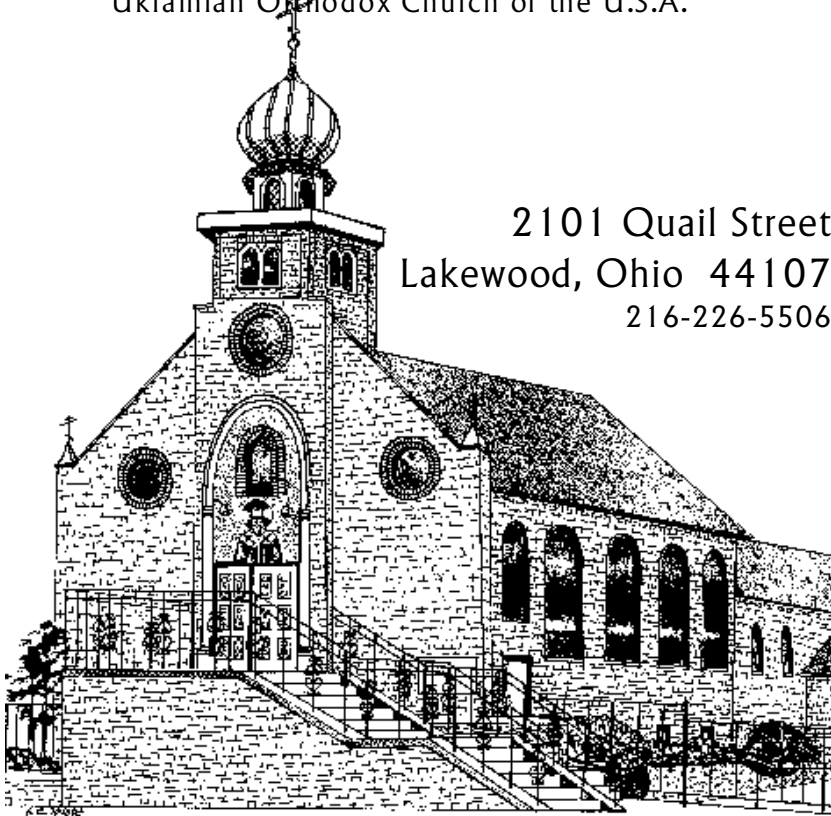


# The Wonderworker

The Weekly Bulletin for  
St. Nicholas Pro-Cathedral  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.



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Dean: V. Rev. Father Dennis Kristof  
Council President: Mr. Joseph Stolitza

Welcome to our parish. We invite you to worship with us again.

Sunday, March 7, 2010

*Glory to Jesus Christ!*  
*Slava Isusu Khristu!*  
*Слава Ісусу Христу!*

*Glory forever!*  
*Slava na Viki!*  
*Слава на вікі*

## Schedule of Services for March 7 - 14, 2010

### Sunday, March 7

**The Third Sunday of the Great Fast in Which the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross is Venerated, Resurrectional Tone 6; The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus (4<sup>th</sup> c.)**

9:45 a.m. - The Public Chanting of the Prayers of Preparation for the Holy Mystery of Repentance Followed by an Examination of Conscience and Concluded by Individual Absolutions

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for Anne Kopinsky offered by Helen Kopinsky

### Friday, March 12

**The Fourth Friday of the Great Fast, Our Holy Father-Among-the-Saints, Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome (604)**

5:30 p.m. - The Presanctified Liturgy

Panakhida with the Reading of the Lists Грамоти

### Sunday, March 14

**The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast in Which Our Venerable Father John, Author of "The Ladder" Is Commemorated, Resurrectional Tone 7; Our Venerable Father Benedict of Nursia (543)**

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for Anne Kopinsky offered by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kopinsky

### Upcoming Events

**March 27** - Lazarus Saturday

**March 28** - Willow (Palm) Sunday

**April 1** - Great Thursday

**April 2** - Great Friday

**April 3** - Great Saturday

**April 4** - Holy Pascha

John Babiak has been discharged from Lakewood Hospital and has now joined his wife Mary Ann at the Crestmont North Nursing Home, 13330 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. May God continue to grant them His healing grace and presence

### Holy Week/Pascha Concert

On **Saturday, March 20**, beginning at **6:45 p.m.** at St. Matthew the Evangelist Orthodox Church, 10383 Albion Road in North Royalton, there will be a concert featuring liturgical selections from Holy Week and Pascha sung by the youth of St. Matthew's and will continue with the Pan-Orthodox

Young Adult Fellowship (POYAF) Choir, under the direction of Reader Gerald Largent. Join them for a spiritually edifying evening, as we prepare for our Savior's Resurrection. Light refreshments to follow. For more information, contact St. Matthew's at 440-582-5673, or Gerald Largent at 440-376-7799.

*A federal judge has upheld a South Dakota law requiring doctors to inform patients that abortion kills a human being. The law mandates that a woman be told that abortion "will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being. Planned Parenthood had sought to overturn the law.*

### **HEAP Applications**

Applications for assistance from the Home Energy Assistance Program offered by the State of Ohio are available from Fr. Dennis.

### **TODAY'S FEAST: The Sunday of the Cross**

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? Shall I tell you something still more marvelous? Learn in what way the victory was gained, and you will be even more astonished. For by the very means by which the devil had conquered, by these Christ conquered him; and taking up the weapons with which he had fought, He defeated him. Listen to how it was done.

A virgin, a tree and a death were the symbols of our defeat. The virgin was Eve: she had not yet known man; the tree was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; the death was Adam's penalty. But behold again a Virgin and a tree and a death, those symbols of defeat, become the symbols of his victory. For in place of Eve there is Mary; in place of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Tree of the Cross; in place of the death of Adam, the death of Christ!

Do you see him defeated by the very things through which he had conquered? At the foot of the tree the devil overcame Adam; at the foot of the Tree Christ vanquished the devil. And that first tree sent men to the abyss; this second one calls back even those who had already gone down there. Again, the former tree concealed man already despoiled and stripped; the second tree shows a naked victor on high for all to see. And that earlier death condemned those who were born after it; this second death gives life again to those who were born before it. Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory. The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory. Let us praise the Lord and say, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? (1 Corinthian 15)

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war

memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the Serpent. The Cross is the Father's Will, the Glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's Exultation, the Beauty of the Angels, the Guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the Rampart of the Saints, it is the Light of the Whole World.

As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: The heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the Wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

***From the Synaxarion***