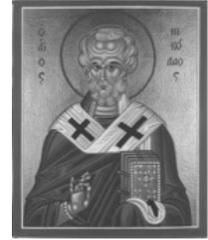


# **Newsletter of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church**



1160 Bridge Street  
Manchester, NH 03104



*Father Tom Fitzgerald, Parish Priest*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Season of Great Lent for the Orthodox Church this year began February 19. The time of Great Lent is a forty-day period of preparation and renewal. The season prepares us for the observance of Holy Week and especially for the celebration of Easter, which is the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord. For the Orthodox Church, Easter this year will be on Sunday, April 8.

Lent is a time for rededication and renewal. Lent is a time to remember our true identity as sons and daughters of God. As followers of Christ, it is a time to change our lives for the better, so that we fully live as God's friends and co-workers in His world.

This Lent is also a time when we should reflect on the direction and values of our society. It is important to pray for those who suffer and those who have died. Yet, as followers of Christ, we also have an obligation to act to improve the society and to heal its wounds. Christ calls us to be the "salt and light" of the society in which we live.

The Church has always emphasized three disciplines for observing the season of Lent. These are prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charity). These disciplines help us to grow closer to the Lord and to assist others.

When we pray, we become more conscious of God and His Presence! Prayer counters any tendency towards self-centeredness. When we fast, we become more conscious of our dependence on God for all things. Fasting counters any tendency towards self-indulgence. When we give generously to the needy, known as almsgiving, we become more conscious of our responsibilities to others. Almsgiving counters any tendency towards self-righteousness.

The season of Lent is an ideal time to examine our priorities, and our values in the light of the teachings of Christ. What is really important for us and our salvation? What are we willing to change to help us grow closer to the Lord and to live His Gospel.

May we all have a blessed Lent.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Tom

# ***Newsworthy Notes From St. Nicholas***



## ***The Processions of Icons***

The First Sunday of Lent, February 25, is known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy. This feast commemorates the affirmation by the Church of the value of icons. On this Sunday, our children and young people will participate in a procession with Icons at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

## ***The Procession with the Holy Cross***

The Third Sunday of Lent, March 11, is dedicated to the Holy Cross. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, we will have the procession with the Holy Cross and be blessed with it. We receive a flower as a reminder of the day that marks the mid-point of the Lenten Season.



## ***The General Memorial Service***

We will have our general Lenten Memorial Service on Sunday, March 18. Please bring your cards with the names of the departed relatives and friends to church by the previous Sunday (March 11). Our Memorial Service is an important opportunity to remember the faithful departed in our prayers. It is also an opportunity to recall the blessings of other persons in our lives and to thank God for them. God blesses us through others. We do not want to forget them or their blessing.

# ***Newsworthy Notes From St. Nicholas (Continued)***

## ***The Lenten Liturgy***

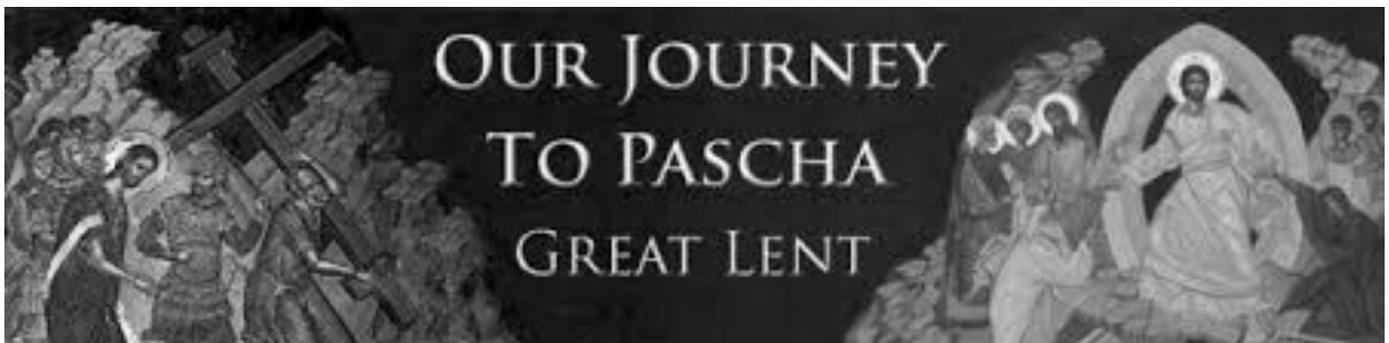
During the Lenten Season, our Sunday Liturgy contains prayers from the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Some of the prayers and hymns are a little different from most other Sundays. These differences help to remind us that we are in the Lenten Season.

## ***The Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian***

As we conclude our Sunday liturgies, we will offer together the Prayer of St. Ephraim. It is a traditional Orthodox Lenten Prayer. It emphasizes personal renewal and recommitment. St. Ephraim lived in the Fourth Century in the region of Edessa, in present day Turkey. His prayer has been used by the Church since that time.

## ***The Parish Library***

We have a wonderful Parish Library. The Library contains a number of books about Christ, the Scriptures, Prayer and the Orthodox Church generally. There are different levels of books for children and adults. Lent is a very good time to borrow a book to help with your meditation.



# EASTER DONATIONS

Many within our congregation ask how they can donate towards the cost of the items needed in decorating the church for Easter. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we were able to cover the costs of the items below which help to make our church beautiful throughout Holy Week. Please consider donating towards an item below by placing an "X" next to the item you wish to give towards and return this sheet along with your check, to Tina Skillings in one of two ways prior to Palm Sunday. Either give it to Tina directly at church or by mailing this sheet along with your donation to Tina's attention at:

St. Nicholas Church  
1160 Bridge Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

<b>PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION TOWARDS THE FOLLOWING EASTER EXPENSE:</b>		
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>		
X	Palms - \$100.00	<b>DONATION COMPLETE</b>
<b>HOLY FRIDAY</b>		
	1. Kouvouklion - \$450.00	
	2. Small and medium arrangements for Kouvouklion, Icon Screen, Epistle Stand - \$300.00	
	3. Narthex arrangements - \$60.00	
	4. Candle stands - \$36.00	
	5. Resurrection Banner with Dried Flowers and Ribbon \$100	
<b>HOLY SATURDAY - THE RESURRECTION</b>		
	1. Large Resurrection Icon - \$45.00	
	2. Easter lilies \$200.00	

***Thank you!***