

Message from Fr. George for Friday, March 24th, 2023

Save, O Lord, Your people



and bless Your inheritance,

We are called to carry our personal cross, including our trials in this life. When we set aside the things that take us farther from God and choose the path of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, gentleness, self-control, and other virtues.

The Lord Jesus calls us to consider ourselves dead to our sins so we can be made new in Him. Even if our cross becomes heavy, we always carry it

with Christ. He is always with us, ready to help us when we ask. We also have our brothers and sisters in Christ to help us as we help one another. The Divine Light of God shines in and through us. This is why the Lord revealed that light to His disciples in the Transfiguration, which took place right after He spoke these words.



granting victory to the faithful
over the enemy,



The last sentence of this Gospel reading – “there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power” – refers to the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus says that some of the disciples surrounding Him would not die before they see the Kingdom of God come with power. Indeed, Peter, John, and James see the Lord manifest His divinity on Mount Tabor.

We participate in the Lord’s Glory whenever we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. We join in this movement of Christ toward the Father, in full communion with the Holy Spirit, in the intimate fellowship of the Trinity. We experience the energies of God through the tremendous resources within the Orthodox spiritual tradition, including the call to pray without ceasing and the practice of the Jesus Prayer (Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me).

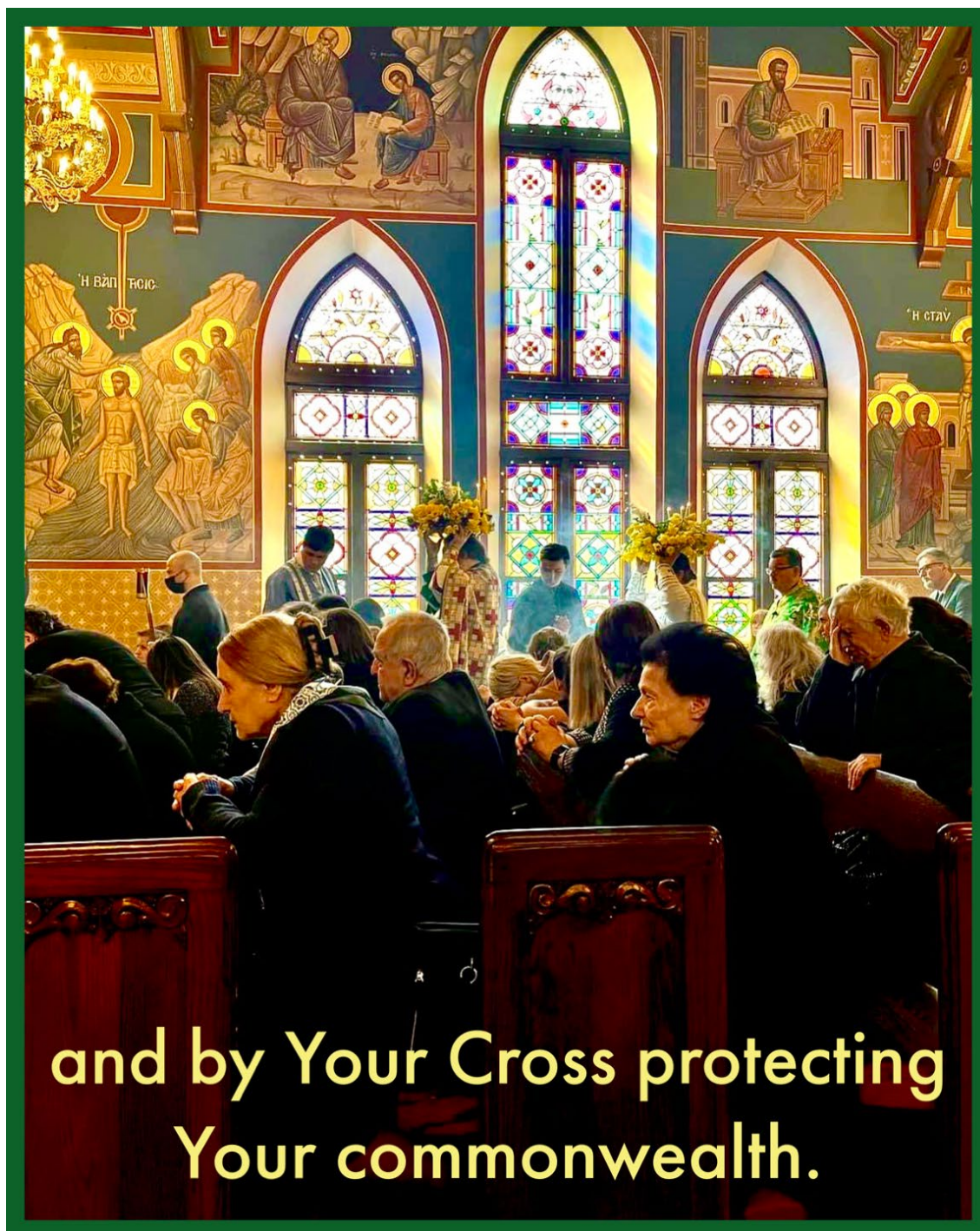


Bearing a cross takes work. It involves denying ourselves and our own will. It requires preparation to receive Christ. It entails emptying ourselves so we can be filled with the Holy Spirit. We learn to live in faith, hope, and love by taking up our cross and following Him. We help others do the same, as we are all called to reach our potential as persons created in the image and likeness of God.

In faith, we know He is with us even in trials. In hope, we see the Light of the Resurrection shining through the Cross. In love, we learn that humility and service are the way to that glory. As we progress through Great Lent,

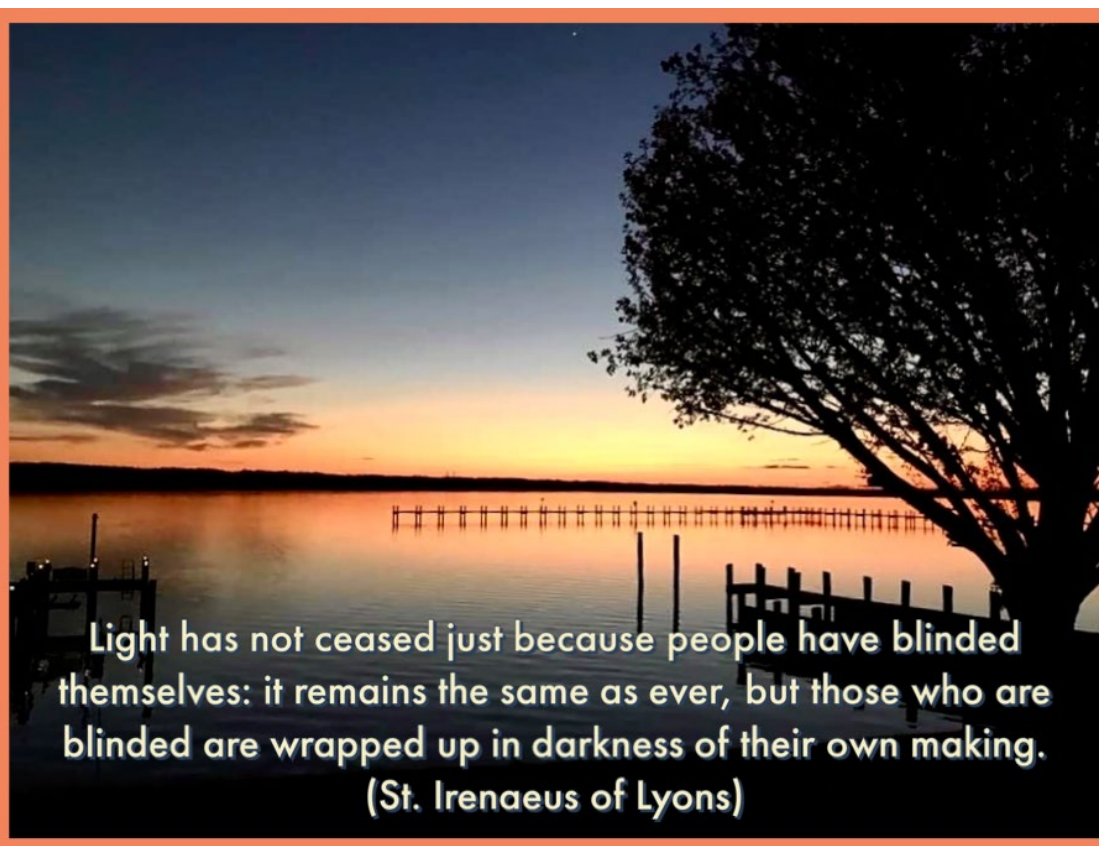
we carry our crosses joyfully, placing our trust and confidence in God because behind every cross is the Resurrection.

