

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF HOLY IMAGES



Icon of the Restoration of Holy Images

On the Holy Images

In former times God, who is without form or body, could never be depicted. But now when God is seen in the flesh conversing with men, I make an image of the God whom I see. I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake, who willed to take His abode in matter; who worked out my salvation through matter. Never will I cease honoring the matter which wrought my salvation! I honor it, but not as God. How could God be born out of things which have no existence in themselves? God's body is God because it is joined to His person by a union which shall never pass away. The divine nature remains the same; the flesh created in time is quickened by a reason endowed soul. Because of this I salute all remaining matter with reverence, because God has filled it with His grace and power. Through it my

salvation has come to me. Was not the thrice-happy and thrice blessed wood of the Cross matter? What of the life bearing rock, the holy and life-giving tomb, the fountain of our resurrection, was it not matter? Is not the ink in the most holy Gospel-book matter? Is not the life-giving altar made of matter? From it we receive the bread of life! Are not gold and silver matter? From them we make crosses, patens, chalices! And over and above all these things, is not the Body and Blood of our Lord matter? Either do away with the honor and veneration these things deserve, or accept the tradition of the Church and the veneration of images.

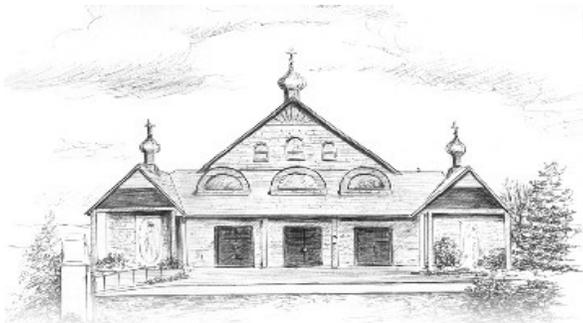
St. John of Damascus

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St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

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"The Byzz Line"



"Living the Word of Christ Together"

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Just as we do spring cleaning, washing away the dirt and grime that accumulates during the winter months so, too, Lent is a time for cleansing our souls and our hearts, making them a beautiful dwelling place for the Lord.

Or to use another comparison, spring is the season when farmers clear the land of debris and till the soil, thus giving the seeds they plant every chance to germinate. So, too, in Lent we are to clear the soil of our hearts from the debris of sin and the deadwood of hatred; by spiritual discipline, we till and enrich the soil of our souls so that the seed of God's Word, planted in us at baptism, will germinate and grow.

Finally, in winter, we sometimes feel poorly due to indoor pollutants that contaminate the air we breathe. When the weather grows warmer, we open windows to let in fresh air. Just the thought of getting out of the house and taking a walk makes us feel better. But isn't it true that we sometimes "insulate our hearts? When we become self-centered, we close the windows of our soul to God's love and the needs of others. Then the spiritual air we breathe becomes stuffy, even polluted, with self-pity, impurity, anger, grudges and thoughts of revenge. Lent is a time to open the windows of our souls, to allow the fresh air of God's love to circulate anew in the depths of our hearts and to get ourselves moving outward—toward our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Once we look at the season of Lent as the herald of a new springtime in our spiritual lives, Lenten practices are no longer unwelcome intrusions into our comfort. Rather, they become harbingers of hope for a more Christ-centered way of life.

February 26, 2023

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Liturgy Schedule

Monday	February 27	8:30 a.m.	Lenten Devotions
Tuesday	February 28	8:30 a.m.	Moleben to Jesus
Wednesday	March 1	7:00 p.m.	† Christine Kobus by Peter & Karen Vasickanin
Thursday	March 2	No Liturgy	
Friday	March 3	7:00 p.m.	Health of Sally Smith by Jean Henderson
Saturday	March 4	9:00 a.m.	† All Souls (Requiem Liturgy, Panachida, Hramoty) Vigil Liturgy
Saturday	March 4	4:00 p.m.	Intention of the Parishioners
Sunday	March 5	10:30 a.m.	† Dan Kattler by Michael & Ann Andrako

