



**ST. PAUL
THE APOSTLE
ORTHODOX CHURCH**
5400 ANNIE OAKLEY DR
LAS VEGAS, NV 89120
(702) 898-4800

www.lasvegasorthodox.com

Fr. John J. Dresko, Rector
(702) 485-3810 (h)
(860) 833-4921 (m)
jdresko@cox.net

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Fr. R. George Elliott,
Associate
(702) 293-4642 (h)
(530) 356-0288 (m)
rogercelliott@yahoo.com

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Fr. James Bertolini,
Retired, Attached

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Parish Weekly Bulletin
March 8-14, 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, 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." (*Hebrews 4:14-5:6*)

GOSPEL: 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." (*Mark 8:34-9:1*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

Father John, Matushka Liz and Juliana are in Connecticut for the baptism of their grandson and nephew, Anthony James Dresko, this weekend. Father will return on Tuesday, March 9. Fr. George

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship 2/28:	\$ 2,182.00
Total Income 2/28:	\$ 2,845.00
<i>Weekly income needed:</i>	<i>\$ 4,856.00</i>
2010 INCOME GOAL (9 wks):	\$43,704.00
2010 INCOME ACTUAL:	\$33,756.00
<i>Percentage of Budgeted Income:</i>	<i>77.2%</i>

SUNDAY, March 7

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mar 8: Is. 14:24-32	Gen. 8:21-9:7	Prov. 11:19-12:6
Mar 9: Is. 25:1-9	Gen. 9:8-17	Prov. 12:8-22
Mar 10: Is. 26:21-27:9	Gen. 9:18-10:1	Prov. 12:23-13:9
Mar 11: Is. 28:14-22	Gen. 10:32-11:9	Prov. 13:19-14:6
Mar 12: Is. 29:13-23	Gen. 12:1-7	Prov. 14:15-26
Mar 13: Heb. 6:9-12	Mark 7:31-37	

SUNDAY, March 14

Greeters: TBD
Readers:
Hours: Butcher
Epistle: Failla
Post-Comm: Pfliger
Coffee: Team Colleen

<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>	<p>WED AND FRI, 10, 12 MARCH BAPTISM, 9:00 AM (WEDNESDAY) CONFESSIONS, 5:00 PM LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS, 6:00 PM</p>	<p>THURSDAY, 11 MARCH ADULT CLASS, 7:00 PM</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 13 MARCH NO SLAVONIC LITURGY CONFESSIONS, 5:00 PM PANIKHIDA, 5:30 PM GREAT VESPERS, 6:00 PM CONFESSIONS</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 14 MARCH FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 7. St. John Climacus (of <i>The Ladder</i>). Ven. Benedict of Nursia. St. Theognostus, Metropolitan of Kiev and All Russia. Great Prince Rostislav (Michael), Prince of Kiev and Smolensk. CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION VESPERS, 6:00 PM ST. SIMEON CHURCH</p>
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will handle pastoral responsibilities and emergencies during this period — please contact him in the event of an emergency or a pastoral need.

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, which has been completed, 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):

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
Sarah Betten	

Newly departed Matushka Paulette, Edward, Gurii

A DESERT OF YOUR OWN

Fr. Vladimir Berzonky

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights He was hungry. The tempter came to Him..." (Matthew 4:1)

The same Spirit will lead you into a desert that you must fashion by separating yourself from whatever prevents you from self-discovery. You need not go anywhere, but you have to put a distance from your routine way of life. WWJD-W? What Would Jesus Do - Without? If your Lenten desert includes batteries and electronics, how serious are you? This is an experiment in spiritual transformation. You are imitating our Lord who was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for a forty-day struggle with Satan. You begin with the intention to fast, pray and contemplate the meaning of salvation, "working out your own salvation with fear and trembling." You are set on following the prescription for the time until Pascha. Then you sense an urge for a more intense challenge.

You intend to exceed the norms suggested by the Church. You will not just fast, but lose weight. Not only will you pray, but you set out on a program to read the whole Bible. It's all too much, so you give it up as hopeless. Or you may be influenced from below. Your body sends signals that you are punishing yourself senselessly. Suddenly you feel a headache coming on, your stomach sends out grumbling noises, and if you did not decide to avoid TV watching, you are influenced by advertisements where food is always being stuffed into open maws. Forget fasting, you decide. Surely there must be another way. Or you feel depressed, and you abandon the ideals you began with just a few days ago.

You may feel that Lent is a proper time to heal an unpleasant wound between an old friend or family member and yourself. You were the injured party, but you decide to make a Christ-like overture and patch it up. You phone or send a message, but the response just revives all the old animosity. You are made to feel that you were the cause from the beginning, and you are sorry that you even raised the issue again.

The sleepless genius of evil goes at you from another side. Like the verse in the song, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me," you make a gesture of outreach with a few words of kindness to a total stranger; and the attempt at friendship is taken the wrong way. You are made to feel foolish, like somebody with evil intentions in mind. You regret your charitable action and pull into yourself. Or worse, you feel a temptation rising that you thought you had under control a long time ago. Memories are conjured up from years past when you struggled with urges that only with prayer and intense effort you were finally able to sublimate.

The thought comes to mind: What is the purpose of all this effort? How can a person with all good will and intention "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," as the beloved apostle Paul puts it, and what's the point of it all? So you give up the struggle and striving and accept yourself as you are. Or not. You may open yourself to the Spirit within you and take ownership of your soul. You will then not just accept the challenge of Lent but welcome it as you would a worthy opponent if you were playing in your favorite athletic contest, or just deciding to run a long stretch of miles, determined not to give in to your body, your mind, your memories, your temptations, and most of all to Satan.