



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sunday, November 17, 2019 - The Rich Farmer

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5

St. Gregory, Wonderworker of Neo-Cæsarea. Ven. Nikon, Abbot of Rádonezh.



Hymns for Today

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.

Thou didst become worthy of thy name* through thy way of life; through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy. Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds, that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles, frightening the devils and healing the sick through thy wonderworking. O All-wise Father Gregory, // thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called Wonderworker.

Epistle Reading - Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel Reading - Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting.*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TODAY @ Starting at 8:15 AM – Chrismation of Louie Gianuzzi, 3rd & 6th Hours (8:40AM), Divine Liturgy, Coffee, Church School, Parastas, Parish Council Meeting

Parastas today offered for Anastasia Golubiewski by Bernard Golubiewski.

WED: Nov 20, 6:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

GREAT FEAST: Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

WED: Nov 20, 6:30 PM – Great Vespers w/ Lity

THURS: Nov 21, 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Feast

SAT: Nov 23, 4:00 PM – Great Vespers / Confessions

SUN: Nov 24, 9:00 AM – 3rd & 6th Hours (8:40AM), Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School, Parish Council Meeting

Attendance & Donations – 11/10/19

Attendance: 78 | Regular: \$1017

Improvements: \$338 | Candles: \$155

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Josie Bisset, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nancy Valletta & Family, Nadine Breisch, Luke Austin **Departed:** Lovey Klem, Jeffery Hudak, Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Dalansky

Calling all Parishioners!

INTRODUCTION TO DIVINE LITURGY

A brief intro to the Liturgy w/ Fr. Innocent

Each Sunday at Coffee Hour

NOV 24TH – DEC 22ND

Each class will cover a section of the Divine Liturgy we celebrate every week. Deepen your understanding and bring greater meaning to the time you spend in church!

PIEROGIES PROJECT: Thanks to everyone that helped with our November pierogies project. All fresh and frozen pierogies were sold. When all are picked up, we will have a profit of \$2451. Bless you all. Last project of 2019 is Dec. 9 and 10. The order is filled but a waiting list is available. THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES you will get them. Sorry!

VISITATION PROGRAM FOR SHUT-INS, ELDERLY, & SICK: Holy Trinity will begin a structured visitation program for our elder parishioners who are no longer able to be at Church or participate in our community. Our visits will be an expression of our love, support and gratitude as their brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a great blessing to them and an even greater blessing for you – the one visiting. Our Lord commands us to visit the sick and so upon doing he blesses us greatly. Interested parishioners could commit to visiting as much or little as they would like – as little as once a month! This program is also a great opportunity for families to visit shut-ins together (a great lesson for the kids). If you are interested, please sign up in the vestibule or speak with Fr. Innocent.

A NOTE ON THE NATIVITY FAST

Reprinted from the OCA Website

Question:

I was wondering why we fast before Nativity. The Lenten fast seems more obvious. Also, from what foods do we normally fast from during the Nativity fast?

Answer:

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor.

[We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from

jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we “ruin our appetite” we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently.

If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a “must.”

In Matthew Christ says, “WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites,” not “IF you fast” or “IF YOU CHOOSE to fast.”

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society—a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products—fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a Jenny Craig consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace—and pay large sums of money for—his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at “no cost”] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.

General Fasting Guidelines for the Nativity Fast

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the fast traditionally entails fasting from red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

The fasting rules permit fish, wine and oil on certain feast days that occur during the course of the fast: Evangelist Matthew (November 16), Apostle Andrew (November 30), Great-martyr Barbara (December 4), St. Nicholas (December 6), St. Spiridon and St. Herman (December 12), St. Ignatius (December 20), etc. The

Nativity Fast is not as severe as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast.

As is always the case with Orthodox fasting rules, persons who are ill, the very young or elderly, and nursing mothers are exempt from fasting. Each individual is expected to confer with their confessor regarding any exemptions from the fasting rules, but should never place themselves in physical danger.

FOR THOSE PROVIDING FOOD FOR COFFEE HOUR Guidelines During the Nativity Fast

While among us there are those who are ill, very young or elderly, and nursing mothers who are exempt from fasting – During our brief coffee hours after Divine Liturgy, we should make our best effort to ensure our humble offerings honor fasting guidelines and do not include: red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, or dairy products.

On Sundays: Fish, wine and oil are allowed. And so, offerings like vegetables, fruit, nuts, shellfish, fish (no mayonnaise), bread, crackers, coffee, non-dairy “milk”, fruit beverages, water, soft drinks, and many other options, are appropriate. Vegan offerings are appropriate, and there are many resources that offer suggestions for these.

If you have questions about recipes or what would be appropriate, feel free to contact Father Innocent, Matushka Melanie, JoAnne Dutko, or Deborah Mills. There are lots of delicious options available.

