

Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

The Children's Word

Tomorrow is the very first day of Great Lent. We have a long way to go before Easter, and a lot to do before we get there! We want to prepare ourselves for that awesome feast day, and the Bible today tells us just how to do it. By now, we all pretty much know the right thing to do as Christians, don't we? We know we should pray more, be kind to others more, help the hungry and the poor more, listen to God more by reading the Bible, fast more, and so on. But did you know that we should try to do all these things IN SECRET? That's right! In today's Gospel, we hear about how we aren't supposed to tell everybody about it when we fast. So in Lent, we shouldn't say, "Oh, I'm so hungry! I haven't been eating the treats I usually eat." Instead, we should keep it a secret. And that goes for other good things we do, too. If we donate money, nobody else should know about it. If we pray, we close the door to our room so nobody can see. Then, guess what! The Bible also tells us what will happen when we do this. "Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." God knows our secrets and He knows when we are doing good things. When He sees what we are doing, He will reward us!

-Presbytera Houck (myocn.net)

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Orthros at 8:45 a.m. Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee Hour will follow Divine Liturgy

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY LITURGICAL GUIDE FOR

February 26, 2017 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

3rd Tone Eothinon Gospel 3

The Second Antiphon

page 5

Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Only begotten Son and Word of God, though immortal for our salvation You deigned to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever Virgin Mary, without change becoming man, and were crucified Christ our God, trampling death by death; being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and Holy Spirit: save us.

Resurrection Dismissal Hymn

page 7

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become.

The Small Entrance

page 7

Come, let us worship and bow before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, to You we sing: Alleluia.

Holy Trinity Dismissal Hymn

Ev-lo-gi-tos i Chri-ste o The-os i-mon, o pan-so-fus tus a-li-is a-na-thi-xas, ka-ta-pem-psas af-tis to pnev-ma to a-gi-on, ke thi af-ton tin i-ku-me-nin sa-gi-nef-sas, fi-lan-thro-pe tho-xa Si!

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, You made the fishermen all-wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them You drew the world into Your net. O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

Kontakion

O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You, give me a word, O word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

Hymn

page 8

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

The Readings - Page 134 - 135

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

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 God is able to make him stand.

Page 135 - Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "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."

Homily

The Great Entrance 12

The Creed 18

The Anaphora (*Offering of the Gifts*) 19

The Consecration 22

(*Litany from Page 15 and 16 is repeated*) 26

The Lord's Prayer (*Greek & English*) 26

Communion Prayers 29

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest.

Holy Communion: Orthodox Christians prepared to receive Holy Communion should come forward, quietly and reverently, at the direction of the ushers.

Prayers of Thanksgiving after Holy Communion can be found on pages 40-42.

After Communion 32

Seasonal Hymn

The Dismissal 34

Hymn: Blessed be the name of the Lord, from now and to the ages.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER
Only teachers and students participating in Sunday School have a blessing to leave church after receiving communion. Otherwise, one should remain in the church until the conclusion of the liturgy.

- **Adult Choir** practices this Thursday at 6:00 pm.
- **Save the Date:** March 10-12 the Reverend George Dragas, Professor of Patristics at Holy Cross will be at Holy Trinity in Columbia to lead us in a Lenten weekend. Be sure to mark your calendars now.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Monday, February 27	Great Canon I	5:30 PM
Tuesday, February 28	Breakfast Fellowship Adult Ed Group Great Canon II	7:30 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM
Wednesday, March 1	Presanctified Liturgy Great Canon III	9:30 AM 5:30 PM
Thursday, March 2	Great Canon IV	5:30 PM
Friday, March 3	Salutations	7:00 PM

Saturday, March 4 **No Great Vespers**
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us** for refreshments in the coffee hour room right after church.
- **Greek School Registration Begins Today!** -- Be sure to stop by the display table in the parish hall to learn more about this opportunity that will begin March 19. Three teachers from Charlotte will facilitate the classes each Sunday from 2:00 - 4:00 pm for a spring short-course, to begin our instruction and to get us ready for classes to proceed in the fall for the new school year. Course options will be available for youth and adults. Registration, fees, and other details are available and must be completed prior to March 12 on a first come, first served basis.
- **St. Katherine's Philoptochos** will begin our membership drive, collecting dues of \$30 for the 2017 calendar year after Liturgy today in Coffee Hour. We invite all women of the community to join us at our next General meeting on Tuesday, March 14 - 6:00 pm social time and 6:30 pm meeting time in the coffee hour room. If you have any questions about Philoptochos, contact Elizabeth Render at 783-8826.
- **Philoptochos** will be making Spanakopita this Monday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm for the Spring Bake Sale.
- **"With Pain & Love for Contemporary Man" by St. Paisios** will guide our discussions in the coming weeks. Join us for **Breakfast Fellowship** on Tuesday at 7:30 am or for **Adult Fellowship** at 11:00 am.
- **Junior Choir** practices this Wednesday, at 5:45 pm.
- **Bible Study** at 6:15 pm in the church immediately following the Great Canon III service at 5:30 pm.