



March 10, 2019

**First Sunday of the Great Fast**

Liturgical Schedule



- Mar 9 (Sat) Divine Liturgy** **5:00pm**  
*+John Fekete req by Mike & Shirley Andreko*
- Mar 10 (Sun) First Sunday of the Great Fast**  
**Divine Liturgy** **10:30am**  
*+Carl Magdic req by Eleanor Timko*
- Mar 12 (Tue) Parish Advisory Council** **6:30pm**
- Mar 13 (Wed) Presanctified Liturgy** **7:00pm**
- Mar 16 (Sat) Divine Liturgy** **5:00pm**  
*+John Fekete req by Lindberg Family*
- Mar 17 (Sun) Second Sunday of the Great Fast** **10:30am**  
**Divine Liturgy**  
**Intention of the Parish Family**

**Our Tithe to March 3, 2019: \$1,670.00**



*Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.*

Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Marion Campbell, Steve Fekete, Kevin Ianni, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr., Sue Sabol, Ruth Seech, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, Debbie Vasko, John Voron Sr.



The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of March 10 thru March 16 for Helen Sabol req of Larry and Mercedes Sabol.

**Thank you!**

Many thanks to the wonderful group of women and men who were so faithful and generous in offering their time and energy to our parish Pirohy Project this past month

**Spaghetti Dinner** — 2-7 pm Sunday, March 24, St. Pius X Church, 2336 Brownville Rd., Carrick. Proceeds will benefit Sam Langol, 3 year old, a member of St. Pius X who was one of the first children in Pittsburgh to be diagnosed with Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM), a paralyzing disease similar to polio. For more information, call the church at 412-881-8344.

**Lenten Kitchen**



St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, will once again be holding their Lenten Kitchen every Friday through April 12, 2019. Doors open at 11:00am and close at 6:00pm.

Patrons can eat in and /or take out . Available to purchase: fried or baked fish sandwich; fried or baked fish dinner, pirohi, haluski, macaroni and cheese, French fries, coleslaw, soda, bottled water, csoroge and our bake sale. Coffee and tea are free.

**Mark Your Calendars**

**St. Stephen's famous Ham Bingo**

Sunday, March 31st 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Cost: \$15.00

We are in need of donations of cases of Coke/ Pepsi/diet/water, also door prizes, Chinese Auctions item and in-date pantry items

For more information: call or text Julee Lindberg (412-378-6953)

**Financial Statements**

The end of the year financial statement for St. Stephen Parish is available in the vestibule of the church.

## SOME LITURGICAL NOTES

From time to time, certain questions come up. And if one person raises a question, probably others are thinking the same thing.

For example, recently someone asked, “Why don’t we sing the Lenten hymn ‘Having suffered the passion for us’ (Preterpivy za nas strasti) anymore?”

A very good question. Actually we do sing it, but only at a service during the week that is without the Eucharist.

A few words of explanation. Since it is a penitential hymn what involves prostrations, there are certain times that we do not make prostrations (and plenty more times when we do make them). We do not make prostrations on Saturday or Sunday since these are days on which we celebrate the Divine Liturgy and are days associated with the Resurrection.



But we do make plenty of prostrations during the week. For example, during the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, we make numerous prostrations (if you haven’t done so, please join us soon!) However, after we receive the Eucharist, there are no more prostrations. After we receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, which is the resurrected Body and Blood of our Lord, it is not proper to make penitential prostrations.

At home in our personal prayer, it is always proper to make prostrations during the weekdays.

## **Listening in on the Pope**

*“Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendor and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties”*

Pope Francis

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ICONS**

*As a precious adornment the Church of Christ has received the venerable and holy icons of Christ the Savior, the Mother of God and all the Saints.*

*Celebrating now their triumphant restoration, she is made bright with grace and splendor ... With great rejoicing she give glory to God ...*

One of the most distinctive aspects of the Byzantine Tradition is the use of *icons*. Icons are used to cover the walls of churches, to be venerated by kissing; they are used in our homes as signs of God’s presence in our midst. In a word, they are all around us.



Icons speak a language ... they are a way of communication. Through them God speaks to us ... not in words, but in images.

They speak to us of a *new way of seeing* ... a way of seeing the world as God intended it.

We often think that our eyes see clearly ... that we see things just the way they are. But, in reality, we can only see in a broken and disfigured manner ... because we are all sinful. We can only see through the eyes of the broken world ... a world that can be selfish ... hostile ... cold and unloving.

At other times, we only see what we *want to see*. Our vision is limited to our own smallness ... or by what we are looking for.

Icons purposely look different. They jar us into seeing a new way. They invite us to see *possibilities* ... the world that is *transfigured* ... *transformed* ... a world which is truly the reflection of God’s image.

On this Sunday, we are invited to try to see in a new way ... to see this world as God’s creation ... to see each other as an image of God.