



**SAINT NICHOLAS  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
P.O. Box 777  
Barton, OH 43905-0777

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese  
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

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**Very Rev. Father Michael C. Kabel** *Pastor & Dean*

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**MYSTERY OF HOLY CONFESSION:** Before & after Saturday evening Vespers. Other Sacraments by appointment.

**GOING TO THE HOSPITAL?** Please notify Father when you are admitted if you want him to visit. Kindly notify Father also when you are discharged.

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM**  
**YOUR CROSS WE ADORE, O MASTER,**  
**AND YOUR HOLY RESURRECTION WE GLORIFY!**

CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent): Antiphon “Bless the Lord, O my soul,” on p. 8 and the Beatitudes. Tropar for Tone 6 on p. 96. Tropar & Kondak of Cross Veneration Sunday and all remaining Propers can be found on pp. 182-183. The *Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great*, with its special melodies, is served on the Sundays of Great Lent.

**EPISTLE:** Hebrews 4:14-5:6.                      **GOSPEL:** Mark 8:34-9:1.

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**SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

For the week of March 19, 2017:

**THIS AFTERNOON:**

- 3:00 PM: **Confessions** with Fr. Matthew Stagon.
- 4:00 PM: **MISSION SERVICE. Lenten Vespers** HERE followed by a lenten repast in our church hall.
- Mon., March 20:** (6:30 PM) **Moleben** to the Holy Cross. (*Confessions 5:30 — 6:15 PM and after.*)
- Wed., March 22:** (6:30 PM) **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.** *Please keep at least a 3-hour fast! (Confessions 5:30 — 6:15 PM and after.)*

**Fri., March 24:** (6:30 PM) Parastas with Panachida for the *4<sup>th</sup> All Souls' Saturday* with the *Reading of the Diptychs* of the Departed. (*Confessions 5:30 — 6:15 PM and after.*)

**NO Services or Confessions on Saturday, March 25.** Father Michael, Pan'i and other parishioners will be attending the *Diocesan Lenten Retreat* at Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church in Homestead, PA.

**Sunday of Saint John Climacus, March 26:**

8:15 AM: Matins.

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for the *Commemoration of Saint John of the Ladder (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent).* Antiphon "Bless the Lord, O my soul," on p. 8. and the Beatitudes. Tropar for Tone 7 on p. 99. Tropar & Kondak of Saint John Climacus and all remaining Propers can be found on pp. 183-184. The *Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great*, with its special melodies, is served on the Sundays of Great Lent.

5:00 PM: Lenten Mission Vespers at *Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church* in Steubenville, OH. (*Serbian Deanery.*)

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THE ETERNAL LAMP burns *in memory* of +Mary Harvilla With love from *Marie.*

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THE LEFT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Prothesis) burn with prayers for Laney & Anna Ross. Requested by *Laney & Cindi Ross.*

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THE RIGHT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Diakonikon) burn with prayers and best wishes for a *Happy Birthday* to Alexander. "May God grant you many more!" With love from *Mum, Papa, Mom, Uncle Eric & Juliana.*

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THE TETRAPOD LAMPS burn with prayers for *Special Intentions.* Requested by *Theresa Reese.*

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NO COFFEE HOUR TODAY. The church hall is set-up for the dinner after *today's Mission Service.* Please come back later for the Lenten dinner.

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YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE will be held *this Monday evening, March 20* at 7:00 PM. We will be going over *Lenten* and *Paschal* Hymns.

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DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT. The Central Region Lenten Retreat will be held *next Saturday, March 25, 2017* at *Saint Nicholas Church* in Homestead, PA. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board TODAY if you want to attend. Today is the last day to sign-up.

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THE PATRIARCHAL PENCE COLLECTION will be taken-up *next Sunday, March 26.* Please use the envelope in your offering box to assist the work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.

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THE NEXT LADIES' ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING will be held *next Sunday, March 26* after the Divine Services. The Ladies plan to hold their meetings on the last Sunday of each month.

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CEMETERY CLEAN-UP. It's time to remove all Christmas decorations from the graves of your loved ones at our parish cemetery. Please do not discard these items over the hillside. Either take them home, or dispose of them in the trash can provided for this purpose in the back of the cemetery. *Thank you for your cooperation!*

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LENTEN CONFESSIONS can be heard on Saturday afternoons from 5:00 til 5:45 PM; and again *after Vespers.* Confessions can also be heard from 5:30 PM til 6:15 PM before & immediately after most other evening Lenten services. Please don't wait til the last minute!

