

# SS. PETER & PAUL

Lorain, OH | [www.OrthodoxLorain.org](http://www.OrthodoxLorain.org) | (440) 277-6266

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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. 27th**

7:00 pm - Great Canon  
of St Andrew of Crete

### **Tue, Feb. 28th**

7:00 pm - Great Canon  
of St Andrew of Crete

### **Wed, Mar. 1st**

6:00 pm - Presanctified  
Liturgy w/ Lenten Meal

### **Thur, Mar. 2nd**

7:00 pm - Great Canon  
of St Andrew of Crete

### **Fri, Mar. 3rd**

7:00 pm - Great Canon  
of St Andrew of Crete

### **Sat, Mar. 4th**

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

### **Sun, Mar. 5th**

Sunday of Orthodoxy  
@ St Nicholas Greek  
9:15 am - Orthros  
10:00 am - Divine  
Liturgy

## **Gospel Meditation**

This is the very beginning of Great Lent. For whatever we begin in life, we always compose some kind of plan of action, a program of what we have to accomplish and in what order. But here we don't have to do this; today's Gospel gives us this program. Earlier, the Holy Church was more often teaching us, but now she is requiring actions from us. Just let us examine the present Gospel attentively, and we will see how simple, how accessible for each of us, and at the same time, how comprehensive these rules are.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt. 6:14-15). Therefore, what is the real purpose of Great Lent? Here it is: so that our Heavenly Father will forgive us our sins. And how do we achieve this? Forgive people their sins. Let us start here with this. This is the very first thing.

Secondly, "moreover, when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces that they may appear unto men to fast.... But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret" (Mt. 6:16-18). And so let us fast, but not for the sake of people, but before God, and not despondently, but in spiritual happiness.

And thirdly, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.. .but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Mt. 6:19-20). This determines all our activities, gives direction to our whole life.

And finally, the last thing: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt. 6:21). Here is the purpose of our life! That our heart be in God, filled with God, so that God will become our treasure. But to learn this is possible only in the Church. And this is so important for us that it is worth the labor, and the fasting, and standing longer in church, and praying more at home. For only then will we be able to cry out with joy: "Christ is Risen!" and to answer those greeting us: "In Truth He is Risen!"

- *Archbishop Andrei (Rymarenko, 1893-1978)*

## **Sunday of Orthodoxy**

Next Sunday, March 5th is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, 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.** His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas will be the main celebrant. We will NOT have liturgy here at Ss Peter and Paul next week. Please make every effort to come and participate in this Sunday that celebrates the Universality of the Orthodox Church.

## **Lenten Coffee Hour**

If you have volunteered to host any of the coffee hours during Lent, please only bring Lenten foods (*i.e.* No meat, dairy, eggs, etc.)

## **Memorial Saturday Liturgies**

Saturday March 11th and Saturday March 18th are Memorial Liturgies. Which means they are held to commemorate our departed relatives, and friends. If you would like your relatives commemorated for these liturgies fill out a form and turn it in, or email Fr Joseph. Please note that due to the large number of commemorations, prospora breads will not be returned with you lists.

## **Akathist & Molebens**

The services usually held on Thursday morning will not be held during Lent. They will resume after Pascha.

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## **Commemoration Lists**

Many people have asked me about the lists taken to the front of the church and the breads that are returned. It is a common practice to make commemorations during the liturgy for our departed loved ones. St John of San Francisco says that there is not greater good we can do for the departed than to have them commemorated at the liturgy. Your commemorations are taken out of a small loaf of bread called prospora, and the loaf is returned. Unfortunately, many parishes in America do not do this due to the large number of commemorations and because making the small loaves is a very time consuming process. I feel its important to keep these traditions alive, so I started doing it. If you would like your loved ones commemorated, fill out a list in the back of church (by the bulletins) and bring it up to the table on the left side of the church. It is normal to include a small donation with your list to help cover the cost of bread making supplies and time, and in thanks for the prayers being offered. At the end of the service, your list and bread can be picked up on the window sill. Please not that these breads are not returned for Memorial Saturday Liturgies (because of the large number of commemorations), or for Pre-sanctified Liturgies (because commemorations are not made at these liturgies).

## **Expulsion of Adam & Eve from Paradise**

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 descendants 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...."

