

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH - TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY- Orthodox Sunday Mission Vespers will be held at St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church, 4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit. All Mission Services will begin at 6:00 p.m. Fr. Timothy asks that parents consider taking their children to this very important service with the Procession of Icons by many priests. It has become a local tradition, children and college students from area parishes are encouraged to bring an icon and be part of the Procession of Icons that highlights the Sunday of Orthodoxy service.

CHURCH CLEANING: We are looking for volunteers to help clean the church during the end of Great Lent, probably before April 14th, the 5th Sunday of Lent and the Communion Breakfast. We want the church to be clean and sparkling. All are welcome to come and clean. You don't have to be a member of the Myrrh bearing Sisterhood or on the Church Council. Come and clean the church for the LORD! The more that come, the faster we can finish! Please see Fr. Timothy or Matushka Sherry if you can come clean. We will set a time and date for all to come. Thank You.

FLOWERS FOR THE HOLY PRECIOUS CROSS: Anyone who would like to donate towards flowers to beautify the *Holy Precious Cross* for **SUNDAY, MARCH 31st**, please fill out an envelope found in the pews and mark it:
Flowers for the Cross! Thank You.

COMMUNION BREAKFAST – 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT – APRIL 14TH. Once again we will have our Annual Communion Breakfast, which will celebrate some of our Sunday School children's first confessions. As in the past, I'm sure we will have a great turnout to support our Sunday School teachers, our children, and their families. Please mark this date on your calendar.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT LENT:

It is possible for one who fasts not to be rewarded for his fasting. How? When, we abstain from foods, but do not abstain from iniquities, When we do not eat meat, but gnaw to pieces the homes of the poor, When we do not become drunkards with wine, but become drunkards with evil pleasures, When we abstain all the day, but we spend all the night in profane entertainment. Then what is the benefit of abstention from foods, when on the one hand you deprive your body of a selected food, but on the other, offer yourself unlawful pleasure? **St. John Chrysostom**

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION: This is one of the seven holy "Mysteries" of the church, e.g. Baptism, Eucharist, etc. It is also called the sacrament of Repentance, from the Greek word *metanoia*, a change, a turning around of our heart, mind and will. The Lord instituted this mystery when He conveyed His own Priesthood upon the bishops and priests of the Church, through His Holy Apostles. He breathed on them and said, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*" (John 20:22-23) While confessing frequently throughout the year, the faithful are to do so, especially, during Great Lent!

CATHEDRATICUM ASSESSMENT:

As part of the Patriarchal Parishes in the United States, we have always been assessed a fee by the vicarate. The current assessment is \$50.00 for each member of St. Michael's. This is an obligation in support of the Bishop, the cathedral in New York, and the patriarchal parishes operating expenses. Members of St. Michael's will find quarterly envelopes in their envelope box labeled "Donation for Patriarchal Parishes Assessment". These are to be used for donations toward this assessment. *We would also like members who do not wish to use envelopes to be aware of this expense of St. Michael's.* We are asking you to please use your envelope or make a donation towards this obligation of our church. At this time St. Michael's has 86 members, times \$50, which equals a total of \$4300 that we are assessed for the year of 2019.

MEMBERS: Just a reminder. To be a member of St. Michael's it is your obligation to pay you annual membership dues and also to partake of Holy Communion, at least on a yearly basis. If you have not paid your dues for 2018 – we ask you to please do so now. **Dues are \$50.00 for a family and \$30.00 for a single person for 2018!** It is important that you be sure to meet both of these obligations of St. Michael's so we may consider you a member. **Dues for 2019 are also payable now.**

DUES: FYI – the dues for the year 2019 have been raised to \$50.00 for an individual and \$75.00 for a family. This was voted on at last year's annual meeting on Sunday, February 3, 2019.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – In order to formulate a new church directory, we are asking every member to please fill out a form which is available in the vestibule at the candle stand. Place your form in the box provided. The forms will be available until April 1st. Please PRINT legibly when you are filling out the form.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – The next scheduled council meeting is, **SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, 2019**, following Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. Please, all council members, make every effort to attend.

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY: the day on which we acquire the power to make our fasting – true fasting; our effort --true effort; our reconciliation with God – true reconciliation. (Father Alexander Schmemmann)