



Journey to the Cross

Home Discussion

1st Sunday – Sunday of Orthodoxy – We remember the 7th Ecumenical Council of 787 AD and the restoration of icons to the Church in 843 AD. Icons are visual images of Jesus Christ or the saints that help us “see” life-saving miracles. We do not worship icons, but we venerate them and show respect and love to the people they represent.

2nd Sunday – St. Gregory Palamas – two examples help us focus on getting closer to Christ. The paralyzed man’s friends helped lower him through the roof of a house to see Christ, and Jesus forgave the sins of this faithful man. St. Gregory helps us learn how to draw near to God through spending alone time with God in silence which helps reveal God’s mysteries to us.

3rd Sunday – Sunday of the Holy Cross – at the midpoint of our Lenten journey, we focus on the Cross. Christian life is not easy, but we can embrace challenges without fear if we rely on Christ. To follow Him a person “must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me (Christ)”.

4th Sunday – St. John Climacus – The Ladder of Divine Ascent is a book by St. John that lays out the path of self-discipline in 30 steps that can be taken to approach God. They focus on living simply and treating others with love. IN the Gospel lesson, Jesus casts out a spirit in a young boy that his disciples have been unable to cast out. Jesus recommends that this type of spirit “can only be cast out by prayer and fasting”.

5th Sunday – St. Mary of Egypt – The church remembers St. Mary as a woman who ran away from home when she was 12 years old and lived a life of sin and indulgence. A visit to a Church convinced her to move to the desert and live a simple life of prayer and fasting.

Feast Days and Saints

March 25 – Annunciation of the Theotokos
March 26 – Archangel Gabriel

Phillip invited Nathaneal to meet Jesus with the words “Come and see.” In the same way, our Church invites us to meet and understand Jesus by following his journey to the cross during Great Lent.

Kontakion of the Annunciation

To the O Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that has that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free, from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: “Hail O Bride without Bridegroom.”

Activities at Home

- Plan a time to meet with Father Timothy to learn about the Sacrament of Confession (8 years and above)
- Review the first half of “Journey Through Great Lent” zine in your family binder.
- Plan a time to help someone or participate in a group by doing a charitable job during the month.
- Use the Food for the Hungry People Calendar (handed out on February 15) to learn about making sacrifices
- Create a Lenten Chart to track fasting & behavior during the month.

Special Events

Wednesday Evenings – Presanctified Liturgy
Friday Evenings - Akathist Service
Sunday, March 8th, 15th and 22nd from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the Church School Classrooms
Creative Arts Festival Workshops