

THE LADDER ^{of} Divine Ascent

Volume 9, Issue 7

The Newsletter of St. John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

March 2008

The Lenten Spring Has Come! Let us begin the Fast with Joy!

On Forgiveness Sunday...

Forgiveness—what does it mean to forgive? To forgive means never to avenge, neither secretly nor openly; never to recall wrongs but rather to forget them and, above all, to love your enemy as a friend, a brother, as a comrade; to protect his honor and to treat him right-mindedly in all things. This is what it means to forgive. And who agrees that this is not difficult? So, it is a hard matter to forgive wrongs, but he who can forgive wrongs is for this reason great—truly great, both before God and before man—Yes, it is a hard matter to forgive your enemies; though, it is necessary to forgive, otherwise God Himself will not forgive. Jesus Christ said: *If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you also your trespasses. But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses.* On the contrary to this, though you pray to God every hour, though you have such faith that you can move mountains, even though you give away all of your belongings to the needy, and give your body to be burned—if you do not practice forgiveness and do not wish to forgive your enemy, then all is in vain, for in such circumstances neither prayer, nor faith, nor charity, will save you, in short, nothing will save you.

But if it is needful to forgive our enemies, so likewise it is indispensable to ask also forgiveness of those people whom we have offended. Thus, if you have offended anyone by word, ask forgiveness of him, come and bow down at his feet and say, "Forgive me." Have you offended by deed? Endeavor to expiate your guilt and offenses and recompense his damage, then be certain that all of your sins, no matter how heavy they be, will be forgiven you.

Great Lent Begins with Forgiveness Vespers Sunday, March 9th

Forgiveness Vespers will served following the Coffee Fellowship (approximately 12:30 pm) on Sunday, March 9th. This is the first service of Great Lent. Forgiveness Vespers follows the order of Lenten Sunday Vespers but after the Great Prokeimenon, "Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!", the clergy exchange their bright vestments for dark and the choir begins to use distinctive lenten tones. After making the entrance into Lenten worship with the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations – we ask forgiveness from each other, participating in the rite of mutual forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.

An Evening Retreat with Fr Paul Tarazi

The Nicene Creed

'According to the Scriptures'

Friday, March 21st, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

6:00 pm Lecture I

7:15 pm Lenten Refreshments

7:45 pm Lecture II

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

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2008 Financial Update

	Income	Expenses
YTD thru Jan	\$11,654.81	\$11,616.83
January	\$11,654.81	\$11,616.83

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

--- Schedule of Services ---

March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
02 40th Sunday Sunday of the Last Judgment ('Meatfare') Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	03 meat fast	04 meat fast OCF at Furman University 7:00 pm	05 meat fast Confessions 4:30 – 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers 6:00 pm	06 meat fast OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm	07 meat fast	08 Choir Rehearsal 5:15 pm Confessions Great Vespers 6:00 pm
09 Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Brunch Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Forgiveness Vespers 12:30 pm	10 'Clean Monday' Beginning of Great Lent Canon of St Andrew of Crete 6:00 pm	11 No OCF at Furman University Canon of St Andrew of Crete 6:00 pm	12 Confessions 4:30 – 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:15 – 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Canon of St And	13 No OCF at Clemson University Canon of St Andrew of Crete 6:00 pm	14	15 Choir Rehearsal 5:15 pm Confessions Great Vespers 6:00 pm
16 1st Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy 9:30 am ***Vespers*** 5:00 pm	17	18 OCF at Furman University 7:00 pm Matins 7:00 am	19 Confessions 4:30 – 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:15 – 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm	20 No OCF at Clemson University **SpringBreak**	21 Evening Retreat Fr Paul Tarazi The Nicene Creed 6:00 pm	22 Confessions Great Vespers 6:00 pm
23 2nd Sunday of Great Lent Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	24 wine & oil Forefeast of Annunciation Vigil 6:00 pm	25 fish, wine, & oil Annunciation No OCF Vesperal Liturgy 6:00 pm	26 wine & oil Archangel Gabriel Confessions 4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm	27 OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm	28	29 Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy 8:00 am Confessions Vigil of the Cross 6:00 pm
30 3rd Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of the Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	31 wine & oil Repose of St Innocent of Alaska	<p style="text-align: center;">A Word from the Desert</p> <p>Someone asked Abba Anthony, "What must one do in order to please God?" The old man replied, "Pay attention to what I tell you: Whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes. Whatever you do, do it according to the testimony of the Holy Scriptures. In whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved."</p>				

