



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 8	<i>Our holy father Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia</i> 9:00 A.M. First and Third Lenten Hours
Tuesday, March 9	<i>The holy forty martyrs of Sebaste</i>
Wednesday, March 10	<i>Mid-Lent/The holy martyr Quadratus</i> 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Thursday, March 11	<i>Our holy father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem</i> 6:30 P.M. Chant Rehearsal
Friday, March 12	<i>Our venerable father Theophanes the Confessor</i> 7:00 P.M. Moleben to the Holy Cross
Saturday, March 13	<i>Fourth All Souls Saturday</i> 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Sorokousty-Hramoty 5:00 P.M. Great Vespers
Sunday, March 14	Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast/St. John Climacus *Daylight Saving* 9:40 A.M. Third Hour 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

The Epistle Reading will be Heb 6:13-20 and the Gospel will be Mk 9:17-31. Supplications will be offered for the souls of +Olech Baran and +Peter Baran, given by Anna Baran and Family. Supplications will be offered for the soul of +Michael Senko, given by son Michael and Victoria Senko.

**3:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers at St. John's in the Southside
Beginning of the Pittsburgh Lenten Mission 2010**



Which disciple had a hard time understanding what Jesus was trying to tell him?

Follow the instructions to find out.

1. Write the first 10 letters of the alphabet in order.

2. Cross out the 4th letter and the 8th letter.

3. Switch the B and the E.

4. Change the 5th letter to the same as the 2nd letter.
Cross out the last letter.

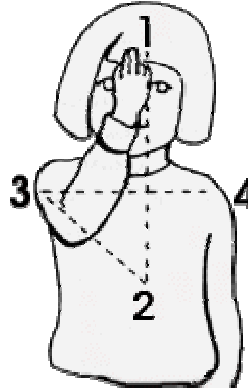
5. Change the 3rd letter to a T and cross out the last letter.

6. Change the 1st letter to a P and cross out the B.

7. Change the last letter to an R.



How often are we to cross ourselves?



The answer is very simple: Frequently. Why according to our Holy Tradition are we to cross ourselves so frequently? We are well aware of the tremendous power of our great enemy, the devil, who attacks unceasingly. Our Lord left us an invincible weapon against him: the Cross. So the sign of the Cross is made against danger, against fear of some kind of trouble, as a protection against the devil's wiles, and when begging God for His help, His mercy, His forgiveness, His granting of a petition. God is ever present, ready to assist in our daily struggle whenever we ask.

As Eastern Christians we are to make the sign of the Cross as we begin and end our private devotions-prayers, when we enter the Church, when we venerate the icons, the Holy Gospel, or the Holy Cross. We make the sign of the Cross when the name of the Holy



Trinity is pronounced during the Divine Liturgy or any Divine Service. Finally, we make the sign of the Cross at prayers before and after meals, and at any appropriate times as an act of piety.



St. Kosmas Aitolos, concerning the sign of the Cross, writes the following: Listen, my brethren, how the sign of the Cross is made and what it means. First, just as the Holy Trinity is glorified in heaven by the angels, so should you join your three fingers of your right hand. And being unable to ascend into heaven to worship,

raise your hand to your head (because the head means heaven) and say "Just as the angels glorify the Holy Trinity in heaven, so do I, as a servant glorify and worship the Holy Trinity. And as the fingers are three separate, and are together, so is the Holy Trinity three persons but one God." Lowering your hand to your stomach, say: "I worship You and adore You my Lord, because you condescended and took on flesh in the womb of the Theotokos for my sins." Place your hand on your right shoulder and say: "I beg You, my God, to forgive me and to put me on Your right with the just." Placing your hand again on your left shoulder say: "I beg You my Lord, do not put me on the left with the sinners." This is what the Cross means. On this Sunday as we honor the Life-giving Cross let us remember that the sign of the Cross gives us great strength to repel and conquer evil and to do good, but we must remember to make the sign of the Cross correctly and without haste, otherwise it will not be the sign of the Cross, but just waving our hand around, which only gladdens the demons. By making the sign of the Cross carelessly we show a lack of reverence for God. This is a sin, called sacrilege.



Announcements

Today: Third Sunday of the Great Fast

On this Third Sunday of the Great Fast we honor and venerate the Holy and Life-giving Cross of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the beginning of the Divine Liturgy the Cross adorned with flowers will be brought out in procession and placed on the Tetrapod in the center of the Church. During the entire week the Cross will remain in the center of our Church to remind us that the all-holy Cross is for us the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast. Following the Divine Liturgy, please come forward to venerate the Cross of Our Lord as we continue our journey of the Great Fast.

Next Sunday: Daylight Savings

Just a reminder that Daylight savings time will begin next Sunday, March 14th. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday evening before you go to sleep.

