

## Today's Scripture Readings

**Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6**

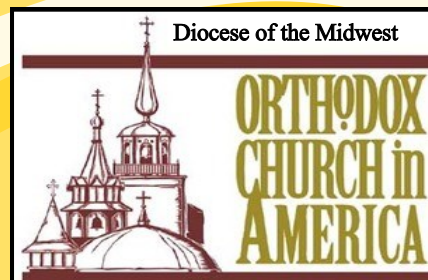
Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

**Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1**

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

*Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!*

## Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church



2238 E. 32nd St  
Lorain, OH 44055

[www.OrthodoxLorain.org](http://www.OrthodoxLorain.org)

**Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector**

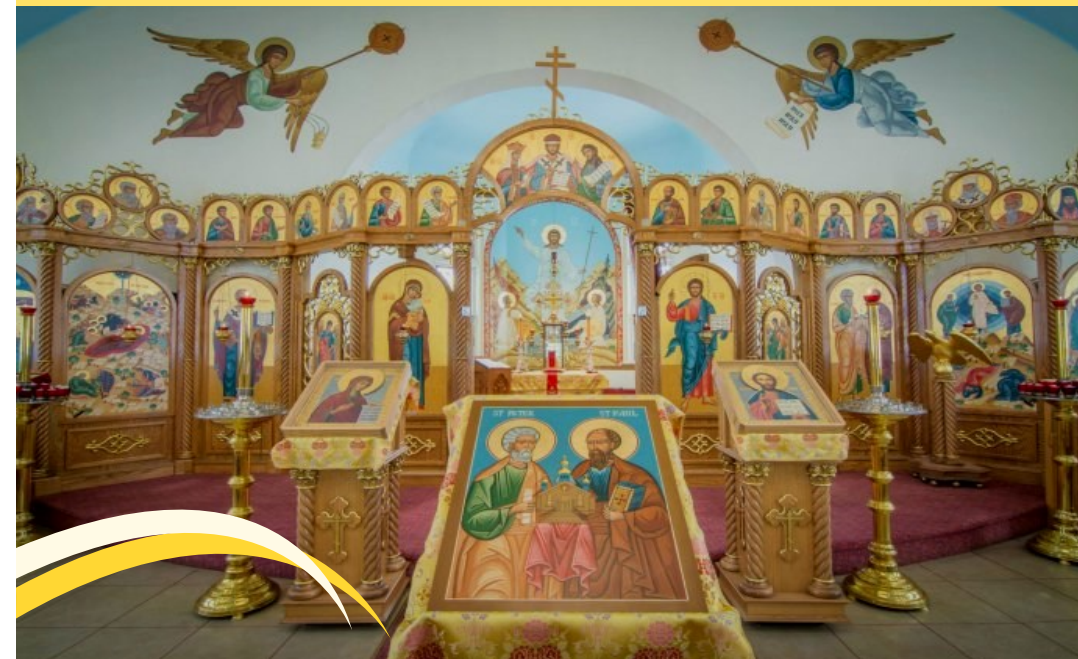
440-668-2209 (cell)

FrJosephMcCartney@gmail.com

# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

April 7, 2024

Tone 3



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

*Veneration of the Cross*

*Repose of St. Tikhon,  
Patriarch of Moscow &  
Enlightener of America*

**Divine Liturgy**

**Readings**

*(Readings on Back)*

◆ **Hebrews 4:14-5:6**

◆ **Mark 8:34-9:1**

## Announcements:

### Parish Council Meeting

April's Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00pm in the church Basement.

### Guest Speaker

At this Wednesday's Presanctified Liturgy, we will be joined by Hieromonk Fr. Nektarije Tesanovic and some of his parishioners from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church. Following the Liturgy, Kirk Ries - Director of St Herman House - will give a short presentation on the happenings of their Ministry in Ohio City. The presentation will take place during the Lenten Meal.