		Altar Servers	Lectors	Greeters
March 4	4:00 p.m.	J. & J. Mosgo	J. Pinchot	G. & J. Huntz
March 5	10:30 a.m.	D. & O. Kupar	C. Csornok	J. & C. Rohal

Fasting Guidelines

Clean Monday (first day of the Great Fast) - Strict fast (limited amount of food) and abstinence from meat, eggs, dairy

Wednesdays and Fridays - abstinence from meat

Great and Holy Friday - Strict fast and abstinence from meat, eggs, dairy (like Clean Monday)

Cleaning Assistance

Volunteers are needed the weeks of March 20th and 27th to wash down and oil altars, icons and vestibule. Your help is appreciated. Please contact Marie Ihnat at marieihnat@icloud.com if available.



Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary thanks all who participated in supporting our raffle basket fundraiser. The winners are:

Daniel Pegher "That's Amore Italian basket"
Kay Krasinski "Bake with Love"
Kelly Del Negro "Picnic with Ease Tupperware Basket"
Marie Ihnat "Glitz and Glam"
Rick Trompak "Wine Not"
Linda Breech "Blessed Not Stressed Wine Basket"
Pinchak family "Coffee, Tea & Cookies basket"
Mark Shepard "Sweet Treats Basket"
Brenner family "Guardians Basket"

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp will burn during the month of March in memory of **Dennis Sobodosh**



Financial Reports

All Financial Reports are in the mail slots



Lenten Fish Frys

Help is needed

9:30am - 6:30pm

Any time you can give is appreciated.

Lenten Fish Frys will be served every Friday through March 31st.

Lunch: 11:30 - 1:00pm

Dinner: 3:30 - 6:30pm

(Call **Jim or Pat Lesnick** with any questions at **216-973-1430**).

Communion Visits

If you would like to be added to the communion list please contact Deacon Bill @ 216-469-1425



Flag Retirement

Troop 811 has placed a box in the lobby to deposit worn, torn or faded flags. All flags will be retired honorably by the troop in a formal flag retirement ceremony. Please feel free to

put your flags that need retiring in the box throughout the year.

Save the Date

March 23: Vegan potluck dinner and "The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete" by the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery. Times are still being determined but most likely begin around 5pm.

Your Weekly Offering

February 19, 2023

Sunday:	\$4,166.00
Egiving:	125.00
Student Envelopes:	12.85
Cash:	115.00
Candles:	154.00
Holy Days:	10.00
Horizons:	.00
Initial Envelope Donation:	.00
Fuel:	.00
Holidays:	.00
Total:	\$4,582.85

Upcoming Events

February 28 – Sandwich Making 10:15am

March 1 - Presanctified Liturgy 7pm

March 2 - Men's book club 7pm

March 3 - Presanctified Liturgy 7pm

March 3 - Lenten Fish Fry

March 4 - 2nd All Souls Saturday Vigil Liturgy 9am

Men's Club Family Swim

The Men's Club is sponsoring a Family Swim on Sunday, March 5, from 1-3 pm, at the Seven Hills Recreation Center.



Forever Young Club

Sign up for the next meeting is hanging in the vestibule. Join us for a luncheon and a Liturgical Q&A Forum with Deacon Bill.

March 15th 12-2pm



Our Lenten Retreat

Lent lies at the very heart of our Catholic faith. While Lent was originally intended as a time of preparation for those being baptized at Easter, it gradually became a time when all of us get ready to renew our own baptismal promises. It is the season in which we prepare both individually and as a Church for the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior. It is the season when we reflect on the dying and rising of Christ that has made our salvation possible. Even more than that, it is the season when we enter into Christ's dying and rising as we seek to purify, cleanse, and nourish our bodies, minds, and souls.

Lent has been a part of the Church year from the earliest days. At the Council of Nicea in 325, the bishops were already talking about the "40 days of Lent." By the end of the fourth century, St. Cyril of Jerusalem was presenting pre-baptismal instructions called Catechetical Lectures, and Pope St. Leo was teaching that the faithful must "fulfill with their fasts the apostolic institution of the 40 days."

Forty days was chosen as the time of preparation because it was symbolic of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before embarking on his public ministry: "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished" (Matthew 4:1-2). Forty days also recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land.



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