



The Vigil Light of St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church



THE KANDILI

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Greenwood Village, CO 80111
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OFFICE HOURS: 9 am - 5 pm

Fr. Louis J. Christopoulos,
Protopresbyter
Fr. Paul Fedec, Archpriest
Fr. Andrew Kearns Presbyter

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FEBRUARY 2012

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER LOU Prayer



"What we must start with, if we wish to pray, is the certainty that we are sinners in need of salvation, that we are cut off from God and that we cannot live without Him, and that all we can offer God is our desperate longing to be made such that God will receive us,

receive us in repentance, receive us in mercy and with love." (+Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, *Beginning to Pray*, pg. 31)

It is hard to believe, but the annual great period of the Triodion is just about to begin (February 5). It of course includes: the four pre-Lenten Sundays; Great Lent; and Holy Week. With a general theme of Repentance the "three legged stool" of Great Lent is: PRAYER, FASTING and CHARITY. Allow me to focus this month on PRAYER while I will touch upon FASTING and CHARITY in the next month's Kandili.

Our Tuesday morning Men's Spiritual Discussion is reading Metropolitan Anthony Bloom's (of blessed memory) classic book, Beginning to Pray. Prayer above all is an encounter with God. Our heightened focus in Great Lent on prayer provides us with an invitation, an encouragement and a challenge to a more meaningful and deeper relationship with God through more and deeper personal and communal prayer.

The quotation beginning this article by Metropolitan Anthony suggests the proper attitude for our beginning to pray, for our approach to God. We are imperfect. We whether unintentionally or intentionally "miss the mark." We sin and therefore we are sinners. Prayer includes a desperate longing to nevertheless connect with God, to desire His grace and presence, His Salvation. Prayer includes a fervent desire that God will receive us even in the midst of our unworthiness, in mercy and with love.

Two of his main points for prayer are:

1. God allows us to experience a feeling of His absence. Although He is not truly absent, we may perceive that He is, and thus have a deep desire to connect or reconnect

with God. Upon further examination, the "absence" may be more about us being absent from God than God being absent from us. In either case, desire to be with God is paramount to prayer. Prayer is about relationship with God and God with us. Both God and we are free in this relationship to be present or absent. Often we feel that we can call God at our whim and that He must respond. If that were the case, where is God's freedom? When we perceive God's absence it teaches us of our own limitations, that we are not in control of God. If we were, God would cease to be God, and rather might be someone or something we have created. (pg 25) This leads us to the second important point:

2. Humility - God is above us, greater than us. Our humble approach to God in prayer involves an attitude that we are "outside" of His presence. He references the Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee (Lk. 18:10-14). The Publican's prayer was heard because he was totally honest in his prayer, seeing himself unworthy and perceiving that he was "outside" of God's Presence. He did not even enter the Sanctuary of the Temple but remained at the back, out of shame not raising his eyes, beating his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." (Lk 18:13) (Pg 32-3). We think of prayer all too often as an intellectual exercise of petitions and requests for various things. Prayer is about worship, love and interpersonal relationship - God with us and we with God. It's importance especially during this annual period involves a reminder of God's love and mercy for us and an invitation to honest, deep, personal and communal relationship with our Loving Lord.

May we desperately long to be received by our Loving Lord in our repentance with His mercy and love.

Have a blessed Great Lent

With our Lord's blessings, Father Lou



AXIOS!

We congratulate Father Andrew on his ordination to the Holy Priesthood on January 21, 2012. God grant him, Presbytera Brittany, Dimitrios and Damian many years in faithful ministry. Axios!

Please see calendar for the 40-day Liturgies Father Andrew will serve following his ordination.

GREAT LENT SERVICES AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Special Services

- **Forgiveness Sunday Vespers:** February 26 at 5pm
- **Clean Monday Retreat:** February 27 - 10am - 3:15 pm
- **Great Compline Services:** Mondays - March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2 at 4pm
- **Pre-Sanctified Liturgies:** Wednesdays at 6pm (followed by a Lenten Supper): February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4, March 9 at 9am and March 21 at 10am
- **Saturday, March 24:** Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation 5pm
- **Friday Night Salutations (Akathist Hymn):** March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 6pm
- **Friday, April 6:** Community Compline & Kiss of Forgiveness at 6pm followed by Lenten Supper and Making of the Palms
- **Saturday, April 16:** Saturday of Lazarus: Divine Liturgy at 9am, followed by a Lenten Breakfast and Church cleaning/ decoration.

Sunday – Pan-Orthodox Vespers

- On the Sundays of Lent at 5 pm. A schedule of the surrounding area Orthodox Churches hosting the pan-orthodox vespers will be provided soon.

Sacrament of Repentance (Confession)

- Throughout Lent and Holy Week as scheduled (refer to the church calendar for dates and times that may be scheduled with Fr. Lou, and Fr. Paul). **Appointments are necessary to schedule confessions during the times available on the calendar. Other times are also available through appointment. Please contact helen@stcatherinechurch.org**

Retreats

- **Clean Monday Retreat** – Monday, February 27 “Transforming our Lives in Christ”. Our guest speaker will be Fr. Evan Armatas. More details on page 4.
- **Pan Orthodox Lenten Retreat** – Saturday, March 10 at Saint Luke’s Church from 9:30-5pm followed by Vespers. “Renewing the Apostolic Vision” with Anastasia Pamela Barksdale, M.Div., OCMC Missionary Albania.
- Saturday, March 31 - All day Lenten Retreat “One Thing is Needful” at St. John Chrysostom Parish in Golden, CO led by Fr. Chatfield from 10am –5pm.