### Church Cleaning

We will have a church cleaning party on Lazarus Saturday, April 27th at 11:30am. Come for Liturgy at 9 and stay, or come for the cleaning of the chandelier and rest of the temple.

### Palm Sunday - Lenten Lebanese Lunch

All are invited to join us following the Divine Liturgy for a Lenten Lebanese Lunch. The lunch is being offered as a fundraiser for St. Mary & Martha Girls School in Bethany, Palestine. Please let Sam Jacob know if you are planning to attend. A free-will offering will be taken and sent to the school in Palestine.

## The Week Ahead

### Wednesday, April 10

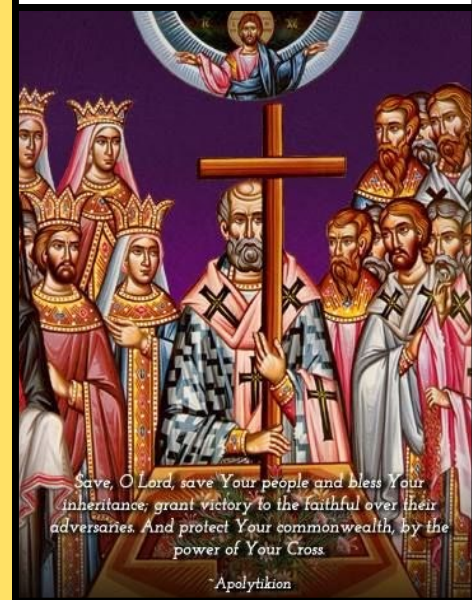
6:00pm - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

### Saturday, April 13

6:00pm - Great Vespers  
Lenten Meal w/ St Herman Presentation

### Sunday, April 14

9:30am - 3rd & 6th Hours  
10:00am - Divine Liturgy



## Sunday of the Cross

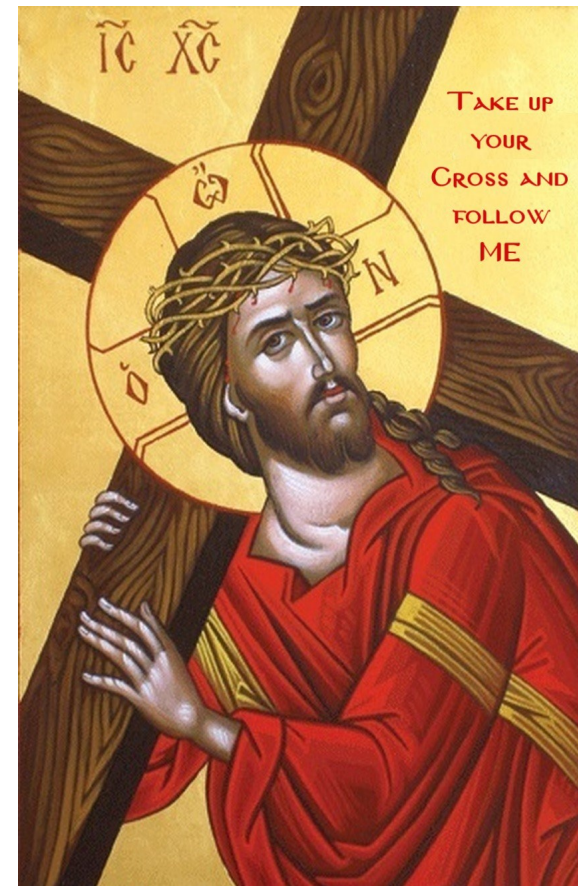
In this gospel that we read today, we hear, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" The question before it is: What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? But that is sort of, more of a general question. The question that follows it, what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul, applies to every moment of your life. It's not just a general theoretical question. These are not rhetorical questions.