ON THE RICH FARMER & TRUE RICHES

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Did the rich farmer in today’s gospel say “Thou hast, through the sun’s rays, poured sweetness into all the fruits of the earth?” “Thou hast given every fruit a wonderful form and particular flavor! Thou hast awarded me a hundredfold for my small labors! Thou hast had mercy on Thy servant, and hast poured such gifts from Thy full hands into his lap! O my most wondrous Lord, teach me to give joy to my brethren and neighbors with these Thy gifts. May they, together with me, rejoice and

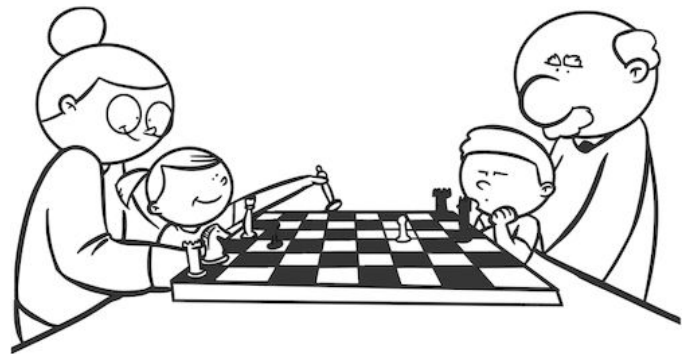
thankfully glorify and praise Thy holy name and Thine inexpressible goodness." Does he say all this? No: instead of remembering the Giver of all these gifts, he first worries about where to heap them up and keep them. like a thief who finds a bag of money in the road does not wonder where it came from or whose it is, but first worries about how to hide it. This rich man is, in reality, a thief. He cannot say that all this abundance has come from his own efforts. A thief takes pains over his thieving, using his skill and intelligence: he often exercises a great deal more skill and intelligence a plowman or sower does. The rich man had done nothing, nor could he do anything about the sun, rain, wind, and earth. These are the four main elements - earth, air, fire and water that, by God's will, give fruit to plants and trees. This abundant fruit, then, is neither his nor the result of his futile efforts, nor his by the right of possession, for he is not the owner of the sun, the rain, the winds or the earth. This abundant fruit is the gift of God. A man appears grotesque in the eyes of all when he, receiving a gift from another, neither says "Thank you" nor pays any attention to the giver, but hastens only to hide it in a safe place. A decent beggar, on receiving a crust of black bread, thanks the giver, but this rich man does not spare a single thought or a single word to thank God for such a rich harvest, nor have a single smile of joy for such a marvel and so great a grace from God. In place of prayer and thanksgiving, hymns to God and joyfulness of heart, he is immediately seized on by worries about how to gather such gifts and bestow them in such a way that not a single grain may remain for the birds of the air or a single apple fall into the hands of his poor neighbors."

And he said: "This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will bestow all my fruits and my goods" See here the great labors of a man without understanding! Instead of striving to kill the old man in himself and raise up the new man, he invested all his efforts in the pulling down of his old granaries, barns, and farms and building new ones. If his harvest is as abundant the following year, he will again have to labor to extend his old granaries or build yet more. And so his granaries will, for year to year, become larger and newer, and his soul will become narrower and older, and his old grain will rot away like his soul. He will be surrounded by envy, and curses will be heaped on him for poor men will look with envy on his riches, and the hungry will curse him for his hardness and selfishness. And so his wealth will bring ruin to him and his neighbors. His soul will be

destroyed by hard-heartedness and selfishness, and those of his neighbors by envy and cursing. See how a man without understanding can use God's gift to both his own and other's ruin. God gave him his riches to be blessing and salvation both to him and his neighbors, but he made use of them to bring a curse on himself and others.

DECEMBER FAMILY NIGHT

SAT, December 14th, 4PM-8PM



Join us for an evening of games, conversation, food & fun at our HOLY TRINITY FAMILY NIGHT. The evening will begin with Great Vespers at 4PM. Immediately following we'll go downstairs for **FOOD** and **fun** for kids and families. Everyone in the parish is invited and you are welcome to bring guests. We hope to begin doing these Family Nights once a month so stay tuned!

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

November 20	6:30 PM Great Vespers w Lity <i>Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple</i>
November 21	9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for Feast
November 27	6:30 PM Moliebon of <i>Thanksgiving</i>
December 5	6:30 PM Great Vespers for <i>St. Nicholas</i>
December 6	9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for <i>St. Nicholas</i>
December 6	Potato Pancake Sale (11AM-5PM)
December 21	Cookie Sale (9AM-1PM)
December 24	6:30 PM Compline & Matins for <i>Nativity</i>
December 25	9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for <i>Nativity</i>
December 26	9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for <i>Theotokos</i>
December 31	6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of <i>the Circumcision of Our Lord</i>
January 1	Divine Liturgy for <i>Circumcision</i>

