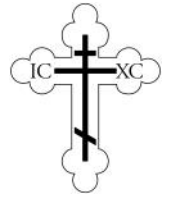




ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER FOR WEEK OF APRIL 17, 2005

Remember: ask off for Pascha—midnight of Sat. Apr. 30 into Sun. May 1, 2005.

Orthodox Easter, that is, *Pascha*, is May 1 this year (May 1 civil date). This Sun., Apr. 17, we keep in honour of St. Mary of Egypt. Next Sun. is Palm Sun., then the Sun. after that, May 1, is Pascha. The Holy Week schedule is in formation; services will be shorter this year because they are not full priest's services. In Holy Week there are additional scripture readings. Please let Fr. Aidan know if you wish to help with the readings. For Pascha we will gather at an established Orthodox Church; I would like to suggest for us a picnic and Easter egg hunt later on that afternoon, in an area park. Those of you who live on the south side probably know the best place for us to go.

Lenten Fast. During Great Lent each day is a fasting day like a Wednesday or Friday, *except* that on Saturday and Sunday oil and wine are allowed. On Palm Sunday, (1 week away), fish is allowed.

Church date civil date

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Apr. 17 / Apr. 4	5th Sunday in Lent	<i>Fast, OW*</i>	St. Mary of Egypt. Hours & Typika 10 am.
Apr. 18 / Apr. 5	Monday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	St. Zosimas, abbot, who met St. Mary of Egypt.
Apr. 19 / Apr. 6	Tuesday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	St. Methodius, enlightener of the Slavs.
Apr. 20 / Apr. 7	Wednesday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	St. Nilus, abbot of Sora.
Apr. 21 / Apr. 8	Thursday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	Spanish Icon of the Theotokos.
Apr. 22 / Apr. 9	Friday in Lent	<i>Fast</i>	Newly-revealed martyrs Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene.
Apr. 23 / Apr. 10	Saturday in Lent	<i>Fast, OW**</i>	Sat. of Lazarus' Resurrection.

* *OW* means that oil and wine are allowed on this day. **On Lazarus Sat. caviar is allowed.

YOU MIGHT BE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX IF by "Dmitri Letterman"

- On Wednesdays and Fridays you eat Japanese food.
- You're used to skipping breakfast on Sundays.
- You can automatically subtract 13 days from today's date.
- You wonder why the Pope crosses himself backward when you see him on TV.
- You wear comfortable shoes to church, because you know you will be standing a *loooong* time.
- You get great deals on Christmas gifts, since you give them in January.
- You spend time figuring out the best way to remove smoke stains from your ceiling.
- When you see a shopping-mall Santa, your first instinct is to hold out your hands to get his blessing.

Runners-Up

- Before you pray, you say a prayer.
- You don't flinch when someone throws water at you.
- When you first tell people what religion you are, at first they think you're Jewish.
- You're experienced at removing wax from clothing.

- The service routinely starts 15 minutes late and lasts for two hours, and nobody around you complains.
- When the priest sings, “Let us complete our prayer to the Lord,” you have at least a half hour yet to go.
- At the end of Holy Week, you have rug burns on your forehead.

NEWS FROM FATHER

Bishop’s Visit—Details. Bishop Peter (of Cleveland, administrator for the Chicago Diocese), will arrive in Austin Tuesday, Apr. 19, early in the morning, with the wonder-working Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God. That morning, about 8:00, he will begin driving to Mercury, Texas, to strengthen the small community there and bring them the solace of the Mother of God. About 2 p.m., Vladika will begin driving back to Austin, where he should arrive by 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. that same day, Vladika will bring the wonder-working Icon to our church at 4315 S. 1st St., Suite F. Before the Icon we will sing an akathist—a 30-minute service of prayer. Afterwards, we will serve Vladika supper at an area restaurant (all are invited to come and speak with Bp. Peter). The next day, he will bring the wonder-working Icon to Holy Protection (our Russian-language sister parish in Austin), then return to Chicago on Thurs., Apr. 21.

Outline of Bp. Peter’s Visit to Our Church—

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|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. reception of the Bishop with
bread & salt | 2. welcome address by the starosta | 4. giving of a gift to Vladika |
| | 3. akathist sung before the Icon | 5. supper with Vladika |

Developments in the Birth of our Church. Much has happened this past week. Foremost, the name of the church was legally changed to All-Merciful Savior Orthodox Church, a name approved by Bp. Peter. Also:

- The storefront at 4315 S. 1st St., Suite F, became our new church. A six-month lease was signed on Friday.
- Our church now has a website: www.allmercifulsavior.com (I also reserved [allmercifulsavior .net](http://allmercifulsavior.net), [.org](http://allmercifulsavior.org), and [.info](http://allmercifulsavior.info)).
- I made reservations for Bp. Peter’s accommodations in Austin this week (Vladika is paying, but I reserved the room).
- Our new church censer arrived from Bulgaria. It has figures of Angels on it and it is set with red stones.
- I received word that there will be additional donations to our church from former fellow-parishioners who now live out of state, or who are now attending at Transfiguration or Holy Theotokos. Let us be grateful to God and our donors.

HELP US

For Bp. Peter’s visit, someone needs to buy a loaf of bread and someone needs to make reservations at an area restaurant (that serves vegan food) for 8:15 pm. We have some flowers, but additional flowers for near the Icon would be good. Raphael Flores is helping Fr. Aidan finish the icon stand on which the Mother of God will be placed, as well as one candle stand for lighting candles to Our Lady. If we had more help, we could probably make two candle-stands. We need help finding the studs in the walls so we can nail up a vestment hanger. Also, there is a need for bookshelves in the sanctuary.

SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45

Mon. Isaias 48:17-49:4; Genesis 27:1-21;
Proverbs 19:16-25

Tue. Isaias 49:6-10; Genesis 31:3-16; Proverbs 21:3-21

Wed. Is. 58:1-11; Gen. 43:26-31, 45:1-16; Prov. 21:23-22:4

Thu. Isaias 65:8-16; Genesis 46:1-7; Proverbs 23:15-24:5

Fri. Isaias 66:10-24; Genesis 49:33-50:26; Proverbs 31:8-32

Sat. Hebrews 12:28-18:8; John 11:1-45

ON THE WEB & ON THE STREET

Russian Orthodox Church Abroad: www.rocor.org

Diocese of Chicago & Detroit: www.chicagodocese.org

Holy Protection Orthodox Church, 5309 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX 78756 (this church has no priest at the moment)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 3617 Abrams Rd., Dallas, TX: www.orthodox.net (priest is Fr. Seraphim Holland)

Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring Orthodox Mission, Bryan/College Station, Texas (priest is Fr. Cassian Sibley)

St. Jonah Church, 2530 Old Louetta Loop, Ste 113, Spring, TX (Houston): www.saintjonah.org (priest is Fr. John Whiteford)

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, 24 Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX: pictures at www.saintjonah.org. (priest is Fr. Ljubomir Kupec)