

ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH

From the desk of Father Eugene.....

Great Lent 2021

This year's Great Lent stands to be much different than last year's. The COVID virus brought our liturgical worship to a halt last year with all of the virus's unknowns and the precautions that were necessary while the effects of the virus could be studied more carefully. I was compelled to close the doors of the church, depriving the community of the Sacraments and the celebration of the many special services of the concluding weeks of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Paschaltide. Great Lent continued, however, with personal/family prayer and the lay celebration of services at home. To be

sure, we struggled with this extraordinary change, but continued the sojourn toward the Kingdom bearing our cross.

This year we will have the opportunity to reaffirm our liturgical rhythm during the lenten season, continuing to build upon our reestablished Sunday and weekday services and our recent celebration of the Nativity and Theophany seasons. Our spiritual life will be broadly opened at the time of the year most precious to the Church. Indeed, Great Lent is always a time for renewal; this year, however, our appreciation for its significance and beauty can be particularly heightened. For that to happen, our time in personal prayer cannot be forsaken because of the increase in church worship. Personal prayer extends our time in corporate prayer, but in no way can we have prayer in the church without a prayer life at home. The practices we were called to last year are not to be discarded, but continue to be used as daily, continuous nourishment of our spiritual lives.

What can we expect this year? I anticipate that our worship services will continue as they are, with incremental adjustments that lead us closer to what we were used to previously. As always, the start of Great Lent is crucial. So, as we have become accustomed, we will sing the Great Canon Monday thru Thursday of the first week and then have our first Presanctified Liturgy on the first Friday. Thereafter, Presanctified Liturgy will be sung on Wednesday evenings until we reach Holy Week. We will also have our usual Soul Saturday Liturgies. I fully intend to have our additional services open to all. All of these lenten services are familiar to most of us; yet this year, I pray that our participation in these services will be the focus of all our endeavors during Great Lent. In this, may each of us practice to not only recite the Prayer of Saint Ephraim, but to live it.

O Lord and Master of my life!

Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.
But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions
and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Greetings from your ministry Team!

Our focus this month is Food for Pantries. Over the years we have been supporting two pantries, alternating our donations. As you know, the pantries have been asking for extra help keeping their shelves stocked. Let's bless them again this month with an abundance of non-perishable food that will help out our neighbors. Please bring your donations and leave them in Herrick Hall. Thanks to Zdrales and Odman for faithfully making deliveries for us. **Thank you!!!!**



Juice is needed for coffee hour. Individual juice for the children and larger containers to pour into cups for adults who prefer juice instead of coffee. We appreciate any and all contributions!!!!

A belated happy birthday to those who had a birthday in February:

Katherine Weiland - 2/6
 Misha Mykhaylyuk - 2/8
 Gregory Kuzeva - 2/12
 Dorothy Olson - 2/13
 Casimir Massopust - 2/17
 Dale Petersen - 2/21
 Doug Bisbee - 2/25
 Owen Jeffers - 2/28
 Sarah Tomac - 2/29



A happy birthday to those who have birthdays in March:

Nathaniel Elsinger - 3/4
 Mila Jeffers - 3/9
 Ann Kaseno - 3/12
 Melisa McNeil - 3/12
 Keely Sarsama - 3/16
 Sophia Mykhaylyuk - 3/22
 Jason Heid - 3/28



Dennis and Suzanne Petrick - 2/12/21
 Henry and Maria Yogerst - 2/20/21
 Misha Mykhaylyuk and Svitlana Hereha - 3/10/21

Parish Council President's Perspective.....Paul Novak

Our virtual Annual Meeting was held on Feb 14th with 34 people in attendance. Thank you all very much for those who attended. We were able to accomplish our business and had a few laughs along the way.

I would like to review a couple of items in more detail from the meeting.

1. Parish Council meetings are going to be scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. I will email out an agenda for that month's meeting. which will include the Zoom details and call-in number. If you wish to attend as a visitor, I ask that you let me know, as well as the subject of your question or comments, if you have any. This will allow for the council to prepare and give you an answer during the meeting.
2. Plans are underway to refinance our two loans on the building and parking lot. Our bank is working to combine the two loans into one with a lower monthly payment. Overall, this will be a savings to the Church.
3. Kickoff for the second phase of the Iconography project! I am pleased to announce that the Parish Council has endorsed the kickoff of the next phase of our Iconography project. I have been in contact with our Iconographer, Dmitry Shkolnik, and he has committed to having this next phase installed by Christmas 2021. Yes, this year! The project is to have a wall of Saints on the lower section of each of the side walls as you face the altar. This will go the full length of the walls. including underneath the balcony overhang. It will not include the walls that we have recently painted blue. We will raise the funds for this project by having members of the congregation sponsor a Saint. Father is working on the list of 22 Saints that you can pick from to sponsor. Each Saint can be sponsored for \$2,000. Or, if you would like, you may contribute to the project and not sponsor a Saint, and that would be warmly welcomed. The good news is that you don't have to pay until December 2021. You can pay all at once, in two payments, or once a month. You chose what works best for you. I will describe this in more detail during my announcements after Sunday Liturgy. The picture below is a good representation of what it will look like.



