



**ST. PAUL
THE APOSTLE
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Fr. James Bertolini,
Retired, Attached

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Parish Weekly Bulletin
March 1-7, 2010

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS

MON: OFFICE CLOSED
TUE: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
WED: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
THUR: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
FRI: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

EPISTLE: Brethren, And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.
(Hebrews 1:10-2:3)

Brethren, For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: we have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. *(Hebrews 7:26-8:2 — St. Gregory Palamas)*

GOSPEL: And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone? But immediately, when Jesus

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship 2/21:	\$ 2,956.00
Total Income 2/21:	\$ 3,602.00
<i>Weekly income needed:</i>	<i>\$ 4,856.00</i>
2010 INCOME GOAL (8 wks):	\$38,848.00
2010 INCOME ACTUAL:	\$30,911.00
<i>Percentage of Budgeted Income:</i>	<i>79.6%</i>

SUNDAY, February 28

Greeters: TBD
Readers:
Hours: Dresko
Epistle: Youth
Post-Comm: Failla
Coffee: Team Angela

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Feb 22: Is. 4:2-5:7	Gen. 3:21-4:7	Prov. 3:34-4:22
Feb 23: Is. 5:7-16	Gen. 4:8-15	Prov. 5:1-15
Feb 24: Is. 5:16-25	Gen. 4:16-26	Prov. 5:15-6:4
Feb 25: Is. 6:1-2	Gen. 5:1-24	Prov. 6:3-20
Feb 26: Is. 7:1-15	Gen. 5:32-6:8	Prov. 6:20-7:1
Feb 27: Heb. 13:17-21	Mark 10:9-16	

SUNDAY, March 7

Greeters: TBD
Readers:
Hours: Stransky
Epistle: Federoff
Post-Comm: Sas
Coffee: Team Mary

<p>SUNDAY, 28 FEBRUARY SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 5. St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica. Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis. Bl. Nikolai, Fool-for-Christ at Pskov. Ven. John Cassian the Roman. CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION VESPERS, 6:00 PM ST. PAUL CHURCH</p>	<p>WED AND FRI, 3, 5 MARCH CONFESSIONS, 5:00 PM LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS, 6:00 PM</p>	<p>THURSDAY, 4 MARCH ADULT CLASS, 7:00 PM</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 6 MARCH LENTEN RETREAT ST. JOHN CHURCH MOTHER MELANIA 9:00 AM-5:00 AM NO VESPERS HERE</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 7 MARCH THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 6. Veneration of the Cross. The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus. Ven. Paul the Simple, disciple of St. Anthony the Great. CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION VESPERS, 6:00 PM ST. MICHAEL CHURCH</p>
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perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins — He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.'"

Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" (*Mark 2:1-12*)

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd." (*John 10:9-16 - St. Gregory Palamas*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

Father John, Matushka Liz and Juliana will be in Connecticut for the baptism of their grandson and nephew, Anthony James Dresko, next Saturday, March 6. Father will be away from March 4-9. Fr. George will handle pastoral responsibilities during this period — please contact him in the event of an emergency.

RETREAT NOTES

The annual Lenten Retreat sponsored by the Orthodox Clergy Association of Clark County will be held next Saturday, March 6, at St. John's Church. Mother Melania of St. Barbara Monastery will be speaking on *Spiritual Wholeness: Overcoming the Passions by Strengthening the Virtues*. Please sign the list in the church hall today if you plan on attending — cost is \$15 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. **Please note: the day ends with Great Vespers at St. John's, so there will be no Vespers here at St. Paul's.**

MARCH NEWSLETTER

The March 2010 newsletter has been distributed via email to all those on our email list. The newsletter is no longer being mailed to any household. You may take a hard copy, which is available in the vestibule of the church. You may also download a copy from our parish website: www.lasvegasorthodox.com. Finally, you can give your email address to Fr. John, who will add you to our parish list. The trees of the world are quite happy with this new policy!

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

It has been determined that we need to replace two compressor units for our HVAC system, along with assorted other parts. The cost of this unbudgeted project is going to be \$6,000. Father will speak more about this, but please begin considering a donation for this need.

FASTING/CONFESSION

- Fasting for the evening Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is all

day for those able to do so, but at least from the noontime meal. This includes all drink, food, and smoking.

- Confession is a journey that every Orthodox Christian of confessing age participates in during Great Lent. There are numerous times scheduled before and after evening services (none after liturgies) and by appointment. *Confessions will only be heard by appointment after the Eve of Palm Sunday.*

LENTEN VESPERS SCHEDULE (ALL 6:00 PM):

February 28: St. Paul Church
March 7: St. Michael Church
March 14: St. Simeon Church
March 21: St. George Church (at St. Paul's)

MARK THE DATE

Our annual Benefit Dinner has been moved to May 2 because of the early start of Great Lent. Please mark your calendars. Pam Campbell will be approaching you for your participation. We also need help with silent auction items. Start planning now!

REMEMBER, O LORD...those in need of prayer

Archpriest James	Vadim McClellan
Priest John	Augustina Sandou
Subdeacon Vladimir	Marteen Moore
Michelle Chong	Mary Simkovich
The child Christopher Elliott	Al & Anita Maresca
The child Eliana Kalogeris	Yemsrach Berhanu
Christine Sechrist	Fernande Bica
Tara Caterine	Natasha Zonitch
Madeline & Serge DeSomov	Susan Blonsky
Dorothy Grudzina	Peter Jovaleski
Tamara Homyakova	Bobbie Lazar

Newly departed Matushka Paulette, Edward, Guri

LENT: SUFFERING AND ASCETIC EFFORT

Father Alexander Elchaninov

However just and pure a man may be, there is always an element of sin in him which cannot enter the Kingdom of God and which must be burned up. Our sins are burned up by our sufferings.

Our love of God is measured by our willingness to accept sufferings and misfortunes and to see in them the hand of God. We can find support in the fact that these sufferings are also the measure of the love that God bears us.

Sweat, tears, blood ... If sweat is accompanied by inner rebellion, anger, murmuring; if tears are caused by pain, offence, rage; if blood is shed without faith — the soul will not obtain any benefit. But if all this is accomplished in a spirit of obedience, contrition and faith, it purifies and elevates us.

The world is crooked and God straightens it. That is why Christ suffered (and still suffers), as well as all the martyrs, confessors and saints — and we who love Christ cannot but suffer as well.

Illness has taught me a great deal. It has confirmed me even more deeply in the conviction that if a man is with Christ, then he is with suffering, and that there is no other way for the Christian than the way of pain, inward and outward. And as I thought of the innocent suffering in the world, I said to myself that through such undeserved, innocent suffering the invisible Kingdom of God is built up, his suffering Body — the Church of God — is created and gathered into unity.