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EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES have been included with today's bulletin. Please use these envelopes if you wish to donate an Easter Flower (or Flowers) in memory of a departed loved one and/or with

prayers for the health & salvation of the living. Names and donors will be published in the Easter bulletin.  
**Donation: \$15.00 per flower.**

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COLERAIN TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP. The annual Colerain Township Clean-Up will take-place *next Saturday, March 25*, from *9 AM to 1 PM* at RST Excavating Garage on St. Route 250 (across from CR-14 Farmington Rd.) We will accept most household junk, appliances, TV's, house and lawn furniture, carpeting, electronics, toys, fixtures, mirrors, doors, household batteries, car batteries, etc. NO mattress or box springs, paints, ballasts, liquids, hazardous waste, food, diapers, concrete or blocks. Standard car tires will be taken (limit 10 per vehicle). No rim tires or large truck tires. For more information, call the JB Green Team at 740-296-5376; or the Colerain Township Garage at 740-695-5430. If you would like large items picked-up by the Township, call by March 21. Sponsored by your Township Trustees.

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**LOOKS GREAT!** Special thanks to **Bob Reese**, **Theresa Reese** and **David Bartyzel** for replacing the kitchen door and the restroom doors downstairs, and for installing some beautiful new trim around the downstairs. *Many Years and God bless!*

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BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH for a Lenten Service! This is a wonderful time to share your Faith! Our young people will get an **additional stamp** for their passports every time they bring a friend to church. The rest of us will be blessed by sharing the pearl of great price!

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**ORDERS for CHOCOLATE 3-BAR CROSSES** for your Easter Baskets from **Sarris Candies** are now being taken. Please submit your order to **Theresa Reese** by **phone at 740-695-5254**; or **text to 740-359-0646**.

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**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

**Saturday Vespers (3/11) — 7**  
**Sunday Divine Liturgy (3/12) — 82**

**Lenten Mission Vespers**  
in **Steubenville** (3/12) — **18 (of us.)**

**Moleben to Saint Nectarios (3/13) — 14**

**Presanctified Liturgy (3/15) — 36**

**Paraklis (3/17) — 10**

**3<sup>rd</sup> All Souls' Saturday Liturgy (3/18) — 12**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2017**

Please mark your calendars now!

**Saturday, April 1** — Baptism of *Eleanor Mae Susick*.

**Sunday, April 16** — PASCHA.

**Saturday, May 6** — First Confession Day.

**Sunday, May 14** — Mother's Day.

**Thursday, May 25** — Ascension.

**Sunday, May 28** — Church School Ends.

**Sunday, May 28** — Memorial Day Weekend and the Blessing of Graves.

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# The Third Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

## Introduction

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

## Historical background

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

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 and life-giving 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 must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. 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. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

# Icons of The Commemoration

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Veneration of the Cross on September 14. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.



1. The priest stands amongst the people holding the Cross.



2. At the foot of the cross are flowers.



3. Christ appears about the congregation extending His blessings.

he Cross.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

Another icon related to this feast depicts the actual service of veneration that is conducted in the churches on the Third Sunday of Lent. In the center of the icon is the Cross (1). It is on a table surrounded by flowers (2). Above the Cross is the image of Christ in a partial mandorla representing His glory (3). He is blessing those who have gathered to venerate the Cross, 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

## Orthodox Christian Commemoration of the Sunday of the Holy Cross

The Sunday of the Holy Cross is commemorated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, which is preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on Saturday evening. The hymns of the Triodion for this day are added to the usual prayers and hymns of the weekly commemoration of the Resurrection of Christ.

Scripture readings for the Sunday of Orthodoxy are: At the Orthros (Matins): The prescribed weekly Gospel reading. At the Divine Liturgy: [Hebrews 4:14-5:6](#); [Mark 8:34-9:1](#).

At the conclusion of the Matins (the traditional practice in association with a vigil) or of the Divine Liturgy, a special service is held. The Cross is placed on a tray surrounded by basil or daffodils and is taken in solemn procession through the church to the chanting of the Thrice Holy Hymn. The tray is placed on a table before the people, and the hymn of the Feast of the Cross is chanted. As the priest venerates the Cross, the priest then the people chant, “We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify.” At the conclusion of the service, the people come and venerate the cross and receive the flowers or basil from the priest.