

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE



Icon of the the Ladder of Divine Ascent

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

(Under the Holy Protection of the Mother of God)



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Rev. Father James Fraser

Residence (cell): (304) 918-3297

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: After Liturgy or by appointment
Holy Mystery of Anointing: prior to surgery or whenever requested
Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation: Arrange with Father Jim
New Parishioners: Welcome! Please see Father for registration



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR FEB 11th to FEB 21st, 2024

Sunday Feb. 11th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday of Cheese-Fare - pg 141, 218 Readings: Rom 13:11-14:4; Mt 6:14-21 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Monday Feb 12th	First Day of the Great Fast - Strict Fast
Wednesday Feb. 14th 7:00 p.m.	Presanctified Liturgy Intention: Open
Sunday Feb. 11th 10:30 a.m.	1st Sunday of the Great Fast Readings: Heb 11:24-26,32-12_2; Jn 1:43-51 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Wednesday Feb. 21st 7:00 p.m.	Presanctified Liturgy Intention: Open

First Day Fasting - Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

In practice, the Church only requires that the faithful abstain from meat, fish, eggs, and dairy products on the first day of the Great Fast and on Great and Holy Friday, and fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays during the Great Fast and on Fridays through the year. As with fasting, the faithful are encouraged to keep the tradition more fully if they are able. Abstention from electronics is also encouraged.

Icon of the Mother of God "Iveron" - Commemorated on February 12

During the reign of Emperor Theophilus in the ninth century, the Byzantine Empire raged with the heresy of iconoclasm. In accordance with the emperor's command, thousands of soldiers pillaged the empire, searching every corner, city, and village for hidden icons.

Near the city of Nicaea lived a pious widow who had concealed an Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. Before long, the soldiers discovered it, and one of them thrust his spear into the image. However, by God's grace, his terrible deed was overshadowed by a miracle as blood flowed forth from the wound on the face of the Mother of God. Upon seeing this, the frightened soldiers quickly fled.

The widow spent the whole night in vigil, praying before the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. In the morning, according to God's will, she took the icon to the sea and cast it upon the water. The holy icon stood upright on the waves and began to sail westward.

Time passed, and one evening in the year 1004, the monks of the Iveron Monastery on Mt. Athos beheld a pillar of light, shining upon the sea like the sun. The miraculous image lasted several days, while the fathers of the Holy Mountain gathered together, marveling at the site. Finally, they descended to the edge of the sea, where they beheld the pillar of light standing above the Icon of the Theotokos. But when they approached it, the icon moved farther out to sea.



At that time, a Georgian monk named Gabriel was working at the Iveron Monastery. The Theotokos appeared to the fathers of the Holy Mountain and told them that Gabriel alone was worthy to retrieve the holy icon from the sea. At the same time, She appeared to Gabriel and told him, "Enter the sea, and walk out upon the waves with faith, and all will witness my love and mercy for your monastery."

The monks of Mt. Athos found Gabriel and led him down to the sea, chanting hymns, and censing with holy incense. Gabriel walked out upon the water as though upon dry land, took the icon in his arms, and

obediently carried it back to shore. This miracle occurred on Bright Tuesday.

While the monks were celebrating a paraklesis of thanksgiving, a cold, sweet spring miraculously gushed forth from the ground where the icon stood. Afterwards, they took the icon to a church and set it down in the sanctuary with great reverence.

However, one of the monks who came to light a lamp the next morning discovered that the icon was no longer where they had left it. In fact, it was hanging on a wall near the entrance gate.

The disbelieving monks took it down and returned it to the sanctuary, but the next day the icon was again found at the monastery gate. This miracle recurred several times, until the Most Holy Virgin appeared to Gabriel, saying, "Announce to the brothers that from this day they should not carry me away. For what I desire is not to be protected by you; rather I will overshadow you, both in this life and in the age to come. As long as you see my icon in the monastery, the grace and mercy of my Son shall never be lacking!"

Filled with exceeding joy, the monks erected a small church near the monastery gate to glorify the Most Holy Theotokos and placed the wonder-working icon inside. The holy icon came to be known as the "Iveron Mother of God" and, in Greek, Portaitissa. By the grace of the miraculous Iveron Icon of the Theotokos, many miracles have taken place and continue to take place throughout the world.

By permission of the Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org)



Pray for the Sick, Recovering, and Shut-Ins:

Theresa Glagola

May we keep all our ailing and healing parishioners in our prayers every day.

Please let Father Jim know to include any family and parish members who are ill, hospitalized, or need a visit for blessing, anointing, confession, or request of prayers. Kindly call Father Jim at (304) 918-3297 Thank You.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES go to:

Andrew Fraser on Feb 12th

May God bless you with Peace, Health, and Happiness!

For many happy and blessed years!



Sanctuary Candles Intention is for **+Ted and +Mary Eldridge**



In the Eastern Church, the various prayers for the departed have as their purpose: to pray for the repose of the departed; to comfort the living; and to remind those who remain behind of their own mortality, and the brevity of this earthly life. For this reason, memorial services have an air of penitence about them.



Offertory Collection for Feb. 4th, 2024

Envelope Offerings	Loose Offerings	Candles	All Souls	Building Fund	Total
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Church Attendance for Sunday was:



Sunday of Cheese-Fare

Rom 13:11-14:4

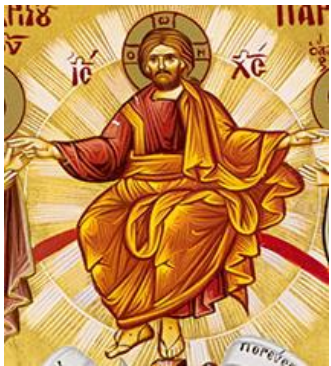
And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.



Mt 6:14-21

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



But if a person is constantly mindful of God, he will rejoice: as the psalmist says, "I remembered God, and I rejoiced" (Psalms 77:3). For when the intellect is gladdened by the remembrance of God, then it forgets the afflictions of this world, places its hope in Him, and is no longer troubled or anxious.

St. Peter of Damaskos, "JOY" (from "The 24 Discourses"), "The Philokalia vol. III," - pp. 260 - 263.

Readiness to Forgive

Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer. For it is God who has made "the sun to shine on the evil and on the good."

For this same reason again in every one of the clauses Jesus commands us to make our prayers together in one voice, saying, "Our Father," and "thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven," and "give us the bread, and forgive us our debts," and "lead us not into temptation," and "deliver us." So everywhere he is teaching us to use this plural word that we may not retain so much as a vestige of resentment against our neighbor.

How great a reproof then must they de-

serve, who, after all this, still do not forgive and even ask God's vengeance on their enemies. In doing so, they diametrically transgress this command. Meanwhile Christ is seeking in every way possible to hinder our conflicts with one another. For since love is the root of all that is good, by removing from all quarters whatever mars it he brings us together and cements us to each other. For there is not one, not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us.

St. John Chrysostom

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit www.mytheosis.com