

† VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS †

**O**n this Third Sunday of the Great Fast, we focus on a symbol that has made such a transformation in meaning and significance. Let the Holy Cross spur us on and inspire us to even a greater dedication to Jesus Christ!

**THE CROSS!** The very word cuts deeply into our minds and sets our thoughts on Mt. Golgotha where Jesus was crucified. It brings to mind our own trials and difficulties, for we, too, are cross-bearers in imitation of our Lord.

**THE CROSS!** Once the symbol of shame, but now the sign of glory. Men once shuddered at the very mention of the word, for it was the most disgraceful and painful of deaths. But now it is the emblem of dedication, love and sacrifice.

**THE CROSS!** Once the instrument of punishment and death, now the mark of mercy and life. It is no accident that one of the international organizations of help in times of disasters bears this title.

**THE CROSS!** Once the curse of mankind, but now the form of blessing. When it comes time to pronounce the blessing of God upon His people, the priest traces the form of this sacred sign. And the faithful, too, day in and day out, make the sign of the Cross on their bodies in all that they do.

**THE CROSS!** Once the cry of despair, but now the light of our hope. No wonder the Church calls it the “hope of sinners” and the “secure help” of the believer. Where better can we place our hope in this life and in the one to come? Any Christian cemetery will testify to the trust we place in this symbol of Christ’s death and His victory over death.

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

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Let us come, on this day,  
and bow down and reverence

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



**TODAY'S READINGS**

GOSPEL: Mark 8, 34-9-1;

EPISTLE: Hebrew 4, 14-5,6;

TODAY WE CELEBRATE:

**SAINT JAMES, BISHOP AND CONFESSOR**

Neither the place of his birth nor the place where James served as bishop are known. Only this is known: he fulfilled the law of Christ and spent much time in mortifying himself through strict fasting and prayer. During the time of Copronymos, James endured great hardships and suffering at the hands of the Iconoclasts, such as hunger, imprisonment and ridicule of all sorts. Finally, he gave up his soul to God, Whom he had faithfully served in this life. He lived and suffered in the eighth century.

**On Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, We will celebrate the Feast of The Annunciation and we will have Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM.**

**HOMILY**

**About the First and Last who lives**

*"Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever" (Revelation 1:17-18).*

Thus says the Lord Jesus to His beloved disciple John in a vision on the island of Patmos. Do not be afraid of what! Do not be afraid of the persecution of the Church by the pagans. Do not be afraid of the tormentors who persecute my faithful on all sides. Do not be afraid of emperors who raise up persecutions against the Christians. Do not be afraid of powerful tyrants of this world who mock and ridicule My humility in My death. Do not be afraid of demons who blind men with passions so that they can't see the truth which I brought to the world. Do not be afraid of anything!

How could I not be afraid, O Lord!, Why then should we not be afraid when the entire world is armed to the tooth and assembled against us who are small in number and unarmed?

Do not be afraid for I am the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega. All of those forces armed against you are nothing but a whirlwind of the dead. I am before time and I am after time; before the beginning of all and after the end of all things that were created, I Am! They are all locked in one span of time that I measured out to every created thing and outside of this span of time, they cannot extend. "Do not be afraid, once I was dead but now, I am alive." Do not be afraid, not even of death. I am before death and after death. Death is my servant and I permit my servant to serve me in the world. I gave myself up to my servant for three days and ordered him to release me and "now, I am alive." I am the Master of death as well as of life. I am the Master of time as well as of eternity. Do not be afraid! "I am alive forever and ever." And you will be alive with Me. All they who remain faithful to Me and are not afraid will live with Me. "Do not be afraid, I am the Alpha and the Omega" (Revelation 1:11).

O Lord, Eternal and Immortal, allow these holy words of Yours to ring in the souls of Your faithful always whenever a persecution is raised up against Your Holy Church that, holding on to Your right hand, we may not be afraid.

**HE WHO IS GOOD AT MAKING EXCUSES IS SELDOM GOOD FOR ANYTHING ELSE.**

Every Saturday during the Lent we will have Vesper Service in our Church at 6:00PM.

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Mother's Club will have posno soup available for sale today following Divine Liturgy

**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.

KCC is sponsoring a Lenten Lunch today following Divine Liturgy. Protinica Sava prepared all the food and she and Prota Milan donated all of the food as well. Please join us in an afternoon of fellowship.

**Menu:** Smoked salmon chowder, oven baked breaded fish, Serbian potato salad, vegetables medley and homemade bread. Remember, everything is from scratch. We promise to have enough for everyone (at least for 100 people). Price: \$12.00

**ⓔ Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Vespers are at 5 PM ⓔ**

**TODAY - MIDLAND - St. George - Fr. Rajko Kosic**

April 10 - 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 1<sup>st</sup>

ANNUAL DAN RALICH GOLF TOURNAMENT- Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL- May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

TEA and TREASURE BASKETS fundraiser Sunday, June 26th from 1pm-3:30 pm

On Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have:

SERVICE OF HOURS .....9:00AM; CONFESSION .....9:30AM;

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY .....9:45AM.

**VISITS:**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> - Crannbery Place - Milica Kovacevic**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Ridge - Sarah Jerich, Helen Belich, Cynthia Bratich, Ann Belich, Robin Lapcevic, Joe and Carol Kascur**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> - Beaver Medows - Mike Kozlina, Jennie Zakovich, Bob Sparcie, Mary "Cookie" Loverich, Sara Pesich, Smilja Milosh**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> - Trinity Oaks - Martha Jackson**

