

St. Nicholas Newsletter

March 2024

Beginning of Great Lent

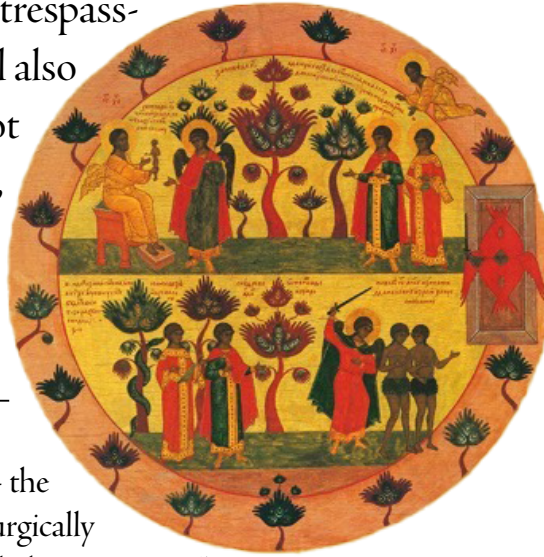
Sunday, March 17th - 1pm Forgiveness Vespers

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 your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

“In the Orthodox Church, the last Sunday before Great Lent – the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated – is called Forgiveness Sunday...we ask forgiveness from each other, we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.”

Reflections on Christ, Forgiveness Sunday by
Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.
[Click to read the full article.](#)



[Click to view our Lenten Schedule](#)

*Our Journey through
Great Lent & Holy Week—2024*

May you and your family be encouraged to increase your participation in the Life of the Church by attending as many services during Great Lent and Holy Week as possible. This is an opportunity that the Church provides us: to demonstrate our desire for God who desires to offer salvation to us, His beloved faithful!



Monday, March 18th - 6pm Great Compline with Canon of Repentance

Tuesday, March 19th - 6pm Great Compline with Canon of Repentance

Wednesday, March 20th - 6pm Presanctified Liturgy and Potluck Meal

Thursday, March 21st - 6pm Great Compline with Canon of Repentance

Friday, March 22nd - 6pm Akathist (Madayeh) Service to the Theotokos

Celebrations

God grant you many years!

Birthdays

Kevin Scherer - **March 2nd** Brittany Fenner - **March 13th** Raphael Nelson - **March 26th**
Riley Arnold - **March 4th** Charlie Nevill - **March 13th** Derek Waters - **March 28th**
Jeff Jenkins - **March 5th** Evan Kolokithas - **March 14th** Dominic Silva - **March 30th**
Oliver Nevill - **March 6th** Aidan Kolokithas - **March 18th** Kota Waters - **March 30th**
Jackson Bliss - **March 8th** Erik Lawrence - **March 19th**

Namedays

Jason Potoski - **March 1st** St. David of Wales
Pat Teague - **March 17th** St. Patrick of Ireland
Evan Kolokithas - **March 25th** The Annunciation

Wedding Anniversaries

Derek & Gina Waters - **March 5th**

Zachary & Olivia Rhodes - **March 21st**

based on returned 2024 stewardship & membership forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership Forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership forms are currently available. Please prayerfully consider what you are willing and able to financially contribute to the operation and functioning of our growing parish community to support its various ministries and services. This is an annual responsibility of everyone in our parish!

Access the print or online form by clicking the image below.



St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne

March 20th

The story of St. Cuthbert must be told in two remarkable chapters – one of his lifetime of holiness, and the other of the centuries following his death.

