



For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

TODAY'S READER: ROBYN ANDRIS

EPISTLE Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL John 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

MEMORIALS

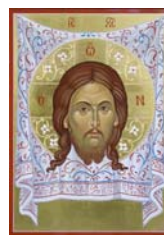
A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Marianthe Hadgis (23 Years)**, mother of Helen (Dino) Pappas; and for **John Fthenakis (15 Years)**, **Evanthia Fthenakis (10 Years)**, **Mary Fthenakis (5 Years)**, and **Herbert Coates (8 Years)**, requested by Emanuel and Hermione Fthenakis. May their memories be eternal!

DIVINE SERVICES THIS WEEK

TODAY: Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Sophia's in Washington, DC 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 p.m., followed by Lenten Supper and Book Discussion .

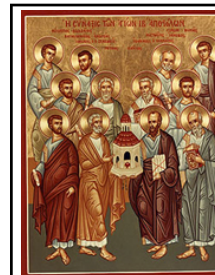
Friday: Salutations to the Most Holy Theotokos, 7:00 p.m.



**THE HOLY ICONS:
WINDOWS ON ETERNITY**

Icons have been used for prayer from the first centuries of Christianity. Sacred Tradition tells us, for example, of the existence of an Icon of the Savior during His lifetime (the "Icon-Made-Without-Hands") and of Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos immediately after Him. Sacred Tradition witnesses that the Orthodox Church had a clear understanding of the importance of Icons right from the beginning; and this understanding never changed, for it is derived from the teachings concerning the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity -- Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The use of Icons is grounded in the very essence of Christianity, since Christianity is the revelation by God-Man not only of the Word of God, but also of the Image of God; for, as St. John the Evangelist tells us, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (*John 1:14*). No one has ever seen God; only the Son, Who is in the bosom of the Father, He has made Him known" (*John 1:18*), the Evangelist proclaims. That is, He has revealed the Image or Icon of God. The truth expressed above, which is revealed in Christianity, thus forms the foundations of Christian pictorial art. The Image (or Icon) not only does not contradict the essence of Christianity, but is unfaithfully connected with it; and this is the foundation of the tradition that from the very beginning the Good News was brought to the world by the Church both in word and image. St. John of Damascus, an eighth century Father of the Church, who wrote at the height of the iconoclastic (anti-icon) controversies in the Church, explains, that because the Word of God became flesh (*John 1:14*), we are no longer in our infancy; we have grown up, we have been given by God the power of discrimination and we know what can be depicted and what is indescribable. Since the Second Person of the Holy Trinity appeared to us in the flesh, we can portray Him and reproduce for contemplation Him Who has condescended to be seen. We can confidently represent God the Invisible -- not as an invisible being, but as one Who has made Himself visible for our sake by sharing in our flesh and blood. This is why we reverence the icons. They are windows on eternity!

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Saxton, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Thomas Jenkins, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Artie Constantinides, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, Georgia Haldas, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios



**GREAT LENTEN BOOK
DISCUSSION**

The Great Lenten Book Discussion began last Wednesday with his Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos presentation. The book is *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology* by Protopresbyter Michael Pomazansky and is available for sale after Divine Liturgy today. The sessions of the discussion are:

February 17: "The Trinity: Heart of Our life" (Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia)

February 24: "God and the Creation" (Archpriest Denis Bradley, Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University)

March 3: "God and the Salvation of Mankind" (Rev. Fr. Kostas Pavlakos, Proistamenos at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church)

March 10: "The Church of Christ" (Rev. Fr. George Khitiri, (Associate Priest, St. George Greek Orthodox Church)

March 17: "Christian Eschatology" (Chrysostomos Gunning, Ecclesiastical Coordinator, St. George Greek Orthodox Church)

Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Supper followed by the presentation 7:30 p.m.



The faithful Orthodox venerated the Honorable Head of Our Holy Father St. John Chrysostom during its recent visit to New York from Moscow, where it is kept in Christ the Savior Cathedral. Thousands came from across the country to venerate the precious relic and to participate in the Divine Services pertaining to it. The venerable head was brought to Russia from Mt. Athos. *O Holy Father John Chrysostom pray for us!*

ORTHODOX INQUIRY

If you or anyone you may know are interested in embracing Holy Orthodoxy and being baptized or chrismated, please contact Fr. Dimitrios at 301-469-7990 or by email at FrAntokas@stgeorge.org



CONFESSION: THE FORGOTTEN MEDICINE

On Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Fridays at 6:00 p.m. during the Great Fast, the Priests will be available in the Church for Holy Confession. Make a decision to “come right” with God.

