

**ST. MARY'S  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**VERY REV. RICHARD I. LAMBERT**

356 S. BelleVista Ave.

Youngstown, Ohio 44509

Rectory 330-799-8163

Social Center 330-792-157

Feb .18, 2024

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

SAT. 4:30 p.m. +Tom Hritz by Patty & Dave Ragan  
SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

MON. 10:30 a.m. Lenten Hours

TUE. 10:30 a.m. No Service

WED. 10:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy  
+Edward Kohl by Wife, Rose

THU. 10:30 a.m. No Service

FRI. 10:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy ....All Souls Commemoration



**SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

Feb. 25, 2024

SAT. 4:30 p.m. +John Haydu by Daughter, Nancy & Family Page 152, 222  
SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

*We bow before your sacred image, O Gracious Lord and beg for forgiveness for our offenses, O Christ our God; for You, of Your own good will, ascended the cross in Your human nature to deliver from the enemy's bondage those whom You created. Therefore, we gratefully cry out to You: By Your coming to save the world, O Savior, You have filled all with joy.*

**CHURCH DONATIONS Feb. 11, 2024**

**Monthly Dues \$ 22.00 Lenten. \$60.00**

**Candles \$ 61.00**

**Offertory..... \$ 1,045.00**

### **SOCIAL GAMES**

Are played every Sunday in our Center...Doors open 4:30 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. We offer GREAT prizes .... Come and join in the FUN.....and you might be one of the LUCKY ONES that walks out with some XTRA Cash in your pocket.

### **ST. BRENDAN FISH FRY**

Will be held every Friday during Lent, Feb. 16th thru March 22.

Drive thru only. Lunch 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. \$ 9.00. Dinner \$15.00  
11:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. Call 330 799 3683.

### **LENTEN FUND RAISER FOR OUR SISTERS**

We will once again be asking for donations throughout Lent for our Sisters at St. Mt Macrina. There will be envelopes at both entrances.

### **THE CALL OF THE CROSS**

The call of the Cross is something more than lip service. Hot tempers must be tamed with understanding. Deceitfulness must be converted to complete honesty. Our selfishness must be forgotten to thoughtfulness. And our fretfulness will become quietness. The discipline of the Cross combines freedom with power.

### **PRESANCTIFIED BOOKS**

Will be in the vestibule and side entrance. Please get one when entering the Church and return them on your way out.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

*By nature You are beyond measure, O Lord; yet in these last times You deigned to accept the limitations of the flesh. By your incarnation You assumed all aspects of our human nature. We now inscribe the image of your likeness so that we might worthily venerate it, and that we might be raised up to your love from which we drew your great mercy, according to the tradition of your holy Apostles.*

Today is the first Sunday of the Great Fast, The Sunday of Holy Images. It is a time for the Divine Liturgy to begin. I rise as the liturgy begins and bow to venerate the Holy Icons of Christ the Teacher and the Holy Theotokos as the priest incenses them. I ponder; Christ is central to these icons. Next, I bow my head as, I too, am incensed ....as a holy image. But, am I really worthy to receive this honor?

You, O God, have created me to your image but what have I done and what am I doing to become your likeness? Is Christ central to my life? Is Christ evident in both my public and private lives, my thoughts, my words, my actions?

As I gaze upon the holy Image of Christ the Teacher, its spirituality, its holiness, the radiance of peace and love captivate me. Whenever I come before this Icon, Christ is always blessing me. My heart can be filled with joy, my shoulders heavy with burdens, my eyes filled with tears, my soul burning with love...at all times Jesus is loving and blessing me.

What do others see when they look at me, when they really come to know me? Do they see an image of God, a likeness of Christ always ready and willing to be open to others? Do I rejoice with them, share their burdens, wipe their tears and be of service, through my love of God?

To write an icon, an iconographer prepares mentally and spiritually through prayer and fasting to transform an earthly canvas into a heavenly image.

During this Great Fast, through prayer, fasting, spiritual reading, reflection and good works, I, too, can transform my earthly canvas into a heavenly image...reflecting Christ as central in my life, worthy to be incensed.

As God sent His Son to become man, accepting the limitations of the flesh and assuming all aspects of our human nature, so, too, God invites all mankind to prevail over those limitations of the flesh and human nature and to become Godlike.

*Create in my a new heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. From temptation, sin and evil, spare me, O Lord, and raise me up to your love from which we draw your great mercy.*

## LENT....FASTING AND FEASTING

Tradition teaches us to fast during Lent, but because we are being prepared for Pascha, the victory of life over death, we need also to *FEAST* on the Life God offers as we seek to deepen His life within us. It is appropriate then to *FAST & FEAST*. Consider this: *FAST* from harsh or mean words. *FEAST* on patience. *FAST* from worry. *FEAST* on God's love and care. *FAST* from sadness and depression. *FEAST* on joy and peace of mind. *FAST* from complaining. *FEAST* on appreciation and gratitude. *FAST* from bitterness. *FEAST* on forgiveness. *FAST* from resentment. *FEAST* on acceptance. *FAST* from jealousy. *FEAST* on being yourself. *FAST* from self-centeredness. *FEAST* on compassion for others. *FAST* from excess. *FEAST* on moderation. *FAST* from apathy. *FEAST* on caring. *FAST* from discouragement. *FEAST* on hope. *FAST* from judging others. *FEAST* on finding Christ in them.