GOYA Retreats

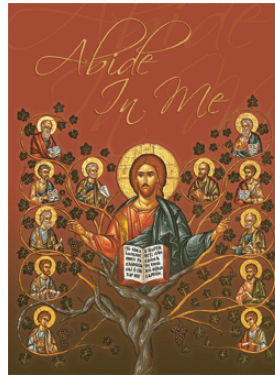
- February 24 - Senior GOYA Pre-Lenten Friday overnight Retreat at Saint Catherine. For more info. Please contact Father Andrew at FrAndrew@stcatherinechurch.org

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Dr. Bill White Stewardship Chairman

What a privilege to be asked not only to be on St. Catherine Parish Council, but to be Stewardship Chairman as well.



Please think of me as your humble servant and please let me know how best to serve you as a council member and as Stewardship Chair.

I think my main responsibility as Stewardship Chair is to be a cheerleader and encourage all to participate as important members of the Body of Christ to donate to the best of your abilities your talents, time and treasure to support our beautiful Church. And

our Church is uniquely beautiful! I have visited many Orthodox Churches during the past few years in several states, and no Church I know of, has the warmth and special feel of home as does St. Catherine.

I humbly thank all of you who have supported our Church during the past several years not only financially and in your ministry activities, but also in your warm friendship and love towards one another which is so evident at St. Catherine.

I thank all of you who have signed up as Stewards for 2012.

I pray for a blessed year for us all and I thank all of you for being such important members of the Body of Christ and important members of St. Catherine Church.

2011 Stewardship Update

The total amount pledged for 2011 was \$727,210 and as of December 31, 2011 we have received \$745,344.93. The steward count for 2011 was 378 which included 23 youth.

Thank you all for your faithfulness to our Lord and His Church!

2012 Stewardship Update

As of January 25, 2012 we have received 241 stewardship cards (including 16 youth) for a total pledge of \$580,344 and \$44,285 has been received year-to-date.

As a humble reminder to those generous stewards who have not yet filled out their pledge cards for 2012, please consider doing so as soon as possible which will greatly assist the parish council members in finalizing the St. Catherine Church budget for 2012.

Thank all of you again for being such important Members of the Body of Christ!

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the newly elected Parish Council members for 2012 who join existing council members. Officers and PC members for 2012 are: George Soulis (President), Stacey Gallanis (1st VP - Fellowship), Dr. Bill White (2nd VP - Stewardship), Clemence Lubar (Secretary), Maurice Nissim (Treasurer), Mimi Bouzarelos, Alex Armatas, Michael Colburn, Cathy Huft, Steve Koundourakis, George Maniatis, Amory Neal, Michael A. Pappas, Mark Terry and Scott Theodore. God’s grace be with

the new council! We thank the outgoing council members for their faithful service. They are: Chris Economos (President), Craig Finch (Secretary), Bill Evans (2nd Vice President), Billy Halax, George Kavas and Tom Kopanos. God's blessings be with them!

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DEBT REDUCTION

The 2011 Parish Council decided to reduce our Mortgage Principal by paying an additional \$75,000 at year's end. With our regular monthly principal reduction payments, the total Principal reduction in 2011 was \$112, 439. Our mortgage at year's end was \$2,971,700. We are grateful to the stewards of Saint Catherine who made this further reduction possible.

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OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS CONTINUES IN 2012 WITH THE THEME *Abide In Me - "I am the vine; you are the branches."*

CHURCH SCHOOL for ALL youth will continue on SUNDAYS ONLY, through May 13 (last day of class) with no classes on March 25 (spring break), April 8 (Palm Sunday) and April 15 (Pascha). On May 20 our teachers and students will be honored.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

- 8:15am Orthros, 9:20am Doxology, 9:30am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 – 11:30am Church School for Youth - Teachers and Youth leave after Holy Communion, (Sermonette for Youth after Gospel Reading).
- Coffee Hour (Church School will dismiss and Youth will meet adults shortly after Coffee Hour Begins)

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT will include:

- 5:00pm Supplication Service, 5:35pm Dinner (Bring your own), 6:00 - 7:00pm Adult Classes
- Childcare available – please RSVP to Alina at 303-773-3411 ext. 100 so that we can provide the appropriate number of babysitters.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- **Tuesday Men's Spiritual Discussion Group** with Father Lou from 7-8am
- **Tuesday Women's Spiritual Discussion** with Diakonissa Brittany through February 21 from 10:30-11:30am
- **Wednesday night classes** through February 22. The classes are:

1. Bible Study - The Epistles of Saint John - taught by Father Lou
2. Journey through Great Lent (The Theology of the Lenten Weeks) - taught by Father Andrew

**Saint Catherine Parish
Saint John Chrysostom
Oratorical Festival February 12, 2012**



Informational packets and registration forms will be handed out in church school and at GOYA events. Registration information is also available from the church office. Contact Helen Kretzmann at 303-773-3411 ext. 106 or Helen@StCatherineChurch.org

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OCMC CORNER

**Michael Colburn, OCMC Parish Ambassador
Missionary Spotlight
Ms. Anastasia Pamela Barksdale, MDiv**



God willing, next month, long-term OCMC missionary Anastasia Barksdale will be visiting the Denver area. She is a 1986 graduate of Hellenic College and a 1989 graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. While at Holy Cross, Anastasia became active in the leadership of the campus Missions Committee,

developing a commitment to share the love of Christ with others. Her commitment was fueled by participating in Orthodox Mission teams to Africa, the Ukraine, and Albania. She has remained fervent in actively supporting the life of the Church in areas of administration, women's ministry, Christian Education and missions. Anastasia has been serving for the past four years in Tirana, Albania. She is currently in the US to meet with her prayer and financial support team, both individuals and parishes, and to raise support for a third 2-year term in Albania. She teaches Christian Education at the Resurrection of Christ Theological Academy at Shen Vlash Monastery and assists in various other ministries, including catechism classes, summer youth camps, and translation projects.

