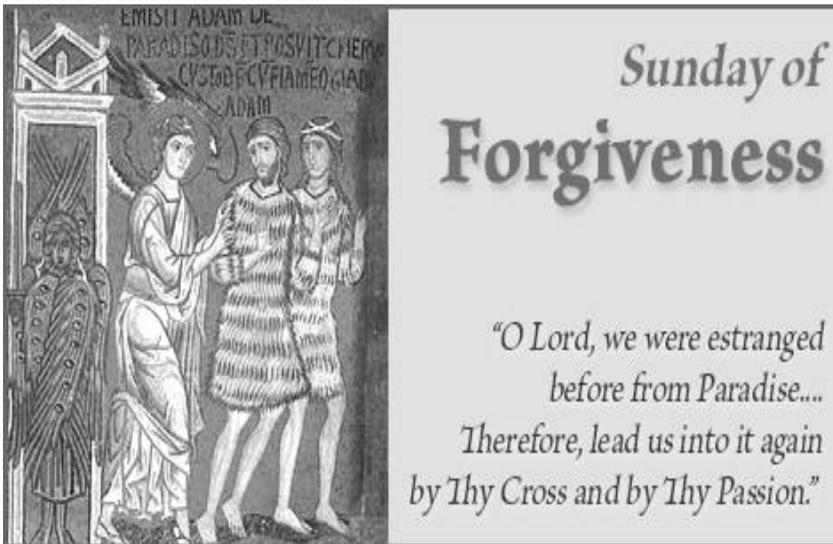


HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami
Archpriest Joseph Bittle, Pastor



FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Preparing to Worship the Thrice-Holy God

Upon Entering the Church

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy;
and in thy fear I will worship toward thy holy temple. (*Ps. 5:7*)

A Prayer before Holy Communion

O Sovereign Lord Jesus Christ, our God,
who alone hast authority to forgive men their sins:
overlook in thy goodness and love for mankind all my offences
whether committed with knowledge or in ignorance;
and make me worthy to receive without condemnation
thy divine, glorious, spotless, and life-giving Mysteries,
not for punishment, nor for an increase of sins, but for purification and sanctification and as a
pledge of the life and the kingdom to come,
as a protection and help, and for the destruction of enemies,
and for the blotting out of my many transgressions.
For thou art a God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to thee we send up
glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(St. John of Damascus)

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to all those worshipping with us at Holy Trinity! Please join us for coffee after the service; we look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity or in joining our parish, please contact Fr. Joseph at trinityorthodox@sbcglobal.net. Our parish website is orthodoxarkansas.com.

About receiving Holy Communion:

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist to be – among other things – the paramount expression of Christian unity. Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a formal unity with all the dogma, practice, and discipline of the Orthodox Church, **non-Orthodox** guests do not receive Holy Communion; and **Orthodox** communicants are reminded that we approach the Chalice with due preparation including recent Confession, keeping the appointed fasts of the Church, and appropriate prayers of *preparation* for the reception of Holy Communion and *thanksgiving* after.

DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Variable Hymns and Readings



FIRST ANTIPHON

*Verse: It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name,
O Most High.*

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse: To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

Verse: Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Glory to the . . . Now and Ever . . .

SECOND ANTIPHON

Verse: The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty;

the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Refrain: O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee.
Alleluia.

Verse: For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Verse: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Glory to the . . . Now and ever . . . Only begotten Son ...

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Beatitudes: In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord,
when thou comest in Thy kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and shall persecute you
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake;

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for Resurrection (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

Patronal Troparion of Holy Trinity (Pentecost - Tone 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fisherman as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Kontakion for Sunday of Forgiveness (Tone 6)

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O Merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14:4 (*Sun. of Forgiveness*)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL: St. Matthew 6:14-21 (*Sun. of Forgiveness*)

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Today is CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. Our journey through the Lenten fast toward the festal joy of Pascha begins at Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday, February 18. Having already said ‘farewell’ to meat last Sunday, today we say ‘farewell’ to cheese, dairy, eggs, wine, and oil, beginning the full Great Fast beginning tomorrow, Monday, Feb. 19.

