

A VERY DIFFERENT "CROWN"

Many people seem to have a fascination with Royal Families. They represent the wealth of their individual nations. They wear lavish clothes and have beautiful jewelry passed down from generation to generation. The Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom are a perfect example. Stored within the Tower of London, they are protected 24 hours a day. The Crown Jewels symbolize the prestige and power of the kingdom. The icon on today's bulletin depicts a very different kind of "crown."

Jesus is worthy of the greatest crown and the highest honor. But our Lord suffered many hours of humiliation before He was crucified. The Gospel reads: *"the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head . . ."* (John 19:2). That day, the crown was not a symbol of royalty and honor, but instead was a tool of mockery and hate. Yet Jesus wore it willingly. He wore it for us, bearing our sin and our shame. The One who deserved the best of all crowns took the worst for us.

In His death, Jesus may have seemed powerless. But when we read the whole story, we see that He gave His life willingly and proved Himself to be the Son of God thru his glorious Resurrection. We should "crown" Him the Lord of life.



WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

April 10, 2016.

SAINT PROPHET ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2200 Irwin St, Aliquippa, PA 15001

724.375.4074



V. Rev. Stavrophor Fr. Milan Krstic

cell: 724.302.9236

protamilan@yahoo.com; protamilan@gmail.com

stelijahaliquippa.com



A CROWN OF THORNS

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Luke 23:34

4th SUNDAY OF LENT



TODAY'S READINGS

GOSPEL: Mark 8, 34-9-1;

EPISTLE: Hebrew 4, 14-5,6;

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE:

VENERABLE HILARION, THE NEW CONFESSOR

Hilarion was the abbot of a monastery of Pelekit, near Hellespont. He glowed as the sun with the spirit of God, healed people and expelled evil spirits. This man of God suffered at the time when Leo the Armenian began the Iconoclastic persecution. With forty of his monks, Hilarion was sent into exile near Ephesus and died there in prison and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Christ in 754 A.D.

HOMILY

About the horror of nature at the death of Christ

"The earth quaked, rocks weresplit" (St. Matthew 27:51).

O, what a terrible reproach against mankind! Even dead nature recognized Him Whom men were unable to recognize. All mute things trembled and began to protest, each in its own way and in its own language. The mute earth quakes--that is its language. The stones split apart--that is their language. The sun withholds its light--that is its language. All of creation in its own way protested. For all of creation is submissive to Him, as it was to Adam at one time in Paradise, because all of creation recognizes Him as it did Adam in Paradise. How is it that irrational creation knew Him and was obedient to Him, we do not know. It is some kind of inner instinct of irrational creation, which came to them from the word of God, by which they were created. That instinct of irrational creation is more valuable than the mind of man when darkened by sin. Of all the things which are in existence, nothing is more blind than the mind of man when darkened by sin. Not only does he not see what was created to be seen, rather, he sees that which is contrary to being, contrary to God, and contrary to the truth. These are the degrees of the blindness; beneath blindness; these are numbers below zero. This is man of lower creation. For when the priests of God in Jerusalem did not recognize their God, the storms and winds recognized Him; vegetation and animals recognized Him; the seas, the rivers, the earth, the stones, the stars, the sun and even the demons recognized Him. O what kind of shame it is for mankind!

The earth quaked, the rocks split, the sun darkened, as much in anger as in sorrow. All creation grieved over the pain of the Son of God, in Whose pain the priests in Jerusalem rejoiced. Protests and sorrow and fear! The whole of creation was frightened at the death of Him Who cried to them arise from nothing and rejoice in your being. As though it wanted to say: with whom do we remain and who will now uphold us when the Almighty gives up the Spirit?

IT IS WHEN WE FORGET OURSELVES THAT WE DO THINGS THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED.

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH WE WILL HAVE "AKATHIST TO MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS", AT 7:00PM.

Today, after Divine Liturgy, we will have PARASTOS for the souls of YANTOVICH, CROXTON & KRNETA FAMILIES

Every Saturday during the Lent we will have Vesper Service in our Church at 6:00PM.
+++++
Mother's Club will have posno soup available for sale today following Divine Liturgy

Thank you to those who attended the Lenten Lunch last week prepared by Protinica Sava and also donated by her and Prota Milan.

KCC NEWS

The Sveta Petka Kolo is busy once again we are back to making noodles x-fine, fine and wide and nut rolls, poppy seed rolls, and apricot rolls. To place a noodle order, please call Carson Robbins at 724-947-4130. To place orders for the various rolls please call Juliann Taylor 724-375-2784.

ⓔ Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Vespers are at 5 PMⓔ
TODAY - STEUBENVILLE - Holy Resurrection - Fr. Milan Krstic
April 17 - CARMICHAELS - St. George - Fr. Rade Merick
April 24 - PITTSBURGH - Holy Trinity Cathedral - Fr. Dragan Zaric



SAVE THE DATES:
CHURCH SCHOOL- The last day of Church School will be on Sunday, May 1st
ANNUAL DAN RALICH GOLF TOURNAMENT- Saturday, May 7th
SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL- May 14th and 15th
TEA and TREASURE BASKETS fundraiser Sunday, June 26th from 1pm-3:30 pm

On Friday, April 15th, we will have:
SERVICE OF HOURS9:00AM; CONFESSION9:30AM;
PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY9:45AM.

VISITS:

April 4th - Home - LouAnn Vula
April 5th - Beaver medical Center - Esther Milich (Confes. & Comm.)
April 6th - Home - Dayna Milich (Confes. & Comm.)
April 6th - West Hills - Joseph Mrkonja
April 7th - Villa St. Joseph - Slavka Nikolic (Confes. & Comm.)