The effect of communist rule on Albania was devastating. For many years, OCMC has been working under Archbishop Anastasios to reestablish and strengthen the Orthodox Church there. No matter what type of work OCMC missionaries do, the aim is to touch lives through the grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit—whether to help people come to know our Lord and Savior or to grow in spiritual maturity. Here is the story of one such person, told by Anastasia:

“Gabriela is from a non-practicing Muslim family. Her father is Muslim, but her mother's family was Orthodox before the communists took over Albania. Gabriela was first introduced to Orthodoxy when she studied Greek as a young child with a

missionary who came from Greece (and later became a nun, Sister Thekla). In addition to Greek classes, Gabriela went with the other children to catechism classes to learn about God. One summer she was invited to attend an Orthodox summer camp for girls at St. John Vladimir Monastery. She told me that the experience changed her life. She called her parents and asked permission to be baptized, and they agreed. The experience of the services, the prayers, the fellowship, everything spoke to her soul and, although she confesses she didn't understand many things at the time, she embraced the Orthodox faith with her whole heart. It was then that she first had the thought to go to the Theological Academy, but she kept this to herself.

When she returned home, her parents were really concerned that something strange had happened to their daughter. Her life revolved around going to Church. They thought that she was behaving differently from other children, but eventually they saw that she was still a good daughter, a good student, and so they allowed her to continue. Then Bishop Ilia, the Dean of the Seminary, came to Gjirokaster to make a presentation at her high school regarding the Academy; it was then that she told her parents of her hope to study theology. She was a good student, proficient in Greek and English, with very good grades, so her parents expected her, at the very least, to go to the University of Gjirokaster. Gabriela said it was a really big fight! She refused to take the entrance exam for any school or university except the Academy at Shen Vlash.

Her determination won out. It is amazing that, by the Grace of God, this determined young woman was able to convince her parents to permit her to follow her heart on a path that was completely foreign to them. She believes that it may be because of the deeply engrained cultural value of *toleranca fetar*, religious tolerance, that her parents allowed her to choose to follow Christ."

Next month, we will have three opportunities, God willing, to hear from Anastasia in person. On Saturday, March 9, she will hold a missions retreat at St Luke's in Erie, CO. The retreat will focus on the vision and missiology of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios as outlined in his book, *Mission in Christ's Way*. On Sunday, March 10, Anastasia Pamela will join us at St Catherine's for Divine Liturgy and speak to us about her work in Albania. God willing, she will also speak at the Pan-Orthodox Vespers that evening. Please pray for Anastasia as she travels throughout the US that she will have safety and God's grace as she speaks, and that she will raise the necessary financial support to return for her third term in Albania with OCMC.

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**OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM
PHILANTHROPIC GIVING FUND**

Dino Bardossas - Outreach and Evangelism Chairman

To further the Outreach and Evangelism ministry of St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church, the Philanthropic Giving

Fund sets aside a portion of the church's annual operating budget for donations to worthy non-profit organizations that serve the Denver metro area communities on the basis of Matthew 25:34-36. Established in 1999, it has since then, under the direction of both the Parish Council and Outreach and Evangelism ministry, donated close to \$75,000 to worthy organizations and have built both an awareness of our Church's stewardship to the community and a network for partnering in outreach opportunities. Through the efforts of the Philanthropic Giving Fund Committee and its adherence to a set policy and procedure, the organizations are selected with due diligence and a thoughtful heart. These organizations have been selected to fairly represent the various areas of needs and services within our community. The table below shows the distribution from 2011 and the chart below shows this distribution of giving over the past twelve years.

Last year we were blessed to receive a corporate matching donation that allowed us over the Christmas holiday to distribute \$9,000 to various organizations. A list of these organizations will be posted in the Fellowship Hall bulletin board during the month of February. During Lent, the Giving Fund Committee will send to the parish a request for the names of any qualified organizations that it may take into consideration for this year's donations. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please don't hesitate to see Dino Bardossas or leave a message with the Church office.

The list of recipients in 2011 is as follows:

CHILDREN / ADOLESCENCE / SENIORS TOTAL \$1700

- Adams Camp \$250
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver \$250
- Alzheimer's Association (Rocky Mtn Chapter) \$250
- Autism Society of America (CO Chapter) \$250
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Colorado, Inc. \$250
- Comitis Crisis Center \$250
- Save Our Youth \$100
- Seniors! Inc. \$100

ABORTION ALTERNATIVES TOTAL \$1,250

- Alternative Pregnancy Center \$500
- Bridgeway \$250
- Caring Pregnancy Center \$250
- Real Choices Pregnancy Care \$250

MINORITIES / REFUGEES TOTAL \$500

- African Community Center \$250
- Lutheran Refugee \$250

FAMILY ISSUES TOTAL \$1150

- Family Star \$250
- Gateway Battered Women's \$500
- Providence Network \$200
- Trinity Foster Care \$200

