

So was the Son of Man to be lifted up, like as the rainbow round about the Throne of God in Heaven, the Hope of our salvation.

Lesson Six

But in condemnation of the rest of men, and to manifest the goodness of God, it is written that **Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord**. From these words we learn that the sin of others doth not cast its shadow on the righteous man, since Noah himself is preserved, to be the ancestor of the whole human race. He was praised not because he was of a noble race, but because he was a just man and perfect. **For the lineage of the upright man is to be traced in the pedigree of virtue which doth come forth from him**. Even as blood maketh the lineage of man, so doth virtue form the lineage of souls. **As the kindreds of men are made great by the grandeur of their lineage, so is the honor of souls made manifest by the grandeur of their virtues**.

By Myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, that I will not again bring the flood of destruction upon the whole earth; for I will remember My Covenant. And the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a Covenant betwixt Me and the earth.



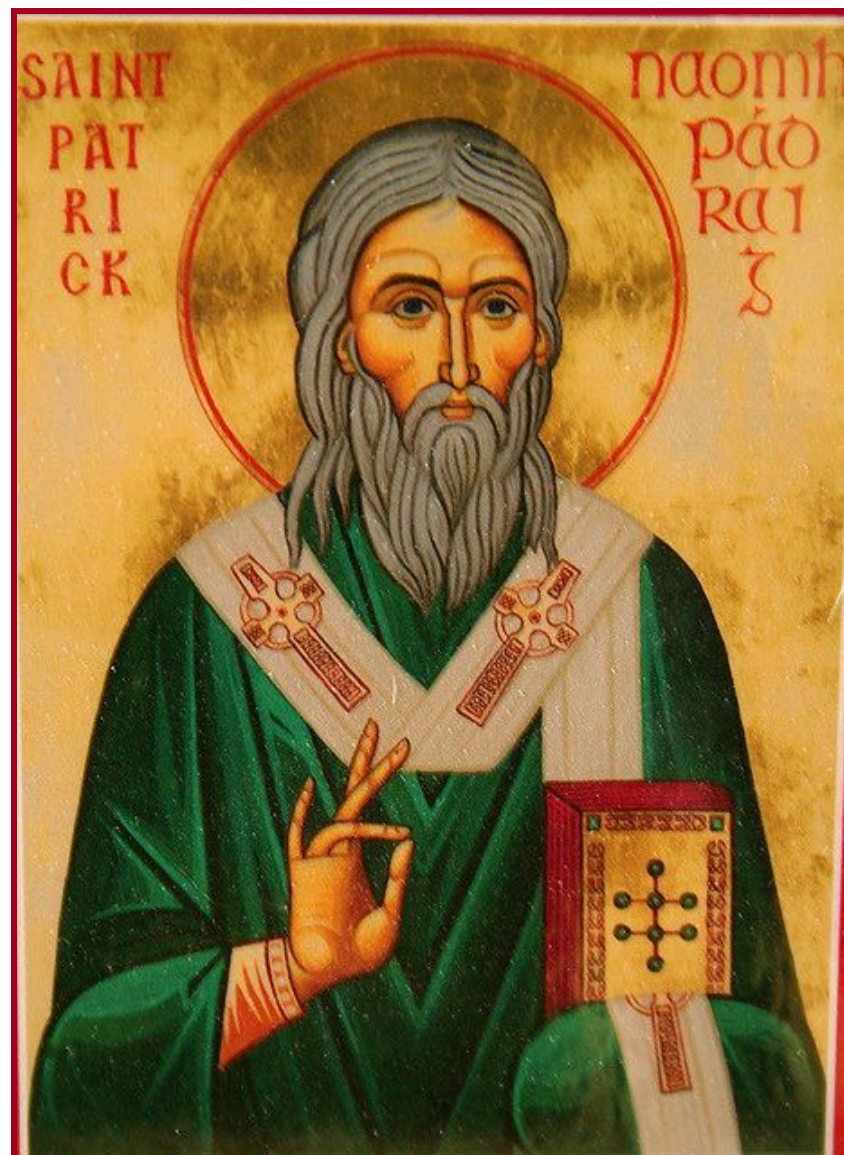
The LENTEN PARISH RETREAT will be April 13th
[Please plan ahead](#)

**THE NEXT RETREAT IS APRIL 13th
BEGINNING 9 AM**

CELEBRANT:	FATHER STEPHEN HERNEY
OFFICIANT	DEACON STEPHEN
CANTOR	JOSEPH BROWN
READER	SUB DEACON THOMAS

THE PARISH RETREAT LUNCHEON
WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE OBLATES

ON THE COVER: SAINT PATRICK



**ORTHODOX OBLATES
OF
SAINT BENEDICT
MARCH 2013**

This portion of the of the Breviary was presented as a meditation by Mary Patty Holley
At the February Monthly Retreat.

AT MATINS FOR SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY: FIRST AND SECOND NOCTURNS

FIRST NOCTURN

From the Book of Genesis: Lesson One: Chapter 5:32

And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

The Lord said unto Noah: the end of all flesh is come before me: for all the earth is filled with violence and wickedness; and behold, I will destroy mankind with the earth.

Make thee and ark of wood; rooms shalt thou make in it.

Lesson Two: Chapter 6:5

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah was a just man and perfect, and Noah walked with God: according to all that God commanded him, so did he;

And Noah made him an ark of wood, even as the wood of the Cross is the ark of our salvation, to preserve life upon the face of all the earth.

Lesson Three: Chapter 6:9

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

Forty day and forty nights were the heavens opened; and two and two of all flesh went in unto Noah into the ark: And the Lord shut them in.

In the selfsame day entered Noah into the ark, his sons, and his wife, and the wives of his sons.

SECOND NOCTURN

From the Book concerning Noah and the Ark by St. Ambrose the Bishop

Lesson Four

We read that the Lord was angry. However, God did bear in mind (that is, He knew) that man was hard put to remain sinless, placed, as he was, in flesh on earth; for earth is the home of temptations, and the flesh is the enticement of corruption. **Yet man had a reasonable soul, and his soul had power to control his body;** and, being so made, **he nevertheless struggled but little to keep himself from falling into that from whence he would not desire to return.** God's thoughts are not as man's thoughts; in Him there is no such thing as change of mind, no such thing as to be angry and then cool down again. Therefore, anything said concerning God's anger is to be understood as setting forth the grievous nature of our sins, whereby we have (so to speak) merited the divine wrath. For iniquity had grown to such a degree that God, Who by His nature cannot be moved by anger, or hatred, **or any passion whatsoever**, is represented as being provoked to anger.

Noah built an Altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings thereon: and the Lord smelled a sweet savour, and blessed him, saying: Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Behold, I establish My Covenant with you, and with your seed after you.

Lesson Five

And God threatened that He would destroy man. He said: I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth; both man and beast, and the creeping things, and the fowls of the air. Wherein had the brute beasts offended? They had been created for man's use; and, when man was destroyed, it followed that they must share the same fate because they were no longer of any use. And there is an higher reason: **Man is a living soul, capable of reason. For man may be described as an animal, alive whilst subject to death, and endowed with reason.** When, therefore, the highest is gone, why should the lower branches remain? How can the worth of any creature remain if virtue itself (the basis of well-being) be lost?

And God said, This is the token of My Covenant, the rainbow above the earth, which I have set in the storm-clouds, And I will look thereon, and remember the everlasting Covenant betwixt God and man.