

SS. PETER AND PAUL

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Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

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Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 6:14-21
Epistle Reading ~ Romans 13:11-14:4
The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

This Week at a Glance

Mon, Feb 19th

7:00 pm - Great Canon of St Andrew

Tues, Feb 20th

7:00 pm - Great Canon of St Andrew

Weds, Feb 21st

6:00 pm - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with meal to follow

Thurs, Feb 22nd

7:00 pm - Great Canon of St Andrew

Fri, Feb 23rd

4:30 pm - Lenten Pierogi Dinner

Sat, Feb 24th

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sun, Feb 25th

9:00am - Hours
9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Gospel Meditation

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Lenten Pierogi Dinners

Our parish is offering Lenten Pierogi Dinners Friday Nights during Lent. February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th & 16th. 4:30-7pm. Dine in or take out. \$10 per dinner. Includes Pierogis, Cabbage & Noodles, salad & bread. Soup, desert and a la carte items will be available as well. Tell your friends!

Correction

There will **not** be Pre-sacrtified Liturgies on Friday evenings as was stated on the calendar. There will be ample opportunities for extra services during Lent - Wednesday Pre-sanctified and Saturday Memorial Liturgies. If you were planning on coming, please consider coming to volunteer at our Lenten Pierogi Dinners.

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Sunday, Feb. 25th is the Sunday of Orodoxy, and as is our custom, Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at 2000 Tower Blvd in Lorain. Liturgy begins at 10:00 am. We will NOT have liturgy here at Ss Peter and Paul. Please make every effort to come and participate in this Sunday that celebrates the Universality of the Orthodox Church.

Sisters from Belarus

The sisters who visited our parish last year, from the monastery of St. Elizabeth in Belarus, will be with us on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. They will have a table set up in St. Nicholas' Hall with gifts and crafts available for purchase. All proceeds go to support the ministries of the monastery.

Pierogi Making Sign-up

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for our upcoming pierogi making days. These pierogi will supply our Lenten Pierogi Dinners, which is a big fundraiser for our parish. Please sign up and help make this year a success.

St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome

Saint Leo received a fine and diverse education, which opened for him the possibility of an excellent worldly career. He yearned for the spiritual life, however, and so he chose the path of becoming an archdeacon under holy Pope Sixtus III (432-440), after whose death Saint Leo was chosen as Bishop of Rome in September 440.

These were difficult times for the Church, when heretics assaulted Orthodoxy with their false teachings. Saint Leo combined pastoral solicitude and goodness with an unshakable firmness in the confession of the Faith. He was in particular one of the basic defenders of Orthodoxy against the heresies of Eutyches and Dioscorus, who taught that there was only one nature in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was also a defender against the heresy of Nestorius.

He exerted all his influence to put an end to the unrest by the heretics in the Church, and by his letters to the holy emperors Theodosius II (408-450) and Marcian (450-457), he actively promoted the convening of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, at Chalcedon in 451, to condemn the heresy of the Monophysites.

Saint Leo was also a defender of his country against the incursions of barbarians. In 452, by the persuasive power of his words, he stopped Attila the Hun from pillaging Italy. Again in the year 455, when the leader of the Vandals [a Germanic tribe], Henzerich, turned towards Rome, he persuaded him not to pillage the city, burn buildings, nor to spill blood.

He knew the time of his death beforehand, and he prepared himself, with forty days of fasting and prayer, to pass from this world into eternity. He died in the year 461 and was buried at Rome. His literary and theological legacy is comprised of 96 sermons and 143 letters, of which the best known is his Epistle to Saint Flavian.

