

February 27, 2022
Cheesefare Sunday, Forgiveness Sunday



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Proprs for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 7, pg. 156, Cheese-Fare: pg. 218 - 219

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN. FEB. 27 **CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY. Rite of Forgiveness**
 + **Joseph Klacik**, offered by Francis & JoAnn Hersh

4:00 P.M. **SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS for the GREAT FAST**

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

FRI., MAR. 4 **FIRST FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST**
6:00 P.M. **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

SUN., MAR. 6 **FIRST SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, Sunday of Orthodoxy**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, blessing of icons**
 + **Joseph Olack**, offered by wife, Mary Elizabeth Olack

(4:00 P.M. At St. Mary, Sunday Evening Vespers for the Great Fast)

Next Sunday: First Sunday of the Great Fast

The First Sunday of the Great Fast is also called the Sunday of Orthodoxy in commemoration of the victory of orthodoxy-true faith in controversy over Holy Icons in the year 843. As part of this commemoration, the blessing of Icons will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy. **Please bring your icons to be blessed and place them on the table that will be set up in the front of the Church.**

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

March 1: Raymond Ozimok, March 4: Pressley Roush, March 5: Lena Maruhnich

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

Ann Trombulak – **Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074)

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

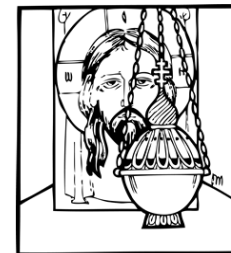
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – Feb. 27: Louisa Hersh – Mar. 6: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Feb. 27: M. Bobanic – Mar. 6: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

February 27 – March 5, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ John & Eva Choras

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Mary Salamon

Lent is a gift of the Church to us for renewal. We can't reduce it to fasting and personal benefits. Lent is an opportunity to build the Church up, and a stronger parish will result in stronger parishioners and stronger families.

St. Anthony the Great reminds us: "Do not neglect the Fast; it constitutes an imitation of Christ's way of life."

"Do not neglect good deeds and generosity, God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind." (Hebrews 13:16)

St. Anthony the Great reminds us: "Do not neglect the Fast; it constitutes an imitation of Christ's way of life."

Lenten Services

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts will be every **Friday at 6:00 P.M.** We will also have Lenten Vespers at **4:00 P.M. every other Sunday**, dates announced in the bulletin. Any services that are added as we go through our Lenten journey will be announced in the Sunday bulletin. ***The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten devotions.***

(Lenten Services at St. Mary: Pre-Sanctified Liturgies will be every Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. and Lenten Vespers at 4:00 P.M. every other Sunday, dates announced in the bulletin)

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver! For my soul goes early to the temple of your holiness, driving on the temple of my body wholly polluted. But because you are compassionate, purify me by the tenderness of your mercy, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. For I have profaned my soul with shameful sins and consumed my whole life in laziness, but by thine intercessions purify me from all immorality.

The Post-Gospel Hymn of the Great Fast

In Forgiving we Become like God

Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer. ... Christ is seeking in every way possible to hinder our conflicts with one another. For since love is the root of all that is good, by removing from all quarters whatever mars it He brings us together and cements us to one another. For there is not one, not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us.

(St. John Chrysostom, Commentary on Matthew)

The Three Aspects of the Fast

According to Byzantine tradition, the discipline of the fast consists of three parts:

Corporal (bodily) **fast**, by which we give up certain foods, drinks and amusements, in order to break the hold that such things may have over us.

Spiritual or **internal fast**, by which we seek to turn from any sin, wickedness or evil habits in our lives, so that we may come into God's presence well-prepared to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection and our redemption.

Spiritual renewal, by which we seek a greater practice of the virtues, a deeper life of prayer, repentance for our sins, and a greater conversion (metanoia) of heart, which manifests itself in good works. All of these are oriented to a deeper union with God – *theosis*.

The Lenten discipline is summarized in the **Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian**.

Prayer of Saint Ephrem

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter.

(Prostration)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

(Prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

(Prostration)

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter the Great Fast, we do so with the heaviness of the world news this past week, the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian military. Metropolitan William recently wrote: "We pray for our members who have family living in Ukraine. Especially, we pray for the families of the ten priests from Ukraine serving in the Pittsburgh Archeparchy, as well as for several other priests and religious serving other churches in the United States."

With war in the news and uncertainty about the future, Pope Francis has called upon the Church to enter a time of prayer and fasting to combat this "diabolical senselessness of violence." At his general audience last Wednesday he said, "I invite everyone to make March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace. I encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace protect the world from the folly of war."