Fellowship and Coffee Hour: Sundays immediately following Divine Liturgy

Church School: Sundays before Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays and Saturdays as scheduled, see times on calendar

Confessions: Saturdays immediately following Vespers, Wednesdays before Presanctified Liturgy, as scheduled above, and by appointment throughout Great Lent

“Out of labor comes health; out of sweat, salvation. Beware lest, from your wish to keep certain obligations, you break your obligations to God. Do not sink back. There is salvation, there is amendment. The doors are not yet shut; the Bridegroom hears. Make the effort. Jesus is merciful, the Kingdom is at hand.” --- *Saint Basil the Great*

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

~~~ Schedule of Services ~~~

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 <i>OCF at Furman University 7:00 pm Matins 7:00 am</i>	02 <i>wine & oil</i> <i>Confessions 4:30 – 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:15 – 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm</i>	03 <i>OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm</i>	04	05 <i>Confessions Great Vespers 6:00 pm</i>
06 <i>4th Sunday of Great Lent</i> <i>St John of the Ladder</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i>	07	08 <i>OCF at Furman University 7:00 pm</i>	09 <i>wine & oil</i> <i>Confessions 4:30 – 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:15 – 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm</i>	10 <i>wine & oil</i> <i>Matins with the Canon of St Andrew of Crete 7:00 am Clemson University OCF 7:00 pm</i>	11 <i>wine & oil</i>	12 <i>Pre-Pascha Spring Cleaning Day 8 am – 12 pm</i> <i>Confessions Great Vespers 6:00 pm</i>
13 <i>5th Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of the Venerable Mary of Egypt Charity Brunch</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i>	14	15 <i>OCF at Furman University 7:00 pm</i> <i>Matins 7:00 am</i>	16 <i>Confessions 4:30 – 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:15 – 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm</i>	17 <i>Palm Thursday</i> <i>OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm</i>	18 <i>Palm Friday</i> <i>End of Great Lent!</i> <i>Vespers 6:00 pm</i>	19 <i>Lazarus Saturday</i> <i>Choir Rehearsal 4 pm – 6 pm Confessions Vigil of the Palms 6:00 pm</i>
20 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Entry of the Lord</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i> <i>Beginning of Passion Week</i> <i>Bridegroom Matins approx 12:30 pm</i>	21 <i>Holy Monday</i> <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm</i> <i>Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm</i>	22 <i>Holy Tuesday</i> <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm</i> <i>Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm</i>	23 <i>Holy Wednesday</i> <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm</i> <i>Holy Thursday Matins 7:00 pm</i>	24 <i>Holy Thursday</i> <i>Hours and Vesperal Liturgy 3:00 pm</i> <i>Holy Supper</i> <i>Holy Friday Matins 7:00 pm</i>	25 <i>Holy Friday</i> <i>Royal Hours Noon</i> <i>Vespers 4:00 pm</i> <i>Holy Saturday Matins 7:00 pm</i>	26 <i>Holy Saturday</i> <i>Hours and Vesperal Liturgy 9:30 am</i> <i>(with Baptisms and Chrismations)</i> <i>Midnight Office 11:30 pm</i>
27 <i>Holy Pascha</i> <i>Resurrection of the Lord</i> <i>Matins/Liturgy Midnight (with Agape Meal)</i> <i>Paschal Vespers Noon (Easter Egg Hunt)</i>	28 <i>Bright Monday</i>	29 <i>Bright Tuesday</i> <i>OCF at Furman University 7:00 pm</i>	30 <i>Bright Wednesday</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 7:00 am</i> <i>Bright Week</i> <i>Vespers 6:00 pm</i>	01 <i>May</i> <i>Bright Thursday</i> <i>OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm</i>	02 <i>Bright Friday</i>	03 <i>Bright Saturday</i> <i>Great Vespers 6:00 pm</i>

Fellowship and Coffee Hour: Sundays immediately following Divine Liturgy

Church School: Sundays through May at 9:00 am (before Divine Liturgy)

Choir Rehearsal: Saturdays at 5:15 pm or as scheduled (see schedule above)

Confessions: Wed before Liturgy, Sat E evenings following Great Vespers as scheduled (or by appointment)

Abba Arsenius said, "I have often repented of having spoken,
but never of having been silent."