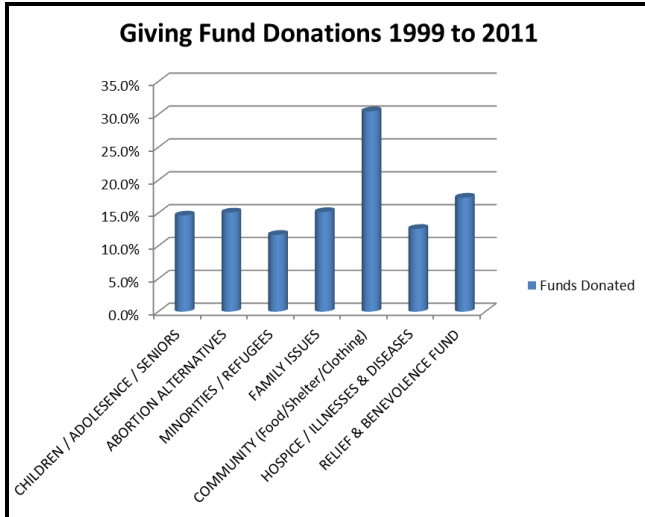
COMMUNITY (Food/Shelter/Clothing) TOTAL \$3,400

- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless \$500
- Hope House of Colorado \$500
- Denver Rescue Mission \$500
- Inter-Faith Community Services \$500

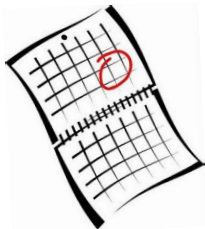
Presbyterian Church of the Covenant \$250
 Project Angel Heart \$150
 Third Way Center \$250
 Urban Peak \$250
 Centro San Juan Diego \$250
 S.A.M.E Café \$250

HOSPICE / ILLNESSES & DISEASES TOTAL \$1,000

Diana Price Fish \$200
 HIV/Care Link \$200
 Stout Street Clinic \$300
 Hospice of St. John \$300
TOTAL FUNDS GIVEN: \$9,000



SAVE THE DATE!!!



• **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4:** Join Saint Spyridon Church in Loveland for their second "A Night in Greece" dinner/dance and experience the sights and sounds of the Hellenic culture at the Embassy Suites Hotel (4705 Clydesdale Parkway in Loveland) from 6:01pm. Enjoy authentic Greek food and wine with

music, live entertainment, dancing, merchandise, a silent auction and special children's area. Tickets are \$60 per person or a discounted rate of \$460 for a table of eight. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$25 per person. Call 970-420-3439 or go to nchaonline.org for tickets and information. Sponsored by the Northern Colorado Hellenic Association with proceeds benefiting the St. Spyridon Church Permanent Building Fund.

- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5:**
 1. **Godparent/Godchild Sunday**
 2. **Prevention of Child Abuse** - Ice Cream Bar sale. All proceeds will go to Child Abuse Prevention organizations.
 3. **Scout Sunday** - All Orthodox Scouts and their families

are invited to join together February 5th for Scout Sunday, a day designated to allow boy and girl scouts to show their commitment to our "duty to God". The Boy Scouts of America were founded on February 8th 1910. Just two years later on March 12, 1912, the first Girl Scout Troop was organized. All boy and Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cub Scouts and Campfire Girls are encouraged to wear their uniforms to Liturgy on the first Sunday in February. Scouts and their families will also be hosting coffee fellowship along with Saint Catherine Philoptochos.

- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7:** L.A.P. (Little Angels Playgroup from 0 to 4yr) would like to invite you to a fun Valentine project, fellowship, and lunch at St. Catherine in the Fellowship Hall from 11:30-1:00pm. We will provide pizza, juice, crafts, songs, and balls in the gym. Please RSVP by February 2 to Christianna Politis (nanza18@hotmail.com) or Diakonissa Brittany Kearns (britt71204@aol.com).
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10:** Alternatives Pregnancy Center is delighted to announce Pam Tebow as the guest speaker for this year's free Sanctity of Human Life Series Event on Friday, February 10, 2012 from 7 – 8pm at the Davis Auditorium at Sturm Hall University of Denver. Pam, a dynamic advocate, will compassionately reveal the sacred dignity and worth of every human life through this Alternatives' fundraising event in honor of Sanctity of Human Life.
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12:**
 1. Saint Catherine Parish Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Informational packets and registration forms will be handed out in church school and at GOYA events. For more info please contact Helen Kretzmann at 303-773-3411 ext. 106 or Helen@StCatherineChurch.org.
 2. Go Red Sunday & Philoptochos Membership Sunday. Please renew your Philoptochos stewardship for 2011.
- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14:** The Sts. Joachim and Anna Ministry of the St. Catherine Philoptochos is hosting a special Valentine's Day Divine Liturgy (starts at 10am), followed by a special coffee hour, for those parishioners who may have difficulty getting to church on Sundays. Please respond your attendance to Helen at the church office or helen@stcatherinechurch.org.
- **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18:** Pan Orthodox IOCC dinner at the Cathedral 6pm. For more information, please see page 9.
- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27:**
 1. Great Lent begins. Clean Monday Retreat
 2. Saint Catherine Philoptochos invites you to a spiritual journey "**Transforming our Lives in Christ**". **Our guest speaker will be Fr. Evan Armatas.** The cost for the event is \$15 with lunch provided by Aspasia's Catering. The retreat will begin at 10am and will end at 3:15 with a Great Compline service. Please bring your Bible. The purpose of the retreat is to begin the Great Lenten journey together and equip ourselves with the necessary tools to grow in Christ and to freely share His joy and life with one another. By God's grace we can become a

community that transforms lives and brings the message of Orthodoxy to others.