In Christianity, and any discipline or belief, whether you want to become a doctor or a basketball player, you must make value judgments. You must decide what is important and what is not important. If it's important to become a doctor, then you're going to study when you would otherwise want to watch TV or go out and party. If you were a Christian, you will pray when you don't really feel like praying; you will fast when you don't feel like fasting; you will forgive when you don't feel like forgiving; you will struggle even when you don't feel like struggling. Why? Always because this question should be being answered in your soul: What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

What is worth your soul? What on earth, what can you possibly gain in this world that is worth your soul? There's nothing. The whole world is going away. Everything is temporary. Everything in the world really is filled with vice and with some mixture of pride and hidden agendas and everything else. There's nothing pure in the world. There's nothing worth saving in the world, except those that become like Christ and are not of the world. So in your daily life you should be answering this question every single moment.

The alarm clock rings and you're kind of sleepy and you don't want to get up, but if you don't get up and you wait for the snooze two or three times or maybe you oversleep, then you have to hurry, throw on your clothes and run to work and you miss your prayers. What kind of an exchange was that? Perhaps you'll forget about it, but you've lost something. You had an opportunity for Grace and you squandered it. You can answer this question in everything you do, in everything in your life. Everything is an exchange, everything.

In the Great Canon, St Andrew talks about being a good trader. We must be a trader, and our currency is our selves. We give of our selves to God, and He gives us eternal life. And everything is a trade. Don't kid yourself. Everything you do has consequences. Every single thing you do and say and think is a trade, is an exchange. Either you do what is good or you do what is bad. There's not any in between. Either our thoughts are holy or they're not.



It is appropriate that this reading would be read today. Of course it's about the Cross, and it mentions specifically that we must take up our Cross. Really, fundamentally, if you do not take up your Cross, if you do not exchange that which is worthless for that which is beyond worth, then you cannot be saved.

We live in an age of self-indulgence. Now with better help and technologies, we can truly entertain ourselves and indulge ourselves almost all day long. In this age of self-indulgence, we don't know much about denying ourselves, and in fact it seems to be against our modern creed to deny ourselves.

What does it mean to deny our self? It means to make an exchange. When the Lord said, "Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow Me," He repeats the same thought in the question: "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Because denying yourself is denying things that are worthless, that have no permanence, that lead you away from God. It means self-discipline, it means understanding what's important in life and going about obtaining it.

Let's always have this question deeply in our soul, so that we're always making a judgment: Is what I'm about to do or say or more likely think, is that worth doing or saying or thinking, in exchange for my soul? May God help us.

## Importance of the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

The 3rd Sunday of Great Lent commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we are called to experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged. Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ.

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, September 14. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate.

Another icon related to this feast depicts the actual service of veneration that is conducted on the 3rd Sunday of Lent. In the center of the icon is the Cross. It is on a table surrounded by flowers. Above the Cross is the image of Christ in a partial mandorla representing His glory. He is blessing those who have gathered to venerate the Cross,

## Prayers Appreciated for:

### Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel  
Subdeacon Theophan  
Olga, Marianne,  
Dan, Don, Joyce  
Mat. Nadean  
Mat. Krystyna  
Mat. Kathy

### Departed:

Walter

### Tall Candles

Tall Candles are on order and should be arriving any day. If you would like to sponsor them for a Sunday please see Fr. Joseph

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday, April 8

St. Celestine, Pope of Rome  
Genesis 8:21-9:7  
Proverbs 11:19-12:6

### Tuesday, April 9

Martyr Euphychius  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Proverbs 12:8-22

### Wed, April 10

Hieromartyr Gregory V,  
Patriarch of Constantinople  
Genesis 9:18-10:1  
Proverbs 12:23-13:9

### Thurs, April 11

Hieromartyr Antipas  
Genesis 10:32-11:9  
Proverbs 13:19-14:6

### Friday, April 12

St. Basil the Confessor  
Genesis 12:1-7  
Proverbs 14:15-26

### Saturday, April 13

Hieromartyr Artemon of Laodikeia  
Hebrews 6:9-12  
Mark 7:31-37

the rulers, clergy, monastics, and laity.

As in the service of veneration, the icon shows the priest venerating the Cross as the people chant the hymn "We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify," which is inscribed on the table holding the Cross.