The son (born c. 634) of Anglo-Saxon Christian parents living in the north of England, Cuthbert experienced a miraculous occurrence while still a youth which determined the direction of his life. He was tending sheep in the hills when he witnessed the soul of St. Aidan, abbot of the monastery of Lindisfarne, being carried to heaven by the angels at his death in 651 in nearby Bamburgh. Cuthbert was so moved by this experience that he entered the monastery at Lindisfarne himself and began his life of prayer. He helped found and lead several other monasteries and was involved in missionary activity at a time when many local people were still pagan. Cuthbert was eventually appointed prior at Lindisfarne but, like many monks before and after him, his desire for the solitary life became stronger and stronger. In 676, he relinquished his position as prior and withdrew to Inner Farne, an almost deserted area where he could live as a hermit. But – as has also been true for other holy men and women – many people sought him out for spiritual guidance. Archbishop Theodore (the Greek Archbishop of Canterbury) appointed him bishop, and Cuthbert left the solitary life to devote himself to service to the people of his diocese. He was beloved by all for his teaching, preaching, and gift of healing. Cuthbert died, surrounded by his monks, on March 20, 687, and was buried at Lindisfarne. When, eleven years later, his casket was opened so that



Icon by Aidan Hart

the bones could be placed in a more elaborate shrine, the monks found not bones, but an incorrupt body, which looked just as it had on the day of his death.

Incorruption has been taken as a special sign of the holiness of the person and has also usually been associated with miracles of healing. Instances of incorruption abound among the saints and still occur today (as in the case of newly-declared St. John Maximovitch, whose shrine is in San Francisco).

The next chapter of St. Cuthbert's story begins in the year 875 when, after years of raiding and



St. Cuthbert's Island

terrorizing, the invading pagan Danes destroyed Lindisfarne. A group of monks managed to escape with St. Cuthbert's shrine and began traveling around northern England and southwestern Scotland looking for a safe place to settle. This "wandering in the wilderness" lasted for succeeding generations of monks for 120 years until, in 995, they finally discovered a rocky piece of land almost completely surrounded by a river – Durham. A Saxon-style church was built to house the shrine of the saint and to provide a place for pilgrims to venerate his relics.

After 1066, a new invader to England brought more changes, but the Norman conquerors built a massive new cathedral in Durham. When St. Cuthbert's tomb was again opened in 1104 in preparation for placing his relics in a new shrine, the body was again found to be incorrupt. New vestments were placed on the body and the faithful again came to venerate the holy saint.

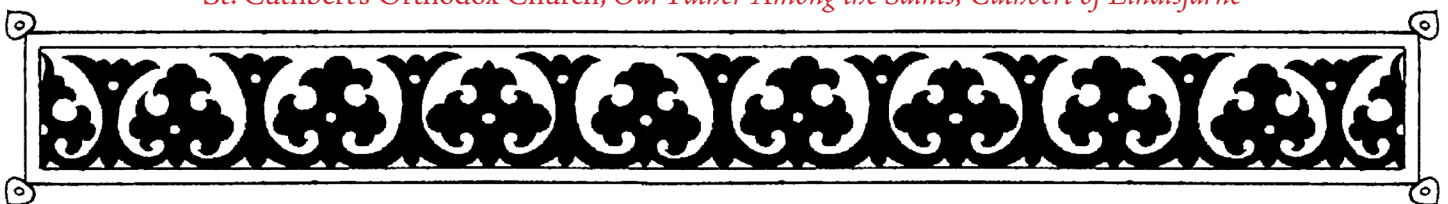
The next threat to St. Cuthbert's shrine was on December 31, 1540, when Henry VIII's royal commissioners were sent to confiscate all articles of precious material and to destroy religious shrines. The commissioners – who in other places had scattered the bones of saints – were amazed to discover the body of St. Cuthbert, lying on its side, completely vested as if about to begin Mass, with "his face bare and his beard as it had been, a fortnight's growth"! Afraid to desecrate a body which was still intact 853 years after death, the commissioners sent back to London for instructions and were eventually told to simply rebury the body under the floor where the shrine had stood.

St. Cuthbert's tomb was opened one more time – in 1828 – and this time only bones remained. The vestments and other liturgical articles were removed to be placed in a museum and the holy bones were buried again.

Today, St. Cuthbert's relics are among the few of pre-Schism Orthodox saints which can be venerated in England. Durham Cathedral is still a beautiful temple, giving a place of honor to a faithful servant of God. St. Bede, in his *History of the English Church and People* (written less than 100 years after St. Cuthbert's death), describes him as follows:

"Like a good teacher, he taught others to do only what he first practiced himself. Above all else, he was afire with heavenly love, unassumingly patient, devoted to unceasing prayer, and kindly to all who came to him for comfort."