Although we Byzantines begin our Lenten observance two days earlier, I encourage you to join your prayers and ascetical exercises on Wednesday - and throughout the Great Fast - in solidarity with the other faithful, and especially with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. **We will also take a special offering on the Third Sunday of the Fast - the Sunday of the Cross - for the Church in Mukachevo.**

The Prophet Isaiah foresaw a day when "the Law will go out from Zion, the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." [Isaiah 2.3-4]. May the Lord God grant that his will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. And may the Prince of Peace grant his great mercy and compassion to the people of Ukraine.

For His sake,

Fr. Geoff

Rite of Forgiveness Today - Today is in our Liturgical calendar the last Sunday before the beginning of the Great Fast and is called Cheesefare Sunday. It is also called “Forgiveness Sunday” from the pious Eastern Christian custom of asking each other’s forgiveness for discourtesy and disrespect before we begin together our journey through the Great Fast-Lent. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, as a parish family we will celebrate this Rite of Forgiveness during which we will ask forgiveness of each other with forgiveness prayers.

Cheesefare Sunday- Forgiveness Sunday

“What is the treasure of our life? What do we value most?”

Let us not answer this question flippantly, or with ease, but let us ask it seriously. The things we value most are those we tend to spend the most time with, and for. What we value most we tend to guard and keep secure. What we value most we tend to have on our mind and on our lips. What we value most we tend to invest our lives in.

A good test may be to consider what we talk about the most when we speak with others. A good test may be to consider what we look forward to most in our life each day, each week and each year.

The time of Great Lent, which begins this Sunday evening with the service of mutual forgiveness, offers us forty days to re-order our lives and make the things which we know are the most important—namely our relationship with the Lord—actually the most important. The time of Lent is a time in which we, with the grace of God, begin to focus our life on God and order all things in relationship to him.

And our relationship with the Lord is not a vague decision which we make. It is a practical reality that affects all aspects of our life; how we spend our time, what and how much we eat and when, where we go for entertainment, what we read, the types of friends we choose, etc. There is no aspect of our life which is hidden from the Lord, and there can be no aspect of our life which is not impacted by our relationship with him.

Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia states:

"Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons ... We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family."

Let us not take this lightly! This Sunday of Forgiveness, let us be intentional about both asking forgiveness and offering it to our brothers and sisters. Then, with forgiveness in our heart we will set sail on the sea of the Great Fast.

Don't let this sacred time slip by!



Forgive me” ... “It is God who forgives”

Keeping the Fast

To keep a good fast, we should begin with the things that the Church pointed out to us in the weeks that preceded the Fast: a desire for God; humility before Him; a desire to return from the exile into which our sins have drawn us; a remembrance of the Last Judgment, and our Lord's words, "Whatsoever you have done for the least of my brothers, you did for me"; and a desire to forgive, and be forgiven.

The Church presents us with a required minimum of bodily fasting, and traditional recommendations that go beyond these. Any fasting, of course, is best done under the guidance of a spiritual father; it must take into account our own capacities, and must be done in a way that minimizes pride in our own "accomplishments", as well as any tendency to pay attention to what others do. We can also remove unnecessary distractions from our lives to "make room for God."

We can attend the Church's services, on weekdays as well as Sundays, listening to the readings and prayers. We can receive the Mystery of Repentance, and also take advantage of opportunities to be nourished with the Bread of Life in the mystery of Holy Communion.

Perhaps even more important, we can take time to foster our own personal prayer. We can learn what it is that God asks of us, and ask Him for the strength and courage to do it. Regular reading of the Scriptures, especially the Gospels, can be a great aid in this process.

Finally, by Lenten spiritual reading, through missions, homilies and sermons, and by *paying attention* to the Church's services as well as God's voice in our hearts and our lives, we can come to appreciate and make our own the "bright sadness" of the Lenten springtime of the Great Fast, which leads to Pascha.

Minimum Fasting Requirements:

Simple Abstinence: The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products. ALL the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are bound to abstain. Abstinence is OBLIGATORY on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

Strict Abstinence: The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs and dairy products. While they are permitted, facsimiles, substitutes, and synthetic derivatives violate the intention and spirit of the law of strict abstinence. All the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are OBLIGED to observe strict abstinence when prescribed. Strict abstinence (fast) is to be observed in 2022 on Pure Monday, February 28 (the first day of the Great Fast), and on Great and Holy Friday, April 15.

Traditional Fasting Requirements:

In the Great Fast, abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil was prescribed for ALL days except days of mitigation. All Saturdays and Sundays, February 24, March 9, Wednesday to Friday of the Fifth Week, and the Prefestive Day and Otdanije (Post Feast) of the Annunciation were all mitigations for wine and oil. The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday are general mitigations.

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik

E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff



Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies
Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office
Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
Religious Education Classes September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

If it is to be real, then we must embrace one another as brothers and sisters.

We must look one another in the face and say, "Forgive me."