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A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW *Forgiveness versus "Forgetness"*

By John Smyrni

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors... For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you." Matt. 6:12, 14-15

A woman friend of mine once asked me, "Yianni, do you know why the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence? Struggling at one of the emotional intersections of my life where humanity, humility and me were fighting for the right-of-way, I quipped "no!" She calmly responded, "Because they take care of their yard!" I stopped struggling as the magnitude of her simple lesson started to sink in. I looked at my yard full of resentment, anger, and fear and realized I needed to clean it. The only way I could root up those hostile weeds, and plant instead the flowers of acceptance, love and faith, was through the power of forgiveness, but I was trapped in a "you first" battle with my fellow man and consequently with myself. I had misread the passage in Matthew to say "...and 'forget' our debts, hoping our debtors will 'forget' us." God's formula stared me square in the face—I heard it every time I said the Lord's Prayer—"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." When we say this prayer we set the bar on our request for forgiveness that it only be granted in accordance to the forgiveness we have towards others. But what is forgiveness, who do we forgive, and how do we do this? How do we tell the difference between forgiveness and forgetness?

Father Meletios Webber states, in his book *The Steps of Transformation* (Conciliar Press, Ben Lomond, California),

"God's forgiveness needs to be accepted before it is of any value to us. It is useful to consider that forgiveness is a fact, a declaration, a piece of information, not a feeling. If we wait to feel that we have been forgiven, it often means that we have lost the sense that what we did actually needed to be forgiven in the first place. When we forgive each other, as we are asked to do frequently in our church life, it is important to remember there too that forgiveness is not a feeling, but a decision. Our feelings may—or may not—match our decision to forgive. In fact, forgiveness is likely to be more significant when it runs counter to our feelings. If we say, "I forgive you" and feel nothing, it likely means that what we are actually saying is that we have forgotten some particular wrong, not that we are forgiving it. When our feelings are outraged our decision to forgive is usually much more significant. Our feelings may (or may not) catch up with our decision—but they do not affect the forgiveness, or cause it in any way."

Through the "active" process of forgiveness, we are able

to develop full and meaningful relationships with humanity and most importantly with God. As Orthodox Christians, we find nothing "passive" in our relationship with God. We do not lie around waiting to become Noah, Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel or any other sentinel of the faith who appears to have a "DSL" or "Broadband" connection to heaven. Father Meletios affirms that "God meets us in the ordinary events of life, and we learn to respond with humility and gratitude, under all circumstances" and it is in this landscape of the ordinary events of life, that the need to forgive, and the need to be forgiven is found. To the person who is "actively seeking" a more profound relationship with God, self-centeredness gives way to "self-evaluation" and "spiritual inventory" (which ultimately points to the sacrament of confession), and if practiced on a regular, if not daily basis is a method of spiritual gardening that keeps our side of the fence clean. By forgiving regardless of being forgiven, we are suiting-up and showing-up for the Christian life, and doing our part regardless of how it makes us feel. Sometimes it can be difficult when we ask someone for forgiveness, and they are not ready to forgive, but it's important to remember that we are not all ready on the same day. When we ask for forgiveness with a sincere and repentant heart we have done our part, to address our part, remembering we can only care for *our side of the fence*. To be repentant is about me changing my mind, not, me changing your mind.

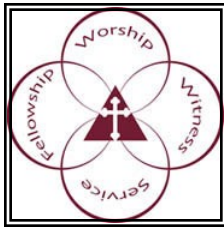
In developing a practical approach to this "active" process of forgiveness, Father Thomas Hopko explained in a talk given to a group of parents whose children had attended the Crossroads Program at Hellenic College in Boston, that the parents could best teach and exemplify the concept of forgiveness to their children by asking their children for forgiveness. This is an active teaching method not a passive one and in this way we as parents are teaching-by-doing, while in the process transmitting the hands-on concept of humility as well as the practical how-to of forgiveness. Subsequently, forgiveness does not become a theoretical or solely theological construct, but becomes an actual spiritual reality that we at first experience within the core framework of Orthodox family life. From there it expands into the outer dimensions of friends, associates, career, society and ultimately it becomes part of our vocation—no longer foreign, but familiar and easily put into practice.

In family life where parents are always struggling with the rightness of their actions, and always seeking to do the best for the entire family, this becomes an extremely powerful learning experience for the children. To see the persons whom they honor and respect, teach in such a humble fashion can have an incredibly far-reaching, and positive impact that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. The lives of the saints display this pattern or rhythm as they walked and lived, always teaching forgiveness, by always giving forgiveness, not just to those who were close and familiar, but more important to those who were adversaries and persecutors. The Holy Orthodox Church in her wisdom speaks to us through the hymnography as we chant the resurrection hymn: *"It is the day of Resurrection! Let us shine*

forth in splendor for the festival, and embrace one another. Let us say 'Oh brethren, even to those, who do not love us; let us forgive all things in the resurrection, and thus let us exclaim: 'Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and bestowing life to those in the tombs.'"

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

L.A.P. (0-5 yr)



- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7:** L.A.P. (Little Angels Playgroup) would like to invite you to a fun Valentine project, fellowship, and lunch at St. Catherine in the Fellowship Hall from 11:30-1pm. We will provide pizza, juice, crafts, songs, and balls in the gym. Please RSVP by February 2 to Christianna Politis at nan-

za18@hotmail.com or Diakonissa Brittany Kearns at britt71204@aol.com.