St. Cuthbert's Orthodox Church, Our Father Among the Saints, Cuthbert of Lindisfarne



Psalter Reading Group

Great Lent, 2024

If you're looking for a daily spiritual discipline this upcoming Lenten season, consider participating in our Psalter Reading Group.

Each day during Great Lent (March 18-April 26), you will be assigned a small section of reading from the Book of Psalms (Psalter). It only takes about 10-15 minutes each day to read on your own.

To sign up and participate, simply submit form via link below. Any questions, contact Fr. Paul Fuller (frpaul.fuller@gmail.com).

May God bless you in your spiritual endeavor this upcoming Lenten journey towards the Empty Tomb of our Lord!

Click below to sign-up online



Lenten Lecture Series

The Story of Orthodox Christians in North America



Fr. Paul will be offering a lecture series on *The Story of Orthodox Christians in North America*. All are welcome to attend this educational series.

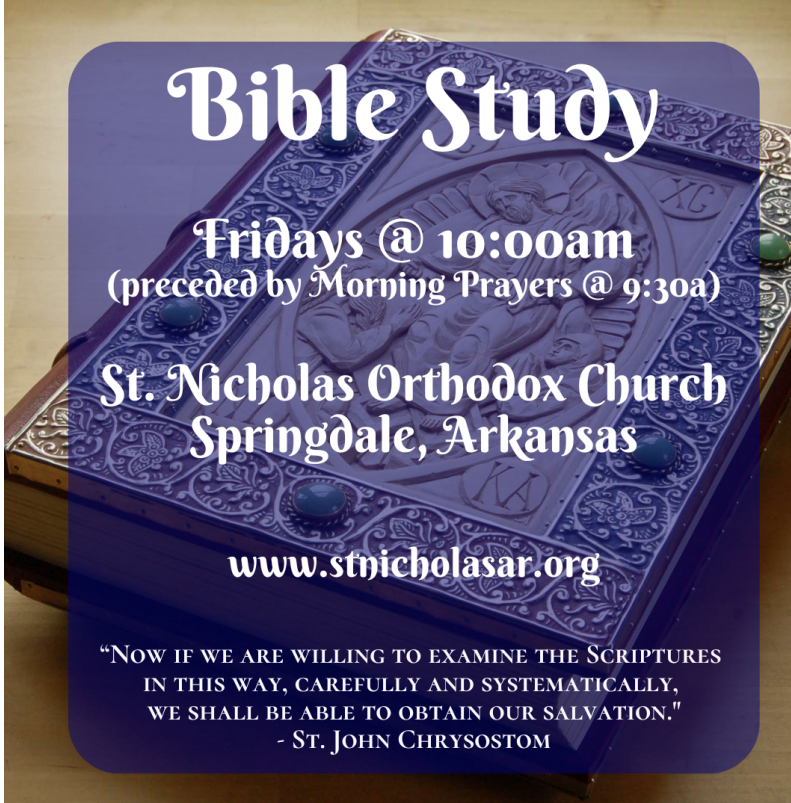
The lectures will be held at **6pm** on **Fridays** during Great Lent after the Akathist service.



We hope to see you there!

Join us for our weekly Bible Study on Friday mornings beginning at
9:30a with Morning Prayers.

We are currently studying the Gospel of St. Matthew.



Bible Study
Fridays @ 10:00am
(preceded by Morning Prayers @ 9:30a)
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
Springdale, Arkansas
www.stnicholasar.org

"NOW IF WE ARE WILLING TO EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES
IN THIS WAY, CAREFULLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY,
WE SHALL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN OUR SALVATION."
- ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Ministry & Organizational Leaders,

If there is any announcement or advertisement that you would like published in the
St. Nicholas Newsletter, please contact Brea Hale. breahale00@gmail.com

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