

Announcements

- Welcome guests and visitors! We are very glad that you joined us this morning and hope you have enjoyed the beauty of today's service. Please approach Fr. Philip at the end and introduce yourself to him. You are invited to our fellowship meal downstairs.
- If you haven't been able to attend a Presanctified Liturgy yet this Lent you still have time, this Wednesday at 9:00am and next Wed. April 1st 6.30pm. Please join us if you can and enjoy soup and bread afterwards!
- This Thursday evening at 7pm we read the Great Canon of St Andrew in its entirety, interspersed with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt. This is a great opportunity to hear these two great treasures of Lent and hear the voice of God through these writings calling us to repentance.
- **Memorial:** Thurs. Mar. 26 Svetlana Thomson. Eternal Memory!

This Week at Christ the Saviour

Mon. March 23: 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom. All are welcome – look for the Zoom link an hour beforehand. We are studying the 1st Book of Kings (3 Kingdoms), the story of the prophet Elijah in chapters 18 ff.

Tues. March 24: 12:00 pm Book Club on Zoom: We are reading the Lenten Sunday talks of Fr. Zacharias from the Essex Monastery in UK.

Wednesday March 25: 9.30am Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts. Brunch.

Thursday March 26th: 7:00 pm Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt.

Friday March 27th: 6:00 pm The Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God.
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal.

Saturday March 28th: 9:00 am Liturgy and Consecration of Archimandrite Peter (Karakozoff) at HVC (Geary Sobor). 3:00 pm Catechumen Class on Zoom. 6.30 pm Great Vespers, confessions.

Sunday March 29th: 9:30 hours, confessions, candles etc. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by lunch and study group.

Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church



Sunday, March 22, 2026

Archpriest Philip Halliwell, Rector

2040, Anza St.
San Francisco
sobor.org

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of the West

*Welcome to Christ the Saviour!
God bless and keep you!*

Today's Epistle

Hebrews 6: 13-20

Today's Gospel

Mark 9: 17-31

4th Sunday of Great Lent**St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)****40 Martyrs of Sebaste (320)**

Tone 8

Today's Epistle*Heb. 6: 13-20*

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*. This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Today's Gospel*Mark: 9: 17-31*

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So, He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of

the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So, He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it*. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

The Holy 40 Martyrs martyred at Sebaste Lake in 320

These 40 Roman soldiers were Christians who refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. These were brave soldiers from Cappadocia who were famous for their bravery in battle. They were put in jail and whilst in prayer they hear a voice say "Persevere to the end and you will be saved!". After an attempt to torture them failed, they heard another voice say "Believing in Me, if anyone shalt die he shalt live. Be brave and fear not, since ye shall obtain crowns imperishable". They were led onto a lake and forced to stay there all night under guard. A bathhouse was set up on the bank to tempt them. One gave in and ran but perished. In the middle of the night, God made a miracle to comfort them and the water was warm. A guard called Aglaios saw them standing and counted 39 crowns over their heads. Realizing that one crown was without its martyr, he woke his compatriots and told them "I too – am a Christian" – and he joined the martyrs. Standing in the water he prayed: "Lord God, I believe in Thee, in Whom these soldiers do believe. To them add me also, and esteem me worthy to suffer with Thy servants". In the morning the guards found them all still alive and praising Christ. So, they took them and burned them. Three days later the martyrs appeared in a dream to Blessed Peter, bishop of Sebasteia, and commanded him to give their remains over to burial. The bishop together with several clergy gathered up the remains of the glorious martyrs by night and buried them with honour.

Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste pray to God for us!