G.O.Y.A. (6th -12th grade)

- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5:** Sr. GOYA Superbowl Party at the Neal's residence (4770 Bandera Place, Parker, 80134) from 4-10pm
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12:** Jr. GOYA Fireside Chat at the Soulis residence (7526 East Severn Place, Denver 80230) from 5-6pm
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24:** All GOYA Bags for the Homeless Assembly 5-8pm
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24:** Sr. GOYA overnight
- **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25:** Bags for the homeless Delivery 12pm

ALTAR BOYS

- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26:** Lenten Preparation meeting at 3:30pm followed by Vespers of Forgiveness

O.C.F. (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)

- If you are a college student in Colorado and would like to meet for religious discussions, student events and fun activities, please contact: **CU:** Sarah Torrance at sarah.torrance@colorado.edu, **DU:** Fr. Andrew at FrAndrew@stcatherinechurch.org, **CSU & UNC:** Fr. Evan Armatas at frevan@stspyridons.org. OCF gatherings will occur regularly at CU Boulder, DU, CSU and UNC.
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12:** OCF Divine Liturgy at Sts. Peter and Paul in Boulder
- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28:** Spiritual Discussion at UNC at 6pm. For more detail please contact Sara Torrance at sarah.torrance@colorado.edu

OCF REAL BREAK

If you are not familiar with Real Break, it's an alternative to the "traditional college spring break." While on Real Break you get to spend time with members of the community, participate in service, and meet other OCF college students and Orthodox Christians from the location you decide to go to. For more information, please see: <http://www.ocf.net/wikis/programs/real-break-program.aspx>

2012 OCF Real Brake Dates and Locations

- February 25 - March 3, 2012 Houston - \$700.00
- March 2/3 - 10, 2012 Constantinople - \$2,000.00
- March 2/3 - 10, 2012 Guatemala I - \$1,300.00
- March 9/10 - 17, 2012 Guatemala II - \$1,300.00
- March 9/10 - 17, 2012 Romania - \$1,600.00
- March 17 - 24, 2012 Project Mexico \$1,000.00
- March 24 - 31, Houston II - \$700.00

Y.A.L. (Young Adult League 21-40)

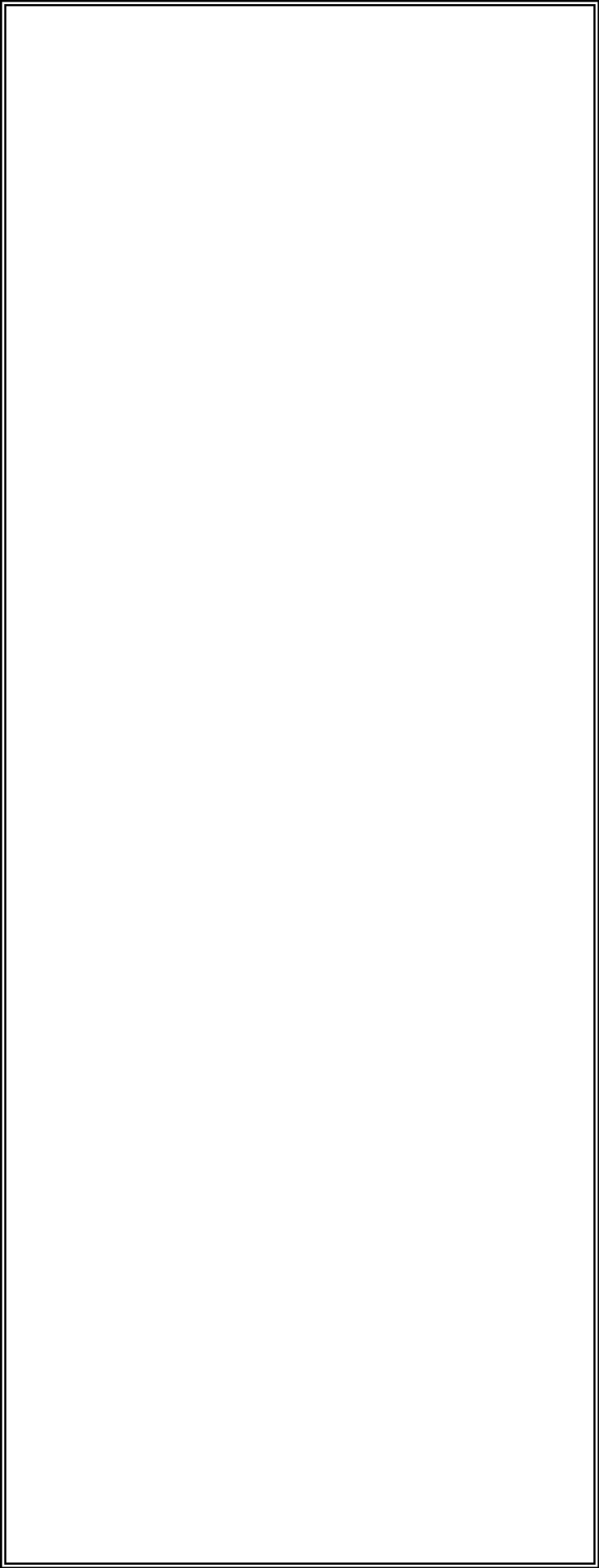
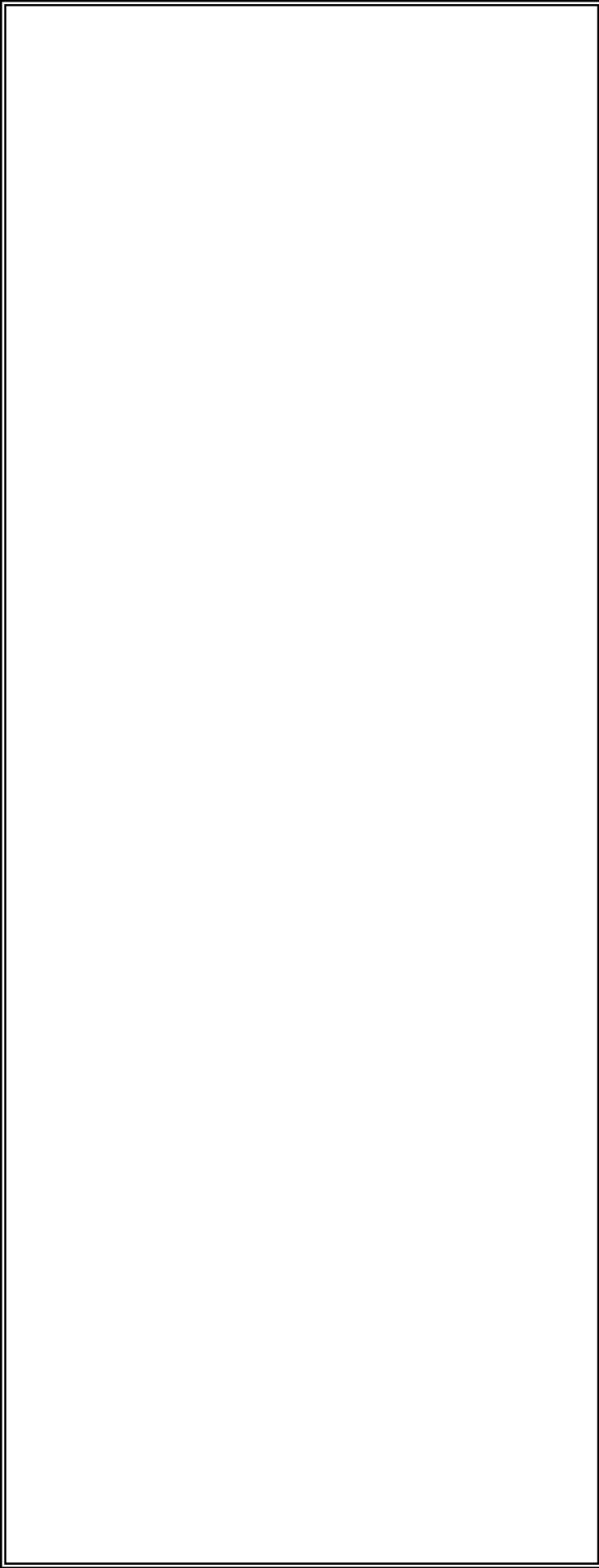
- **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4:** Koinonia (Fellowship) - Bowling at Celebrity Lanes (15755 E. Arapahoe Rd., Centennial, 80016) <http://www.celebritylanes.com>. Meet us at 7pm and please RSVP to Kara, kyakubik8@gmail.com, by 2 February if you plan on joining us.
- **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16:** Koinonia (Fellowship) Meatfare Burger Night at the Cherry Cricket in Cherry Creek North (2641 E. 2nd Ave., Denver 80206) 6pm
- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21:** Liturgia (Spiritual Growth) - Spiritual Discussion at the Monastery of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (2805 S. Forest St., Denver, 80222) from 6:30-8:30pm. Our discussion leader will be Father Andrew Kearns of St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church, on the topic of the different types of love one can experience. Feel free to bring a dish, appetizer, or drink to share. If you have a topic you wish to propose and/or would like to be a discussion leader, please submit to Caroline, clpoulos@gmail.com.