As we move toward the fast of Great Lent, keep in mind the following:

- The fasting guidelines assume an average person in average good health. If you have a medical condition that requires you to relax the fasting guidelines, by all means do so with a clear conscience.
- Generally speaking, young children, elderly people, and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding are allowed to relax the fast to some degree. In the case of children, for instance, the degree of relaxation should gradually decrease as they get older.
- Do not lose sight of the fact that the fast is not an end in itself, although it is a suitable means to the end, that is, to the setting aside of self-indulgence, the idolatry of the material things, for the sake of growing freedom in Christ.



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

(the translation used liturgically at Holy Trinity)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth,
despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

(prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility,
patience and love to Thy servant.

(prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King,
grant me to see my own transgressions
and not to judge my brother;
for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

(prostration)

Forgiveness Sunday

by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (edited for length)

..... On the morning of that Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ: *"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..."* (Mark 6:14-15)

Then after Vespers – after hearing the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimenon: "Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!", after making our entrance into Lenten worship, with its special memories, with the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations – 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.

... Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.

One may ask, however: Why should I perform this rite when I have no "enemies"? Why should I ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to me, and whom I hardly know? To ask these questions, is to misunderstand the Orthodox teaching concerning forgiveness. It is true, that open enmity, personal hatred, real animosity may be absent from our life ... But, the Church reveals to us that there are much subtler ways of offending Divine Love. These are indifference, selfishness, lack of interest in other people, of any real concern for them -- in short, that wall which we usually erect around ourselves, thinking that by being "polite" and "friendly" we fulfill God's commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize – be it only for one minute – that our entire relationship to other men is wrong, makes us experience that encounter of one child of God with another, of one person created by God with another, makes us feel that mutual "recognition" which is so terribly lacking in our cold and dehumanized world.

On that unique evening, listening to the joyful Paschal hymns we are called to make a spiritual discovery: to taste of another mode of life and relationship with people, of life whose essence is love. We can discover that always and everywhere Christ, the Divine Love Himself, stands in the midst of us, transforming our mutual alienation into brotherhood. As I advance towards the other, as the other comes to me – we begin to realize that it is Christ Who brings us together by His love for both of us. ...

THIS WEEK

Great Lenten Fast begins on Monday

Sunday, Feb. 18	Cheesefare
6:30 pm	Forgiveness Vespers
Monday, Feb. 19	Apostles Archippos, Philemon and Apphias of the Seventy
6:30 pm	Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (Great Compline)
Tuesday, Feb. 20	Leo, bishop of Catania in Sicily; Venerable Vissarion the Great of Egypt; Agathon, pope of Rome
6:30 pm	Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (Great Compline)
Wednesday, Feb. 21	Venerable Timothy of Symbola; Eustathios, archbishop of Antioch
6:15 pm	Presanctified Liturgy (<i>remember to fast before Holy Communion</i>)
Thursday, Feb. 22	Uncovering of the relics of the Martyrs at the gate of Eugenios in Constantinople; Martyr Anthusa
6:30 pm	Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (Great Compline)
Friday, Feb. 23	Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Martyr Polychronios
6:30 pm	Akathist Hymn to Theotokos (Little Compline)
Saturday, Feb. 24	first and second discoveries of the honorable head of the Forerunner
6:00 pm	Great Vespers
6:45 pm	Confession
Sunday, Feb. 25	SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
9:00 am	Church School
8:50 am	Orthros (special start time through end of Great Lent)
10:00 am	Divine Liturgy w/ Icon Procession
11:30 am	Coffee Hour
12:30 pm	Inquirer & Catechumens Class
6:00 pm	Pan-Orthodox Vespers (<i>hosted by Annunciation Greek Orth. Ch.</i>)

Remember to bring icons from home for Icon Procession both Sunday morning and Sunday evening.