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4. New Lighting in the Nave of the Church. The current thinking is that we would remove the six hanging lights and replace them with either recessed lighting or fixtures that are low profile near the ceiling. A chandelier that is in a style that would compliment our wood ceiling is also being discussed and researched. More to come on this as we are requesting quotes for this work. Yes, contributions will be welcome on this project as well. Maybe you want to sponsor a chandelier and not a saint?

5. With your contributions, the Church finances are stable. The budget for 2021 was approved and is posted in Herrick Hall should you want to review it. Thank you, again, for your continued support.

Coming out of the Annual Meeting, I got the feeling that now is the time for us to look forward to this new year. With vaccines now available for Covid-19 and the hope of putting this all behind us, I believe it is time to set our sights on these projects. These improvements will give us something to rally around, look forward to, and talk about at coffee on Sundays. Talking to Dmitry Shkolnik made me excited about the Iconography and what it will look like. What a great Christmas gift it will be for all of us!

In Christ,
Paul M. Novak



Choir Notes

by Jeff Zdrale, Director

Evelyn Kizewski is doing us a great service. She is transcribing music that has been hand-written onto a computer program that turns it into professional looking sheet music. A very tedious job and much appreciation to her for doing this.

Our choir numbers remain limited; however, even though we can't expand now, I want to keep asking for more of our people to join when we're back to normal. We need voices on all parts, but particularly in the soprano section. We will resume practicing as soon as it becomes feasible.

As I think about our Children's Choir and all the little ones we have, I have high hopes. It did my heart good to see our three young altar servers standing shoulder to shoulder last Sunday. Children's Choir will also resume when we can bring the children together again.

Thank you so much!!



SCHAHCZAENSKI (week of) 2/28/21 for 3/7

JULIAN (week of) 3/7/21 for 3/14

TOMAC (week of) 3/14/21 for 3/21

WEILAND (week of) 3/21/21 for 3/28

SARSAMA (week of) 3/28/21 for 4/4

NASSIOS (week of) 4/4/21 for 4/11

MYKHAYLYUK (week of) 4/11/21 for 4/18

ODMAN (week of) 4/18/21 for 4/25

BISBEE (week of) 4/25/21 for 5/2

LENTEN STUFFED PEPPERS

6 medium red bell peppers	1 c ground walnuts or almonds
1 small onion, chopped	salt and pepper to taste
1 small leek or (about half of large)	minced parsley 1/3 cup fresh or 1 Tbls dry
½ c white or brown rice, rinsed	1-2 tomatoes
1 can (6 oz) tomato paste	2 Tbls veg oil

Wash peppers and remove tops and seeds. Sauté finely chopped onion and leek in veg oil. Add rice and 2/3 of tomato paste (about 4 oz) and stir to sauté for another 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat and add ground walnuts, salt, pepper, and parsley and mix well. Fill peppers with stuffing mixture and stand up in a deep casserole dish or Dutch oven. Cover tops of peppers with slices of tomato. Use remaining 2 oz of tomato paste to mix with a bit of water to pour into bottom of pot to depth of about ½ inch. Cover and bake at 350F for 30 to 40 minutes, until rice is tender. Then remove the lid and continue baking until peppers are golden on top with little or no water in bottom of pan.



*Thank you Dorothy Olson
for the wonderful recipes!!!*



LENTEN CHOCOLATE CAKE

Cake:

3 c flour	2 c water (room temp)
2 c sugar	1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp salt	2 tsp white vinegar
2 tsp baking soda	¾ c veg oil (can use avocado if desired)
1/3 c cocoa powder (unsweetened)	

Preheat oven to 350F

Mix all dry ingredients into a large bowl, then add water, oil, vanilla and vinegar and mix on low for about one minute with hand-held or stand mixer. Pour into a greased 9x13 cake pan and bake at 350F until cake separates from the sides of the pan (at least 25 minutes) and test with a toothpick, which should come out dry.

Icing:

1 c powdered sugar	softened margarine (approx. ¼ cup)
1 Tbls cocoa powder	warm water

Mix powdered sugar, cocoa and margarine. Add enough warm water to make a smooth and creamy icing. Spread on top of cooled cake.



Parish Activities

***Please note:** Lenten schedule of services are subject to change, some services may be added. Please check the weekly bulletin online and the website regularly.

	3	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Vespers (all welcome)	
	6	Mar	Sat	9:30am	Memorial Saturday Liturgy (all welcome)	
	6	Mar	Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)	
	7	Mar	Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invite only)	
	9	Mar	Tues	6:00pm	Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom)	
	10	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Vespers (all welcome)	
	13	Mar	Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)	
	14	Mar	Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invite only) Forgiveness Sunday Vespers (following coffee, after Divine Liturgy)	
	15	Mar	Mon	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)	
	16	Mar	Tues	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)	
	17	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)	
	18	Mar	Thurs	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)	
	19	Mar	Fri	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy (all welcome)	
	20	Mar	Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)	
	21	Mar	Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invite only)	
	24	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy (all welcome)	
	25	Mar	Thurs	6:00pm	Vesperal Liturgy for Annunciation (all welcome)	
	27	Mar	Sat	9:30am	Memorial Saturday Liturgy (all welcome)	
	27	Mar	Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)	
	28	Mar	Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invite only)	
	31	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy (all welcome)	

