

MARCH 8, 2020

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Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great- During the five Sundays of Great Lent we celebrate the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. This Liturgy is known for its long prayers, some of which may challenge our capacity to stand still in concentration and prayerful attention. Other than these lengthy prayers that are recited by the officiating clergy – this liturgy is very similar to the liturgy of St John Chrysostom that is found in our blue books.

The **anaphora (offering)** is the central prayer of the Divine Liturgy or Eucharist, a thanksgiving sacrifice in which bread and wine are offered to God, and these gifts are transformed into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be shared in Holy Communion.

The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, of which this Anaphora is the heart, was at one time the ordinary Sunday Divine Liturgy in Constantinople. Eventually, it was replaced by the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom but continued to be used on the Sundays of the Great Fast, on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday, and at the feasts of Christmas and Theophany. On these feasts, its rich theology of the history of salvation is presented to remind us of the wonder of God's works.

Today, the Orthodox faithful are blessed in that the prayers of Saint Basil's Liturgy generally are read aloud so that the entire gathered assembly of believers may actually "hear" the prayers that reveal the Lord's nature and His plan for the salvation of humankind, together with the consecration of the Holy Gifts. In the past, that may have not been so, and even today it is not so in all Orthodox churches. So we thank God for our own liturgical revival which has so enlivened our worship experience with full parish participation in the Church at prayer and praise.

When we begin the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great we know that we have a long road ahead of us. That will require some patience, concentration, and a willingness to "stay with it" through to its dismissal. If we are able to do that, then the "rewards" are inestimable. It will also test our deepest desires about what is "the one thing needed" in our lives and what is the treasure of our hearts. The Sundays of Great Lent are a unique opportunity to further our movement towards the Lord as we move through Great Lent and our lives toward the gladsome light of the Kingdom of God.

Today we celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy

Following the Prayer before the Ambon and before the singing of "Blessed be the Name of the Lord" (Budi imja..) we will begin a procession by chanting the Troparion to the Icon of Christ. The clergy are preceded by the cross, fans, banners and followed by the choir, all children carrying icons and then the faithful people of God; Following the single procession around the church, we will stop in front of the church, and all together read aloud the Synodicon of Orthodoxy and the Creed. Copies of the text are available in the vestibule – please take one so that everyone can read it together. Following the reading of the Synodicon and Creed, "Blessed be the Name of the Lord" is sung as we re-enter the church where the Divine Liturgy is concluded.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26 32-12:2 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (St. John) Gospel John 1:43-51 Matthew 11:2-15 (St. John)

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VISITS: Mary Ann Dragoslovich-Heritage Valley Beaver/Baby Boy Connor Jon Iorio-Sewickley/Dan Radakovich-'Tapestry Living' Moon Twp./Bessie Roknick-Concordia of Wexford

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SSF FESTIVAL IN MONROEVILLE: Parents if you would like your child to participate in the JR CHOIR the weekend of May 23rd and 24th at the 79th Annual Serbian Singing Federation Festival in Monroeville please call Snezana Lazich at 724-874-7514. This is an opportunity for our children of the St. Elijah Parish to join in and sing with children from all over the United States and Canada. It is our hope to have representation from our parish on stage of the festival.

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Every Wednesday during Great Lent PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES will be served every **WEDNESDAY at 6 pm** Abstinence for Holy Communion at Presanctified Liturgies begins at 12 noon **Saturday Vespers Services** will be held through Great Lent, beginning at **5:30 p.m.** followed by Bible Study Class. For confessions for Great Lent please contact Fr. Branislav.

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Tonight the Pan- Orthodox Vesper Service at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in the North Hills-4:30 pm 985 Providence Blvd. Pittsburgh Pa 15237 His Grace John (Abdalah) of Rochester and New England is the guest Speaker. The Fellowship Committee will be arranging transportation for those who would need it so you may attend the Lenten Vespers. Please see Marija Yaramus or Diane Knapp following Liturgy today.

Fellowship and Ministry Committee- Fellowship Trip: We are planning a coordinated visit to the **Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration** in Ellwood City on **Saturday, March 28, 2020**. We will leave from our church promptly at 7:45am. Divine Liturgy starts at 9am followed by a Memorial Service for the departed. After, there will be a meal, a tour and a short presentation about the monastery. The Fellowship Committee will arrange transportation. Therefore, we need to know no later than **March 8th** if you plan on attending and if you need transportation or not so that they are prepared. There is a sign-up sheet in vestibule on the podium if you wish to attend.

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he Choir is taking orders for SARRIS EASTER CANDY ONCE AGAIN. Please see Donna August following Divine Liturgy this week and next week to place your order.

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COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE- The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit our church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>

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The St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church By-Law Addendum is available upon request we will gladly supply a copy to you. We can arrange for it to be electronically emailed, mailed or you may pick up a copy in the Tutor's Room.

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KCC NEWS- The KCC is currently taking orders for Easter for tortes/cookies/nut rolls/noodles etc. please pick up a flyer by the bulletin for further information.

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