

March 12, 2019

Greetings to all the Faithful of St. Andrew's,

Christ is among us!

On this past Monday, March 11, Lent began. We are on our journey to Holy Week and Pascha. Let us manifest our devotion to Christ and his teaching by making the time to add the following upcoming events to our schedules:

Tomorrow March 13 at 6 pm we will have our second presentation and Bible study on Marks Gospel. Mark gives us a challenging and enriching proclamation of the Gospel. Come join our group; it is never too late to learn about Christ through the inspired Scriptures.

This Friday March 15 at 6 pm we will celebrate our first Presanctified Liturgy of the Lenten Season. This Liturgy is one of the most beautiful Services in our Orthodox Tradition. Come and join us as we participate in the privilege of this Worship. This Service will also be celebrated on the subsequent Fridays during Great Lent.

On Saturday March 23 at 10 am we will celebrate Soul Saturday Liturgy. Please submit the names of your departed loved ones so they may be offered up in prayer to our Lord on this solemn Liturgy.

Brothers and Sisters, I humbly offer the following words as we begin our Lenten journey.

I ask all of you to avail yourselves of the opportunities mentioned for growth in the faith and Worship of God. I challenge you to spend less of your time watching TV, checking Facebook etc. and other unnecessary things we in this modern world occupy ourselves with, and more time doing what is necessary in preparation for greeting Jesus at the Paschal celebration, indeed, at the very end of time.

Consider these ideas as we go through Lent: What we do today and consistently in our lives is what we become. Jesus said you will know people "by their fruits." We are what we do. Of course we must prioritize and we always do what we consider most important. Another truth is that what we are becoming today as individuals will determine our future. If we want St. Andrew's to thrive and continue into the future for our children and loved ones, we must commit ourselves in the present as individuals and as a body to do whatever it takes to build ourselves up in our most Holy Faith. If we do not take responsibility to follow our Tradition, who will?

I pray that each of us commits himself and herself to strive for God through these limited though not unimportant opportunities for growing in the knowledge of the One who created us and sent his son to perfect our fallen humanity. We are called as the Church not to offer entertainment, or "happiness" but the blessedness which comes from God's Truth as revealed through the Sacred Scriptures and the Divine Services.

Of course only God knows what we are able to do at any given time. Because of this, Holy Tradition teaches us to pray for those who are absent whenever the Church meets “for a good and honorable cause.” Only God can judge, and only the individual can know, whether an activity is “good or honorable.” Our Tradition, however, teaches that opportunities to grow in the knowledge of and Worship of God are always “good and honorable.”

I pray that we will, as our Lord called his Disciples to do, “pray and watch for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Wishing you all a blessed Great Lent!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Herman