

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CHEYENNE, WY

BULLETIN – February 26, 2017

Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church of Cheyenne, WY

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Sunday Services: Orthros – 8:30 am Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am



Holy Apostles Updates

Welcome Father Ambrose!

We welcome Father Ambrose back to Holy Apostles to celebrate Divine Liturgy! Please stay and enjoy fellowship today.

In addition to today, Father Ambrose will offer the Akathist Salutations on Friday, March 3 at 6:00 pm, Saturday of the Souls Liturgy on Saturday, March 4, Orthros and Divine Liturgy on March 5.

We will have the Compline service each Monday @ 5:15 pm beginning on February 27 through March 27. Please come so that we may all join in prayer as we go through our Lenten journey.

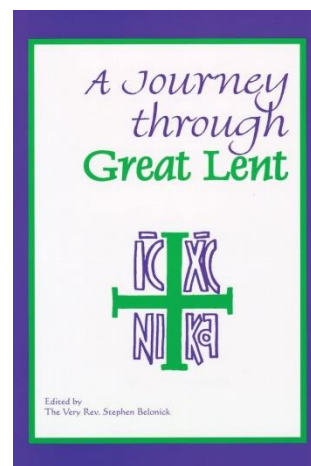
On Sundays which we do not have a visiting priest, Holy Apostles will have the Service of Typika beginning at 9:30 am. This is a service which is conducted when there is not a priest available for Liturgy. Please come light a candle, say a prayer, participate in this service, and enjoy fellowship.

Please check the webpage www.holyapostlescheyenne.com often for updates. Emails and texts will be sent with upcoming services and activities.

Announcements

Mark your calendar for the Lenten Retreat on April 1, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with Dan Christopulos as presenter. His presentation will be based on the book by Fr. Anthony Coniaris "Tools for Theosis, Becoming God-like in Christ." Registrations received prior to March 22 will have a reduced fee of \$25 per couple or \$15 per person. After March 22, the fee will be \$25 per person. Pick up your registration form in the fellowship hall or on our website.

A Journey through Great Lent



This book includes a daily meditation on the scripture reading for the day, verses from the hymns of the day, inspiring excerpts from the Church Fathers and a brief biography of the saint for the day. Holy Apostles Parish Council has received the blessing of Metropolitan Isaiah to

encourage members of our community to use this book for daily devotions during Lent of 2017. The goal is to help each parishioner in his or her Lenten journey during this time while we are without a priest. With each family using the same devotional, we can encourage one another with the common

messages that may touch our hearts. We encourage you to join in using this book. We are keeping the cost at \$5.00 a book per family and we currently have 7 books to sell. If you prefer to buy online, the only place that has it available at this time is orthodoxbookstore.org for \$12.95 and there may be shipping. If we sell out, we will place a group order.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. * For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. * He trampled death under foot by means of death; * and He became the firstborn from the dead. * From the maw of Hades He delivered us; * and He granted the world His great mercy.

Holy Apostles Apolytikion

O Holy Apostles, intercede with the Merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Seasonal Kontakion

O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You, give me a word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4.

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness

and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading

Forgiveness Sunday

The Reading is from Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

This Week at Holy Apostles

February 26 to March 5, 2017

Sunday, February 26

Forgiveness Sunday

8:30 AM Orthros - Fr. Ambrose

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Fr. Ambrose

1:00 PM GOYA Activity - Sledding

Monday, February 27

First Monday of Lent - Clean Monday

9:30 AM Clean Monday Retreat

5:15 PM Compline

Tuesday, February 28

7:00 AM Men's Group Breakfast @ Perkins

Wednesday, March 1

11:30 AM Assist @ St. Joseph's Food Pantry

Friday, March 3

6:00 PM Akathist Salutations

Saturday, March 4

Saturday of Souls

8:45 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Liturgy - Saturday of Souls

Sunday, March 5

Sunday of Orthodoxy

8:30 AM Orthros - Fr. Ambrose

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Fr. Ambrose

11:30 AM Fr. Ambrose Birthday Brunch

12:00 PM Parish Assembly

Saints and Feasts

February 26

Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by



actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

February 26

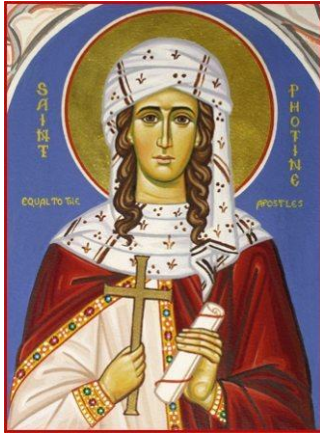
Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza

Saint Porphyrius had Thessalonica as his homeland. He became a monk in Scete of Egypt, where he lived for five years. He went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, after which he spent five years in much affliction in a cave near the Jordan. Stricken with a disease of the liver, he departed to Jerusalem, where he was ordained presbyter and appointed Keeper of the Cross at the age of 45. Three years later he was made Bishop of Gaza. He suffered much from the rulers and pagans of Gaza; but with the friendship of Saint John Chrysostom, and the patronage of the Empress Eudoxia, he razed the temple of the idol Marnas in Gaza and built a great church to the glory of God. He reposed in 450.