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COFFEE HOUR

- Sunday 2/6:** Philoptochos and Scouts
- Sunday 2/13:** Philoptochos
- Sunday 2/20:** Host Needed
- Sunday 2/27:** Host Needed



**THE 2012 STEWARDS OF OUR
PARISH**

**“We, the Stewards of Saint
Catherine, commit to placing Jesus
Christ, our Lord, God and Savior
first in our daily lives.”**

We have received 241 stewardship
cards for a total pledge of \$580, 344
and \$44, 285 has been received year-
to-date. Thank you all stewards for
making your 2012 pledges to Christ
and His church!

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Christopoulos**

Fr. Paul and Matushka Gloria Fedec

**Fr. Andrew & Presbytera Brittany
Kearns**

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Mr. & Mrs. Alex Armatas
His Honor Andrew Armatas
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Mr. & Mrs. Krochta
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Arianne Lahana & Richard McGowan
Ms. Viola Lahana
Mrs. Georgia Lambatos
Mr. Todd Lambert
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ligeros
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Long
Mr. & Mrs. David Lubar
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Ms. Susan MacMillan
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Ms. Katie Magerko
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Mr. David Morris
Faith Morse
Ms. Terri Moutsos

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 Mr. & Mrs. Amory Neal
 Ms. Christina Neal
 Mr. & Mrs. John Neal
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Nickells
 Ms. Cynthia Novario
 Mr. & Mrs. James Olsen
 George & Joyce Paich, II
 Mr. Nick Pantazes
 Ms. Patricia Pantazes
 Ms. Alexis Pappas
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael S. Pappas
 Mr. Michael A. Pappas
 Dr. & Mrs George J. Pardos
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Payne
 Ms. Elizabeth Peros
 Mr. & Mrs. James J. Peros
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peros
 Mr. & Mrs. Heribert Pfefferle
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Phillips
 Mrs. Mary Plakorus
 Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Polce
 Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Politis
 Joe & Heidi Valenzuela
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex Poulette
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Poulette
 Mr. & Mrs. David Price
 Ms. Maria Razatos
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond G Rendoff
 Mr. James Renes
 Mrs. Ruby Renes
 Mr. & Mrs. Sean Reynolds
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 Mr. John Sandoval
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Saros
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Saunders
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 Ms. Kamma Slaughter
 Mr. & Mrs. Amos Smith
 Dr. & Mrs. Constantine Sotiriou
 Mr. & Mrs. George Soulis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Sourial
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Spiliotis
 Alexandra Stathopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Stathopoulos
 Mrs. Theodora Stathopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Stauffer
 Mr. & Mrs. Preston Stech
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur & Paula Stewart
 Ms. Madeleine Stokes
 Mr. & Mrs. Andy Swett
 Mr. Mark Terry

