in the life of St. Nicholas. Please come and be part of this meeting and discussion. As part of our meeting, we will both pray and forgive one another.

Baptism, Monday, July 3rd at 5:30pm. The infant Alexandra, the child of Katya and grandchild of Irena Pozniakova will be baptized unto the body of Christ. The baptism will be followed by a pot-luck meal in the rectory.

July 9th is our Parish Picnic. Like last summer, we will have a parish picnic. Please bring a dish to share. The parish will provide hamburgers and hot dogs for the grill. This will be the last Sunday Fr. Joseph, Matushka Mary, and little John will be at St. Nicholas. May we say goodbye to one another in peace and with prayer. Please set aside the time to come to the parish picnic!



Collections

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| Last Sunday's Collection | \$1,631 |
| 2017 Budget | \$96,142 |
| Progress Towards Budget | \$40,194 |