February 26

The Holy Great Martyr Photine, the Samaritan Women

Saint Photine was the Samaritan Woman who encountered Christ our Saviour at Jacob's Well (John 4:1-42). Afterwards she labored in the spread of the Gospel in various places, and finally received the crown of martyrdom in Rome with her two sons and five sisters, during the persecutions under the Emperor Nero.



February 27

Raphael of Brooklyn



Saint Raphael Hawaweeny was born on November 8th, 1860 A.D., in Damascus, Syria, to pious Christian parents. He studied Arabic grammar and mathematics at the Antiochian Patriarchate parochial school where he was tonsured a reader in 1874. His

strong academics served him well throughout his life, providing for him numerous opportunities to succeed and grow. He accepted a position in 1877 as an assistant teacher of Arabic and Turkish, which became full time in 1879. In 1889 he was tonsured a monk while working with Patriarch Hierotheos at the patriarchate, traveling with him on pastoral visits and serving as his personal assistant.

Longing to continue his theological studies, Raphael petitioned the Patriarch for permission to study at Halki Theological School, which was the only option for students of the Antiochian Patriarchate as the Balamand Seminary in Lebanon had been closed since 1840. After much persistence, Raphael received the blessing of the Patriarch and enrolled in Halki Seminary where he

was ordained a deacon in 1885. After completing his degree at Halki, the young Deacon Raphael studied at the Kiev Theological Academy, working as a liaison between the Moscow and Antiochian patriarchates. Deacon Raphael was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1889 while in Kiev, continuing to serve that community for many years.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 led to the subsequent collapse of the silk industry in the Middle East, causing many Syrians and others to immigrate to the United States. These new citizens desired to have their religion present in their new homeland and sent letters to their mother churches for pastoral help. A few priests were sent, but none lasted, and so the people asked for Father Raphael Hawaweeny to come to America and serve. Both the Antiochian and Moscow Patriarchs agreed to this idea, and Father Raphael left for America where the people greeted him with great love. Father Raphael then spent many years serving the Syrians in Brooklyn, New York, but he desired to scan the continent for Syrians and other Orthodox Christians who were without spiritual leadership. He traveled by train and carriage across the nation, finding Orthodox Christians, recording their location, and performing liturgies, baptisms, and weddings. Upon his return to Brooklyn, Father Raphael worked to find clergy to send to these dispersed communities, giving them a full time pastor to minister to their needs.

In 1909, by the hands of Bishops Tikhon and Innocent of the Moscow Patriarchate, he was the first bishop consecrated in the New World. The now Bishop Raphael continued his ministry to the Christians throughout America. Bishop Raphael worked tirelessly in Brooklyn to mediate disputes between the Orthodox Christians from Syria and Maronite Catholic Christians who often fought violently with one another. Despite numerous outbursts and setbacks, Bishop Raphael continued his ministry serving the Orthodox throughout his vast diocese. One such incident was when an influential leader of the Maronite group was killed and many people accused Bishop Raphael of ordering his murder. This led to many people attempting to harm the bishop, but he endured it all willingly. He was arrested under attempted

murder charges, but was eventually cleared and let go after much time and money was spent in his defense.

depend on you yourself, man. For without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation.
St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Unknown, 18th century

Throughout his time in North America, Bishop Raphael founded 36 parishes to bring the Church to the faithful who were without a priest to guide them. Bishop Raphael truly lived out Gospel in all aspects of his life, striving tirelessly for the people in his care, even to the point of sacrificing his own physical health in order to maintain the spiritual health of his people. Bishop Raphael died on February 27th, 1915, at his home in Brooklyn. His funeral was attended by hundreds of people, including clergy from all ethnic backgrounds, illustrating his love for all of the people of God regardless of where they came from. The sacred relics of Saint Raphael, “the good shepherd of the lost sheep in North America,” were first interred in a crypt beneath the holy table at his Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn on March 7th, 1915, before being moved to the Syrian section of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Brooklyn on April 2nd, 1922. They were finally translated to the Holy Resurrection Cemetery at the Antiochian Village near Ligonier, Pennsylvania, on August 15th, 1988. His sanctity was officially proclaimed by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America on March 29th, 2000, and his glorification was celebrated on May 29th of that year at the Monastery of Saint Tikhon in Pennsylvania.

Wisdom of the Fathers

Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. . . We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family.
His Grace Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia 20th Century

Do we forgive our neighbors their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbors, so also does God treat us. The forgiveness, then, of your sins or unforgiveness, and hence also your salvation or destruction,