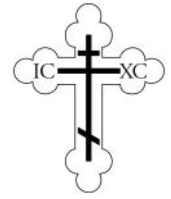


Orthodox Mission, Austin, Texas

Newsletter for Week of April 10, 2005



Remember: ask off for Pascha—midnight of Sat. Apr. 30 into Sun. May 1, 2005.

Orthodox Easter, that is, *Pascha*, is May 1 this year (May 1 civil date). This Sun., Apr. 10, we keep in honour of St. John of the Ladder. The 5th Sun. in Lent, Apr. 17, we will commemorate St. Mary of Egypt. The 6th Sun., Apr. 24, is Palm Sun. The Sun. after that, May 1, is Pascha. The Holy Week schedule is in formation; services will be shorter this year because they are not full priest's services. In Holy Week there are additional scripture readings. Those volunteering to read them should line up in a queue, to inform Fr. Aidan. For Pascha we will gather at an established Orthodox Church; I would like to suggest for us a picnic and Easter egg hunt later on that afternoon, in an area park.

Lenten Fast. During Great Lent each day is a fasting day like a Wednesday or Friday, *except* that on Saturday and Sunday oil and wine are allowed. On Annunciation (it was last week) and Palm Sunday (2 weeks away), fish is allowed.

Weekly Calendar

Apr. 10 / Mar. 28	4th Sunday in Lent	<i>Fast, OW*</i>	St. John of the Ladder. Hours & Typika 10 am.
Apr. 11 / Mar. 29	Monday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	Sts. Paul Voinarsky, priest; Paul, & Alexis, new-martyrs.
Apr. 12 / Mar. 30	Tuesday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	Holy Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11)
Apr. 13 / Mar. 31	Wednesday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	Appearance of Iveron Icon. St. Innocent, apostle to Alaska.
Apr. 14 / Apr. 1	Thursday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	St. Mary of Egypt (also commemorated next Sun.)
Apr. 15 / Apr. 2	Friday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	Icon of the Theotokos called "The Key of Understanding"
Apr. 16 / Apr. 3	Saturday in Lent	<i>Fast, OW*</i>	Sat. of the Akathist (to the Mother of God).

** OW means that oil and wine are allowed on this day.*

Resolution of the Clergy—Diocese of Chicago, Russian Orthodox Church Abroad

Having gathered in Chicago from the far-flung reaches of our diocese in the presence of the wonder-working Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God, we give thanks to her Son and our God for His great mercy shown towards our church in the past year. For all these many gifts our Lord has given us, we give thanks to God. We call upon our flock as well to seek diligently in their lives to see God's many blessings given to them. We ask that all pray for the speedy recovery of Priest Martin Swanson of St Basil the Great Parish in St Louis, Missouri, who suffered a heart attack during the first week of Great Lent. Fr Martin is an invaluable member of the Diocesan Council, a sincere, diligent, and hard-working pastor, and a mentor and example to many of us.

We would like to acknowledge and thank deeply our fellow-workers in God's vineyard, those who so often are forgotten and overlooked: the wives of our married clergymen. Too often it is assumed that the work of the parish priest is his alone, while in reality, this burden is shared to a large extent with his entire family. May God grant His eternal glory to those who receive no glory on this earth for the heavy cross they bear! We ask also of our flock that they acknowledge the difficult life of the clergyman's wife and not have unrealistic expectations of her or her family, and that they support her in any and all ways possible, so that she may better and more easily care for their own spiritual father, their parish priest.

We continue to support all efforts past and present towards the reconciliation of the Russian Church. We are inspired by the outpouring of faith and fervor exhibited by the Russian people during the recent visit of the relics of the New Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Nun Barbara [*which are in the keeping of the Russian Church Abroad – ed.*]. During their short visit to Russia, millions of people took the opportunity to venerate the relics of these holy women, so long venerated by the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. We rejoice at this example of cooperation between the two parts of the Russian Church (as well as others, such as the joint efforts in Beslan) and we hope that the fervor of the faithful in Russia will inspire our flock to emulate such piety and zeal. We encourage our faithful to take part in pilgrimages to Russia and visit the significant holy places there, so tied to the lives and sufferings of the New Martyrs, such as Butovo, Ekaterinburg, and Solovki. We would strongly support, if it were God's will, a reciprocal visit of holy items from Russia to our diocese. Likewise, we hope that as unexpected misunderstandings arise between our Churches, they will continue to be settled face to face so as not to undermine such long-awaited and essential accomplishments.

We recognize that the process of reconciliation has been somewhat slow, but fortunately steady. We realize that the process by which reconciliation will take place will be largely determined by the upcoming All-Diaspora Council

presently being planned by our Church for spring 2006. While the process has been lengthy, we pray for the work of all involved and hope for a fruitful and swift reconciliation built on truth, oneness of mind and faith, brotherly love, and an understanding of local practical realities. We call our flock also to such prayer, a prayer reminiscent of the prayer our Lord uttered nearly 2000 years ago on the very night of His Passion: *That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.* (John 17:21) It is our hope that a unified Russian Church will provide for yet a greater witness of Orthodoxy throughout the world and to those who have yet to learn of the saving truth of Orthodox Christianity in our diocese.

