

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Ven. Aleksy (Alexius) the Man of God (411). Ven. Macarius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Kalyázinsk (Tver'—1483). Martyr Marinus. St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland (ca. 461).

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 **John 1:43-51**

We offer to God in sacrifice a tenth part of the year, and with this tithe we offer ourselves, our whole life, all our days and hours. This offering of self and time, if it is to be meaningful, needs to be costly: "I will not offer to the Lord my God that which has cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24). Any true observance of Lent commits us to an effort that is at times painful, involving as it does a degree of self-denial that goes far beyond our normal inclinations. Yet this does not mean that Lent is predominantly a period of gloom and self-mortification. Our Christian feast of tithes, like the Jewish harvest-offering of the first fruits, is a time of rejoicing.

Sacrifice, that is to say, is not primarily a matter of giving up but of giving. The main emphasis falls not on what we deny ourselves, but upon what we offer to God and to our neighbors. And the effect of making our gift to God - a gift which God then accepts - is to reestablish the personal relationship between ourselves and Him. Such exactly is the aim of all sacrificial giving: to restore communion. This notion of Lent as a time to restore relationships needs to be kept constantly in view...

How shall we apply to ourselves individually this understanding of Lent as an offering of tithes? We can apply it first of all to money... That, however, is no more than a beginning; for God invites us to offer not merely what we have but what we are. We are to give our time as well as our money.

More intensively than at other periods of the year, we are to set apart time for God through prayer, and time for our neighbor through acts of service - visiting the sick, the housebound and the lonely, inviting the stranger to our home, catching up on our backlog of letters and writing to all those whom we have been too long neglecting. Could we not offer to God in this way at least a tithe of our waking hours; say, twelve hours each week of Lent?

-- By Bishop Kallistos (Ware), from Lent and the Consumer Society

SCHEDULE

Sunday, Mar. 17	9:00am Choir Rehearsal
<i>Sunday of Orthodoxy</i>	9:30am Third & Sixth Hour
	10:00am Divine Liturgy
	Noon Parish Council Meeting
Monday, Mar. 18	7:00pm Adult Study
Wednesday, Mar. 20	6:30pm Private Confession
	7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
	Choir Rehearsal & Repast follow
Saturday, Mar.23	5:30pm Memorial Prayers
<i>Memorial Saturday</i>	6:00pm Great Vespers
	7:00pm Private Confession
Sunday, March 24	9:00am Choir Rehearsal
<i>Eve of Annunciation</i>	9:30am Third and Sixth Hours
	10:00am Divine Liturgy
	Litiya Prayers for Annunciation follow

*Welcome to all our visitors.
Please join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy.*

COFFEE HOUR- Thank you to the Dardaganis Family for hosting coffee hour today.
No one has signed up to host for the upcoming weeks.

Adult Classes- Start this Monday, Mar.18 at 7pm. Fr. David will be discussing The Way of the Ascetics by Tito Coliander. Books will be available for purchase in the Book Store. Contact Eileen Soliman for more assistance. The next classes are scheduled on April 1 & 8, and Thurs. April 11.

Photo Directory- Victor O'Malley will be taking pictures for the new photo directory on March 24, 31 and April 1 after Divine Liturgy. It would be great to have everyone's picture included in the Directory.

Private Confessions- please use the sign-up sheet located in the narthex to schedule confessions. If other times are needed please contact Fr. David directly.

College Students- A coordinator is *still* needed for this ministry. Please contact Matushka Kerri if you are willing to help.

Please don't forget! donations for Interfaith Food Pantry and to purchase piroghies which supports the Care Committee.

Diocesan Lenten and Bright Week Vesper Schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

Today-Saints Peter and Paul, 100 Grand St., Jersey City will be hosting at 4pm. Celebrant and Homilist, Archbishop Michael.

March 24-Annunciation Church in Brick at 5pm with ABp Michael.

March 31- Holy Virgin in Clifton at 4pm.

The sky is more beautiful than the earth, and fire than water, and the stars than precious stones, and we admire the rainbow far more than the violets and roses, and all other flowers, which are upon the earth. And in short, if it were possible with the bodily eyes to behold the beauty of the soul you would laugh to scorn these corporeal illustrations, so feebly have they presented to us the gracefulness of the soul. Let us not then neglect such a possession, nor such great happiness, and especially when the approach to that kind of beauty becomes easy to us by our hopes of the things to come.

+ St. John Chrysostom

"The soul that loves God has its rest in God and in God alone. In all the paths that men walk in the world, they do not attain peace until they draw nigh to hope in God."

+ St. Isaac the Syrian

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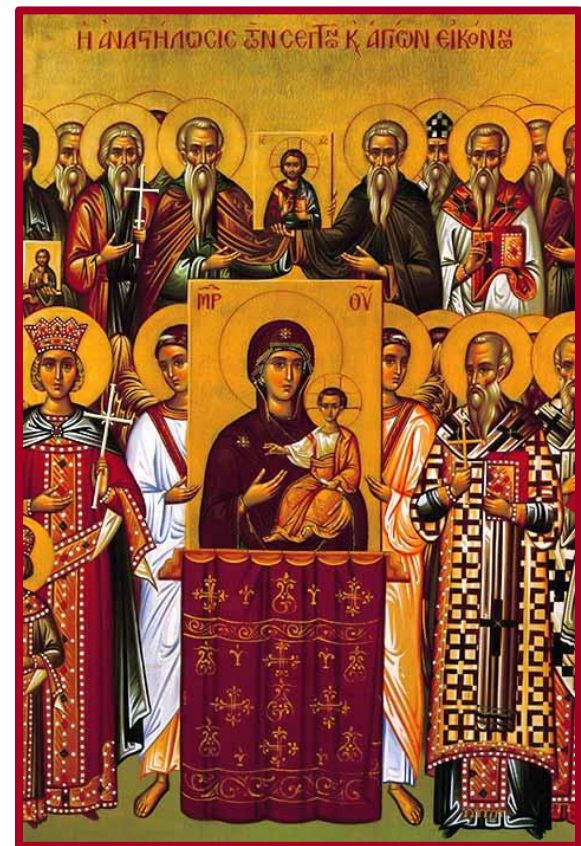
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

PO Box 630, Ironia, NJ 07845: 120 Dover-Chester Road, Randolph, NJ 07869

973-366-8360 / www.holytrinityrandolph.com

Very Rev. David R. Fox, Rector

(c) 201-841-7590 – fatherdavid@holytrinityrandolph.com



Sunday of Orthodoxy

Icon of the Triumph of Orthodoxy

March 17, 2019