Ms. Amy Theodore
 Helen Theofanus
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian E. Todd
 Mr. & Mrs. John Toscas
 Mr. & Mrs. John Tsapakis
 P. Chris Tsouris & Michele Kapaun
 Mr. John Van Milligan & Mrs. Pam Scooros
 Mr. & Mrs. Vasil Vasileff
 Ms. Julie Vinihakis
 Ms. Tula Vinihakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Walls
 Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Weinroth
 Mr. & Mrs. Whiddon
 Mr. & Mrs. William Williams
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wirtz
 Mr. & Mrs. John Xikes
 Diakonissa Celia Zaharas
 Mr. & Mrs. Zaphiras
 Mr. & Mrs. David Zehnacker II
 Diakonissa Claire Zinis
 Dr. & Mrs. Kosta Zinis
 Dr. & Mrs. Yani Zinis
 Ms. Denise Zoros

YOUTH STEWARDS

Mimi Armatas
 Sophia Armatas
 Abreana Bardossas
 William Colburn
 Nicole Gutesha
 Christian Hallberg
 Elijah Hallberg
 Ms. Alexis Lahana
 Amory Neal
 Desa Paich
 Senija Paich
 Eleni Soulis
 Delaina Weinroth
 Zachary Weinroth
 Julianna Zinis
 Zoe Zinis

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

Father Anthony M. Coniaris

A little girl noticed that after the collection was taken in a certain church, the ushers brought it up to the altar. She whispered to her mother, "Mommy, how do they get the money up to heaven?" The mother replied, "The church doesn't send

money to heaven, but uses it to bring heaven down to us." God, infinite though He is, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His work in the world today. "It does not matter how much we give," said Mother Teresa, "but rather how much love we put into our giving." "A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever." -St John Chrysostom

There is a legend about Zacchaeus the dishonest tax collector whom Jesus called down from a sycamore tree one day to have dinner with him. Zacchaeus, you recall, was converted as a result of this personal encounter with Jesus. In later years, the legend says, Zacchaeus used to rise early every morning, carry a bucket of water to this tree and carefully water its roots. On one occasion his wife followed him and when asked the reason for this strange concern over an old sycamore tree, Zacchaeus replied, "This is where I found Christ."

The Church is where we find Christ. This is where we are baptized. This is where we hear His word. This is where He comes to dwell in our hearts when we receive Him in the Holy Eucharist. This is why we love the Church. This is why we support it. This is why we work for it. It is the Body of Christ where we find forgiveness, peace and eternal salvation.

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REGISTRY

Births

Evan Heneen 1/26

Parents: Mark and Lauri Heneen

Chrismations

Lynette Horner 1/7

Sponsor: Judy Jones

Robert Horner 1/7

Sponsor: Brian Jones

Congratulations!

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Church
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Greenwood Village,
CO, 80111**

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FEBRUARY BIBLE READINGS

2/1/2012

Romans 8:28-39
Luke 10:19-21

2/2/2012

Luke 2:25-32
Hebrews 7:7-17
Luke 2:22-40

2/3/2012

Hebrews 9:11-14
Luke 2:25-38

2/4/2012

II Timothy 2:11-19
Matthew 24:34-37, 42-44

2/5/2012

Matthew 28:16-20
II Timothy 3:10-15
Luke 18:10-14

2/6/2012

II Peter 1:20-21; 2:1-9
Mark 13:9-13

2/7/2012

II Peter 2:9-22
Mark 13:14-23

2/8/2012

Ephesians 2:4-10
Matthew 10:16-22

2/9/2012

I John 1:8-10; 2:1-6
Mark 13:31-37; 14:1-2

2/10/2012

II Timothy 2:1-10
John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

2/11/2012

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6
Gospel: Matthew 10:1, 5-8

2/12/2012

Mark 16:1-8
I Corinthians 6:12-20
Luke 15:11-32

2/13/2012

I John 2:18-29; 3:1-8
Mark 11:1-11

2/14/2012

I John 3:9-22
Mark 14:10-42

2/15/2012

I John 3:21-24; 4:1-11
Mark 14:43-72; 15:1

2/16/2012

I John 4:20-21; 5:1-21
Mark 15:1-15

2/17/2012

II John Letter 1:1-13
Mark 15:20,22,25,33-41

2/18/2012

I Corinthians 10:23-28
Luke 21:8-9,25-27,33-36

2/19/2012

Mark 16:9-20
I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2
Matthew 25:31-46

2/20/2012

III John 1:1-15
Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39

2/21/2012

I Jude 1:1-10
Luke 22:39-42, 45-71; 23:1

2/22/2012

Vespers OT1: Joel 3:12-21
Vespers OT2: Joel 2:12-26

2/23/2012

I Jude 1:11-25
Luke 23:1-31, 33, 44-56

2/24/2012

Luke 7:17-30
II Corinthians 4:6-15

Matthew 11:2-15

2/25/2012

Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
Matthew 6:1-13

2/26/2012

Matins: Luke 24:1-12
Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4
Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

2/27/2012

Orthros OT: Isaiah 1:1-20
Vespers OT1: Genesis 1:1-13
Vespers OT2: Proverbs 1:1-20

2/28/2012

Orthros OT: Isaiah 1:19-23
Vespers OT1: Genesis 1:14-23
Vespers OT2: Proverbs 1:20-33

2/29/2012

Orthros OT: Isaiah 2:3-11
Vespers OT1: Genesis 1:24-2:3
Vespers OT2: Proverbs 2:1-22