The Pittsburgh Lenten Mission 2010

The upcoming Pittsburgh Lenten Mission 2010 will take place Sunday, March 14 – Friday, March 19, 2010. It is a blessing that this year we will welcome into our community of faithful Fr. Reginald Russo, OFM-Capuchin. Father Reginald is well known as a retreat master and has given many Parochial Lenten Missions in our area. The parishes participating in this prayerful event are St. John UCC in Southside Pittsburgh, St. George UCC in Northside Pittsburgh, and St. John UCC in McKees Rocks. **As a parish family we will welcome the faithful from our local parishes to St. George's on Wednesday & Thursday, March 17-18.** Mark your calendar for this event that brings us together for the renewal of our souls and bodies in preparation for the Great Feast of the Resurrection-Pascha.

Refreshments

Following the Lenten Mission on Wednesday & Thursday evenings, March 17-18, we will offer Lenten Refreshments for the faithful in our Church hall. We will need your help in preparing and offering these refreshments. If you would like to help out, please let Fr. Valerian know following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

Theater Production “Annie”

On Sunday, March 21st, we are planning to see the production of the heartwarming musical “Annie”. This will take place at the McGovern Hall (Assumption Church) in Bellevue. Tickets are Adults \$8.00; Children (12 and under) and Senior Citizens (65 and older) \$6.00. If you wish to come please use the sign-up sheet in the Church vestibule to reserve a ticket.

Pyrohy

Our total income from last week’s sale was \$1056.00. Sincere thanks to all our dedicated pyrohy workers for their hard work during this Lenten Season. Due to the great number of orders, we ask you to place your orders in advance. Thank you!

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, February 28, 2010 was \$1064.00.

*Donations for the Flowers for the Cross: Maria Perkun (\$20) in memory of +Philip Perkun; Debbie Label (\$20) in memory of +Mary Senko, +Katherine Havrylak, +Anastasia Tymczuk; Magdalena Cheresnowsky (\$10) in memory of Michael & Anna Cheresnowsky; Charlotte & Tom Kunsak (\$10) in memory of +Matthew Kunsak.

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

Making Easter Bread-Paska

It has been a wonderful tradition at St. George’s to prepare our delicious Easter Bread-Paska. We wish to preserve this wonderful tradition but this year we are very much in need of your help in the making of the Easter Bread. In the Church vestibule we have time slots that indicate the time we need your help. I ask that you please offer your time on **Saturday, March 27th**, to continue this wonderful tradition of making Paska Bread.

The price per a loaf this year is \$7.00. In the Church vestibule we have a sign-up sheet for placing your orders. I ask you to write down your name and amount of Paska Bread (plain or raisin) you wish to order. You may pick-up your order on Palm Sunday, March 28th, following the Divine Liturgy.

Please remember that the making of Easter bread-Paska depends on YOU! ONLY if we have enough workers can we continue this St. George’s tradition. Thank you!

Third Sunday of the Great Fast Veneration of the Cross

The Third Sunday of the Great Fast has as its theme the Holy Cross. In the middle of the Great Fast the Cross of the Lord makes its appearance in our midst and we sing portions of the beloved Paschal-Easter hymnography. We are given a slight respite from the somber monotony of the forty days with a glimpse of the Three-Day Pascha of the Lord. We are provided with a re-sighting and little fore-taste of the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb of God.

A great Eastern theologian Metropolitan Kallistos states that there is no separation between the death of Christ and His resurrection: the Cross is an emblem of victory; Golgotha-Calvary is seen in the light of the empty tomb. The hymns for this day remind us that in addition to an instrument of excruciating suffering, the Cross is also the sign of victory, the trophy of godliness and weapon of peace.

The Cross is a pledge that God will go to the uttermost for us; He who washed his disciples’ feet will never wash His hands of us or leave us to perish. The Cross speaks, and says: this is how much God loves and cares. It speaks of the limitless love of God which will not cease to love even when crucified. On the Cross Jesus implemented His commandment: “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, in order to be sons of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike” (Mt. 5:44-45). As we come to the middle of the Great Fast-Mid Lent remember that the Cross is never seen in the Christian faith apart from the Resurrection. Because love is stronger than death, the reward of love is Resurrection, is eternal life, as St. John wrote in his first epistle: “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers” (1 Jn. 3:14). And that is our victory as St. John said in the same epistle: “Anyone who was born from God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world: our faith” (1 Jn 5:4).

Shine, O Cross of the Lord! Illumine the hearts of those who honor you! With love inspired by God, we embrace you, for you are the only hope of the world. Through your our tears are wiped away, the snares of death are sprung, and we pass over into everlasting joy. Through the Cross reveal Your beauty to us, O Lord! Help Your servants who ask for mercy in faith! Bestow upon us the fruits of abstinence!