Holy Confession has been called “the forgotten medicine.” When Confession is sincere, deep and involves an honest look at oneself and a desire to start a new life, the room of the heart is thoroughly cleansed from all the impurities of sin. As St. Seraphim of Sarov writes: ‘He who would be saved should ever have his heart disposed to repentance and broken, according to the Psalmist: *Sacrifice to God is a broken spirit: a broken and humbled heart God will not despise*’ (Ps. 50:17). In such brokenness of spirit a man can easily pass securely through the artful snares of the proud devil, whose whole care consists in agitating the human spirit. Confession is medicine. It is healing. It is an opportunity to make things right with God and with those whom we have offended. Take the opportunity during the Great Fast — and throughout the year — to take the medicine that the Church provides. *Find peace for your troubled heart!*

PARISH ACTIVITIES

SECOND TRAY TODAY A second tray will be passed **TODAY** to benefit the Bediani Orphanage in the country of Georgia. This annual parish outreach was scheduled for February 7, but was cancelled as there was no Divine Liturgy that day. We ask that you be as generous as possible and support the work of the orphanage in taking care of the children

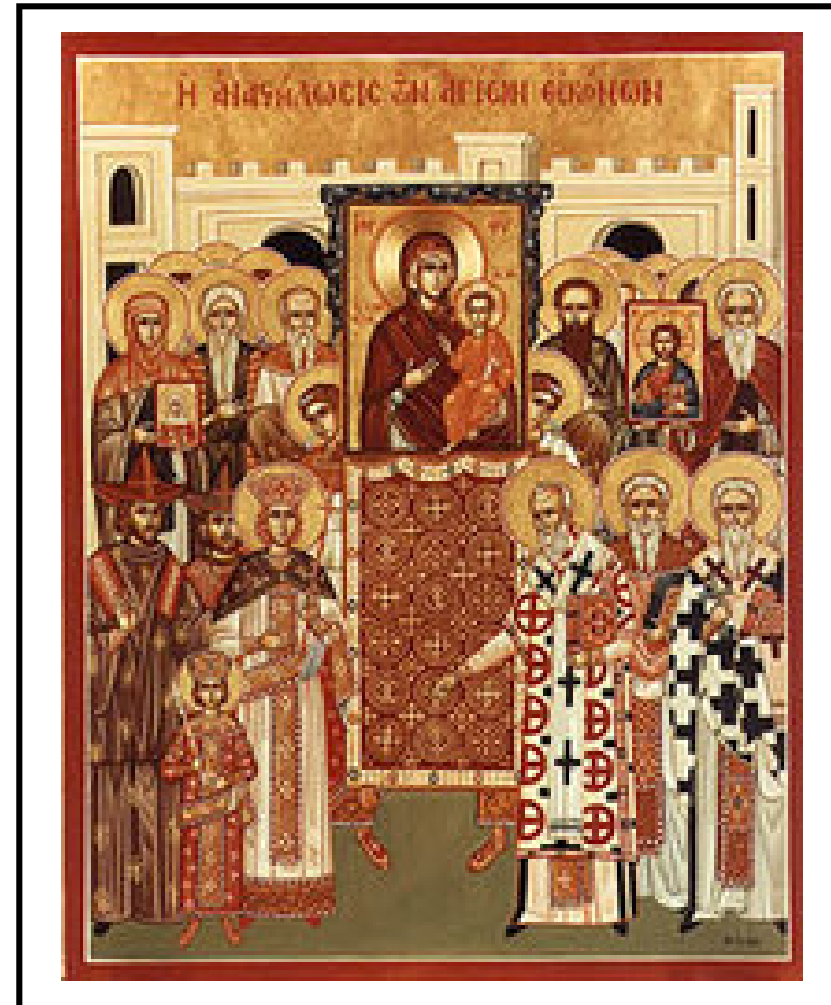
SALT TALKS Beginning **TODAY**, the SALT Talks (Sunday Afternoon Lenten Talks) will be held each Sunday during Great Lent from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. These Lenten talks are for students from 12 to 18 years of age and will deal with spiritual messages in the context of their lives and experience.

FIFTY PLUS The Valentine’s lunch scheduled for Feb. 10th was cancelled due to the storm. It has been rescheduled for **February 24th** at 11:30 am at Normandy Farms. Any one who did not sign on before, and wish to come, please contact Maria Kopsidas(301-493-5789) by Feb 20th. Keep in mind as you do your spring cleaning to save any unwanted items for Yiayia’s Attic . No clothing or cook books, please.

QUILT-A-THON On **Saturday, February 27**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. George will have a Quilt-A-Thon—a Lenten project that creates quilts for at-risk babies and small children in Washington, DC metropolitan area hospitals. You don’t need to know how to sew!! Fabric and supplies will be provided by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. For more information contact Adrienne Barris at 703-827-5757 or Stephanie Wilde at 301-983-0879. **JOIN US, PLEASE!.**

THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

FEBRUARY 21, 2010



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