



**St. Nicholas
Orthodox Church**

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Diocese of the West

Orthodox Church
in America

Fr. Stephan Meholic,
Pastor

Protodeacon George Golitzin

**Mark Your
Calendars**

March 1

Karaoke Night

March 10 & 24

Bible Study
(following Divine Liturgy)

March 17

Forgiveness Sunday

Bliny Luncheon
6pm Forgiveness Vespers

March 18-22

Pure Week

March 24

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Bring your icon
to church

March 25

Annunciation

*"Today is the beginning
of our salvation..."*

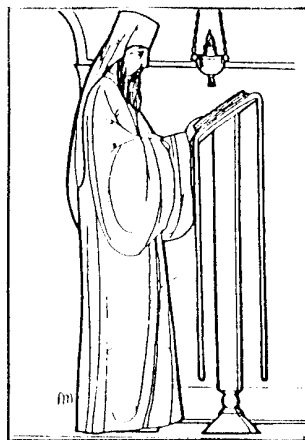
ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

March 2024

PURE WEEK 2024 - Carpe Diem-Carpe Omnia *March 18 - March 22*

The first week of Great Lent is a very special time of renewal and rededication of our lives to God. It is the most perfect, natural and structured time for an extended retreat or "reset" – as individuals and as a community. Want to make some changes in your life right now? This week can be a real gift from God. Reaping the fruits of this gift, however, will require considerable effort on our part. It requires planning--right now! This effort is the seizing of a wonderful spiritual opportunity which goes far beyond merely fulfilling a "religious obligation." If you have the slightest doubt about this, please ask a friend who has but once tasted the fruits of this blessed week. If you are a sponsor or godparent, please encourage and be an example for your godchildren.

What can I do during this special week?



If at all possible, attend matins at daybreak – at the very least on the first day. At this service you can especially experience the "bright sadness" which we hear and read about in so many Lenten sermons and writings. If you are at home during the daytime, there will be services also scheduled at mid-day. In the evenings, make an effort at **least** once or twice to attend Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, which sets the whole tone of our lenten effort. Finally, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with the reception of Holy Communion and the blessing of kutia (boiled wheat) is the climax of the weekday services.

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N.B. The "lenten tone" of worship is used only at the weekday services.

If we come **only** on Saturday or Sunday or even during the final days of Holy Week, we will miss that entire experience.