*(reprinted from Archdiocese Department of Religious Education
for the Veneration of the Holy Cross)*





The key to spiritual progress is, therefore, love for one's enemies. This is first of all - something very simple, but very difficult - the refusal to judge, the refusal to assert oneself in despising or condemning others. Only such an attitude of mind brings detachment and peace. The rest is secondary.
(Olivier Clement)



Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat... We must find each other.

+ St Teresa of Calcutta +

Christ, who approached prostitutes, tax collectors and sinners, can hardly be the teacher of those who are afraid to soil their pristine garments, who are completely devoted to the letter, who live only by the rules, and who govern their whole life according to rules. (St. Maria of Paris)



During our community
 lenten dinner we will
 view a feature length
 video on the Greek
 War of Independence
 of 1821-1832 and see
 how modern Greece
 was born and got its
 independence from
 the Ottoman Rule.
 (Pilgrimage talk has
 been postponed.)



Family Connections



*Family Activities for the
Sundays of Great Lent*



Family Connections *Sunday of St. John Climacus*

Jacob's Ladder

Read the OT story of Jacob's Ladder, which is found in Genesis 28:10-17. Discuss how Jesus came down the ladder in order to show us how to ascend it to heaven. Talk about things that help us climb up the ladder and things that make us slide down. The game Chutes and Ladders can be helpful in illustrating this point.



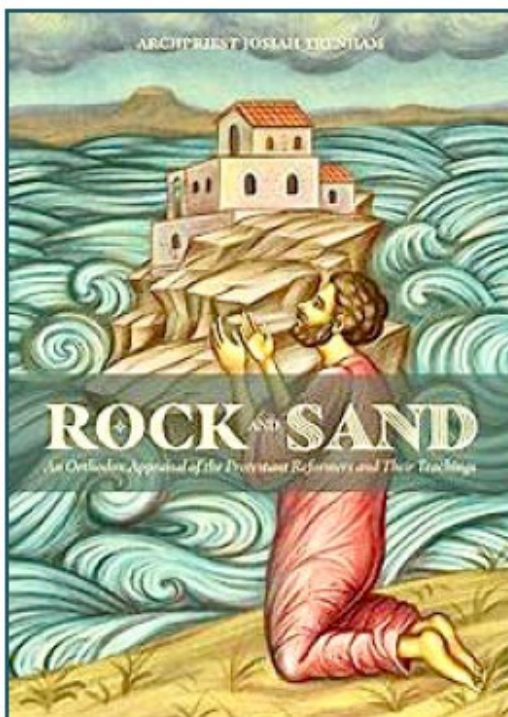
DARE TO SPEAK!

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
ORATORICAL FESTIVAL 2023

St. Christopher Church

"Dare to speak
the word with
greater boldness
and without fear."
Philippians 1:14

We are proud of our youth who will present their
Orthodox witness this Sunday. Join us.



This Sunday, our Adult Religious Education Class will review *Chapter 5 of our textbook, "The Life and Teachings of John Calvin"*. He was the greatest of all the second generation Protestant Reformers, and was born in 1509 in France. *Join us!*

Join us This Saturday, March 25th at 9:00 a.m.



The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on March 25 each year. The Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate and enter into this world through her womb.



Let us support one another
during our Lenten Journey...



Christopher Church Egg Decorating Class (Pysanky)



Sunday, April 2, 1:30 p.m.

at Holly & Jeff's Freebird Farm

Click on the QR code below to register yourself and members of your family who are old enough to complete the 2.5 - 3.0 hour class with other parishioners. The address is provided in the registration confirmation.

Registration for St. Christopher
Church Egg Decorating Class
(Pysanky)