May our Lord continue to bless us, and may He provide the strength necessary for all of us to complete well the course of the fast, that we may worthily meet Him just a few weeks hence, gloriously risen from the dead!

Agreed to unanimously by the gathered clergy:

His Eminence Archbishop Alypy	Priest James Rohr (Kazan Icon Church, Urbana, OH)
His Grace Bishop Peter	Priest Christopher Stade (St John Chrysostom Church, House Springs, MO)
Protopriest Peter Burlakov (St Sergius Cathedral, Cleveland, OH)	Priest Victor Trotskyy (Holy Ghost Church, Sterling Hts., MI)
Archimandrite Daniel (St John Community, Columbus, OH)	Priest Jeremiah Loch (St Innocent Church, Wheaton, IL)
Igumen Ioann (Holy Resurrection Skete, Minneapolis, MN)	Priest Victor Boldewskul (St Sergius Cathedral, Cleveland, OH)
Protopriest John Shaw (Holy Trinity Church, Milwaukee, WI)	Priest Thomas Kulp (St John the Baptist Community, Blue River, WI)
Protopriest Eugene Gruchetski (St Panteleimon Church, Minneapolis, MN)	Priest Valery Vovkovski (Holy Virgin Cathedral, Chicago, IL)
Protopriest Paul Bassett (St George Church, Cincinnati, OH)	Deacon Basil Gilliland (St Panteleimon Church, Minneapolis, MN)
Priest John Sykaluk (St Vladimir Church, Rock City, IL)	Deacon Matthew Williams (St John Chrysostom Church, House Springs, MO)
Priest Anthony Nelson (St Benedict Church, Oklahoma City, OK)	Deacon Julian Miloradovich (Holy Virgin Cathedral, Chicago, IL)
Hieromonk Raphael (Holy Resurrection, Winnipeg, Manitoba)	Priest Gregory Joyce, Secretary (St Vladimir Church, Ann Arbor, MI)

News from Father . . .

The Bishop is coming. Bishop Peter (of Cleveland, administrator for the Chicago Diocese), will arrive in Austin Tuesday, Apr. 19. That evening, Vladika will bring the wonderworking Kursk Root icon of the Mother of God to our chapel for an akathist (30-minute service). This represents for our community a great blessing and a spiritual foundation for our future life together in Christ, through His Most Pure Mother. I need volunteers to plan a proper *reception* for Bp. Peter, a suitable *gift* for His Grace, and a fitting *banquet* after the service. The **reception** occurs before the service. The starosta presents to the Bishop, with words of welcome, a tray with a loaf of bread and a dish of salt. For us, this is a new skill to learn. For the **gift**, an icon is always appropriate; for the **banquet**, a shared meal at an area restaurant is probably the simplest thing for our just-beginning community. This week I will get a confirmation on the date, from Bp. Peter.

Developments. Mar. 27, I baptized Nina Urdy's premature child, John. Please pray; he has a 50/50 chance of surviving. // I have not found a viable alternative to the South 1st St. property. It may be our chapel. // Wall calendars for 2005 are \$4 each; they are colour-coded for fast days. Church directories are free. // Next Sun. the Eastburns are travelling; the location for our service that day is to be announced. // Last week the State certified our non-profit incorporation. This week I plan to open our church bank account. // Last week I contacted all Orthodox priests in the area, to inform them that we are establishing a Russian Orthodox church. // Please note the new portable iconostasis, made by Raphael Flores.

Our name. Bp. Peter said that if we are the Church of the Nativity, or St. Seraphim, or St. John Chrysostom, he will not be able to come down and be with us on our parish nameday since he has commitments to other parishes. I am pondering: *All-Merciful Saviour, Sts. Peter & Paul, or St. Nicholas / Michael the Archangel / Xenia / Ambrose / Anthony / Innocent.*

Scriptures for the Week

Sun. Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31

Mon. Isaiah 37:33-38:6; Genesis 13:12-18;
Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tue. Isaiah 40:18-31; Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19

Wed. Isaiah 41:4-14; Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thu. Isaiah 42:5-16; Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Fri. Isaiah 45:11-17; Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Sat. Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 8:27-31

On the Web & on the Street

Russian Orthodox Church Abroad: www.rocor.org

Diocese of Chicago & Detroit: www.chicagodiocese.org

Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral, 1800 Lee St., Des Plaines (Chicago), IL.

St. Nicholas Church, 3617 Abrams Rd., Dallas, TX: www.orthodox.net

St. Jonah Church, 2530 Old Louetta Loop, suite 113, Spring, TX (north Houston): www.saintjonah.org

St. Vladimir Church, 24 Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX: pictures are on St. Jonah's website. (There are 30 parishes in the diocese)

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