

Great Lenten Spiritual Discussions 2014

Each year our parish holds a spiritual discussion on each Sunday of Great Lent. Each Sunday has its own special meaning and all Orthodox Christians try to visit the church especially on these Sundays of Great Lent. After each lecture a question and answer period and discussion will be held. Please join us for this popular series and please feel free to invite a friend!

Translations are available for those in need ~ Желаящим предлагается перевод

Schedule

Sunday, March 9 – The Sunday of Orthodoxy

Robert (Nicholas) Fish: "Orthodox Fasting in a Calvinist World"

Nicholas is a former Presbyterian, father of five (soon to be six), and a DMin classmate of Fr Gregory Joyce. He lives in Indiana and works in ministry formation for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Nicholas will discuss Orthodox fasting from the point of view of those living in the west.

Sunday, March 16 – Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Olhovsky: "The History of the Kursk Root Icon"

On this day the Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God will visit St. Vladimir's. The icon's guardian, Priest Nicholas Olhovsky, will discuss the history of this miracle-working icon.

Thursday, March 20 – Special non-Sunday Lecture!

Andrei Desnitsky "The Bible in the Life of Orthodox Christians Today"

A well-known Biblical scholar, translator, journalist and writer, Dr. Andrei Desnitsky has served as a research fellow at the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences since 1994, and has worked with the Institute for Bible Translation since 1999, consulting translation projects into the languages of the former Soviet Union. The author of several books and more than 50 scholarly papers on biblical topics, he also gives lectures in related subjects. Website (Russian): www.desnitsky.ru

Sunday, March 23 – Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

Fr. Gregory Joyce: "Prayer – How We Grow and Care for Our Relationship with God"

Three is somehow and inexplicably an assumption that we know how to pray innately. Perhaps in past generations, when Orthodox communities were geographically closer together and children were exposed to the prayer lives of their parents and grandparents on a regular basis this was a safe assumption. Not so today! We will discuss how to pray, when to pray, why to pray, as well as practical tips in this regard.

Sunday, March 30 – Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

Dr. Paul Arnold, Spiritual Care Coordinator, Arbor Hospice: "End of Life Issues"

Too often we put off decisions about the end of life until it is too late. It is not that Orthodox Christians are guiltier of this than others, however, we present this lecture to help raise the profile of this important issue and with the hopes that our parish family will become very proactive in this regard. Spiritual discussion led by Fr. Gregory and Fr. Michael to follow the lecture.

Sunday, April 6 – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

Alexander Cooley: "When and Why are we Losing our Youth?"

Alexander is a recent graduate of the Pastoral School of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America. This lecture is a synopsis of his thesis that youth do not lose their faith in college as a rule. The Church deploys a lot of resources assuming that college is the critical time for youth persistence in Church life. Alexander argues this assumption needs to be re-evaluated.

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

John Hill: "Russian Traditional Beliefs and Practices for Lent and Spring"

This lecture will examine "folk" beliefs and practices that are common at this time of year, their origins, and how these can or cannot be a part of our lives as Orthodox Christians. An interesting note on which to enter Holy Week most certainly!