

**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**
P.O. Box 777
Barton, OH 43905-0777

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

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Very Rev. Father Michael C. Kabel *Pastor & Dean*

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- E-MAIL: stnicholas777@yahoo.com
- WEB SITE: www.stnicholasbarton.org
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MYSTERY OF HOLY CONFESSION: Before & after Saturday evening Vespers. Other Sacraments by appointment.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL? Please notify Father when you are admitted if you want him to visit. Kindly notify Father also when you are discharged.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017 DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM
GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA V'IKI!

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE FROM PARADISE AND THE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESEFARE): Regular Sunday Antiphons and the Beatitudes. Tropar for Tone 3 on p. 87. GLORY.... Kondak of Forgiveness Sunday on p. 178. NOW & EVER.... "Zastupnice." Remaining Propers can be found on pp. 178-179.

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14:4. GOSPEL: Matthew 6:14-21.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES
For the week of February 26, 2017 (Clean Week):

- THIS EVENING: (6:00 PM) Forgiveness Sunday Vespers. Come and be reconciled!**
- Mon., February 27: (6:30 PM) Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, *Part I. DAY OF STRICT ABSTINENCE* — **NO meat** or **dairy products** permitted.**
- Tues., February 28: (6:30 PM) Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, *Part II.***
- Wed., March 1: (6:30 PM) Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, *Part III.***
- Thurs., March 2: (6:30 PM) Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, *Part IV.***

Fri., March 3: (6:30 PM) Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Please keep at least a 3-hour fast!

Sat., March 4: (6:00 PM) Great Vespers for the *Sunday of Orthodoxy*. Propers for Tone 4 and the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5:

8:15 AM: Matins.

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for the *Sunday of Orthodoxy* (1st Sunday of Great Lent). Antiphon "Bless the Lord, O my soul," on p. 8. and the Beatitudes. Tropar for Tone 4 on p. 90. Tropar & Kondak of the Sunday of Orthodoxy on p. 179. Remaining Propers can be found on pp. 179-180. The *Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great*, with its special melodies, is served on the Sundays of Great Lent.

4:00 PM: Pan-Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at *Life-Giving Fountain Greek Orthodox Church* in Martins Ferry, OH. **EVERYONE should be planning to attend!**

THE ETERNAL LAMP burns with prayers for Laney & Anna Ross. Requested by *Laney & Cindi Ross*.

THE LEFT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Prothesis) burn with prayers and best wishes for a Happy 13th Birthday to Will Foster
Requested by *Dad, Mom & Brodi*.

THE RIGHT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Diakonikon) burn with prayers for Special Intentions. Requested by *James*.

THE TETRAPOD LAMPS burn with prayers for Special Intentions. Requested by *Theresa Reese*.

TODAY'S SUNDAY BULLETIN is sponsored with prayers and best wishes for a Happy 13th Birthday to Will.
Requested by *Uncle Jim, Aunt Joni, Ethan & Sophia*.

FAREWELL TO CHEESE. Today is traditionally the last day to eat cheese and dairy products until the Day of the Resurrection.

TODAY is Mission Sunday. Please use the envelope in your box to support the missionary work of the *Orthodox Christian Mission Center* (OCMC). Help spread the light of Orthodoxy throughout the world!

AN ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING will be held **TODAY** after the Divine Services. It is important for all members to attend, as there will be election of officers.

ORDERS for CHOCOLATE 3-BAR CROSSES for your Easter Baskets from Sarris Candies are now being taken. Please submit your order to Theresa Reese by phone at **740-695-5254**; or text to **740-359-0646**.

ICON CRAFT PROJECT. Our Church School students will gather at the church *next* Saturday, March 4 to make icons for OCMC. Plan now to participate in this project on the weekend when we celebrate the use of icons on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY ICON PROCESSION. The children of our parish, their parents and all interested parishioners are invited to participate in a special procession with the holy icons around the inside of the church *next* Sunday, March 5, prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy. Participants may bring their own favorite icons to carry. Otherwise, icons will be provided. Those who wish to participate in the procession should be in church early (**by 9:45 AM** at the latest) *next* Sunday.

2017 A.C.R.Y. ANNUALS have arrived! Cost is **\$15.00**. Senior A.C.R.Y. members are entitled to a complimentary copy. One per household, please.

ANNUAL REMINDER: In keeping with the practice of the entire Orthodox Church, the *Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on the weekdays of Great Lent*. The Divine Liturgy is a celebration of Pascha, and such a celebration is not in keeping with the somber, penitential character of the Lenten weekdays. Those parishioners who desire to

have memorial services for the departed during Great Lent should include the names of their departed loved ones in the All Souls' Commemorations, three of which fall on Saturdays during the Fast. A *Parastas* or *Panachida Service* may also be served on Lenten weekdays, if desired. Memorial Liturgies may resume after the Sunday of Saint Thomas.

This norm *also applies* to **FUNERALS**. If we should happen to have a death in the parish during the season of Great Lent, please note the following changes in our usual procedure: A Parastas Service will be chanted at the funeral home in the evening. In the morning, the Funeral Service only — *without the Divine Liturgy* — will be served in the church, followed by burial. A Memorial Liturgy may be scheduled later, after Thomas Sunday, in conjunction with the 40'th Day Commemoration. These directives are official Diocesan policy.

PLEASE NOTE: **No meat** may be served at *Funeral Dinners* on the Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent.

DON'T FORGET to like us and share on Facebook!

LENTEN PASSPORTS. It is important that our young people keep bringing these passports to church *every Sunday* and for *every upcoming Lenten Service*.

DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT. The Central Region Lenten Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at *Saint Nicholas Church* in Homestead, PA. Let Pan'i Kelley know if you want to attend, so that we can register and attend as a group. Sponsored by the National A.C.R.Y. All welcome!

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Saturday Vespers (2/18) — 6
Sunday Divine Liturgy (2/19) — 81

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2017

Please mark your calendars now!

Sunday, March 19 — Cross Veneration Sunday. *Lenten Mission* here at our church.

Sunday, April 16 — PASCHA.

Saturday, May 6 — First Confession Day.

Sunday, May 14 — Mother's Day.

Thursday, May 25 — Ascension.

Sunday, May 28 — Church School Ends.

Sunday, May 28 — Memorial Day Weekend and the Blessing of Graves.

Sunday, June 4 — Pentecost Sunday.

Friday, June 9 thru Sunday, June 11 — *Family Camp* at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA.

Sunday, June 11 — 40'th Annual *Family Day Celebration* at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA.

+ + + PRAYER LIST + + +

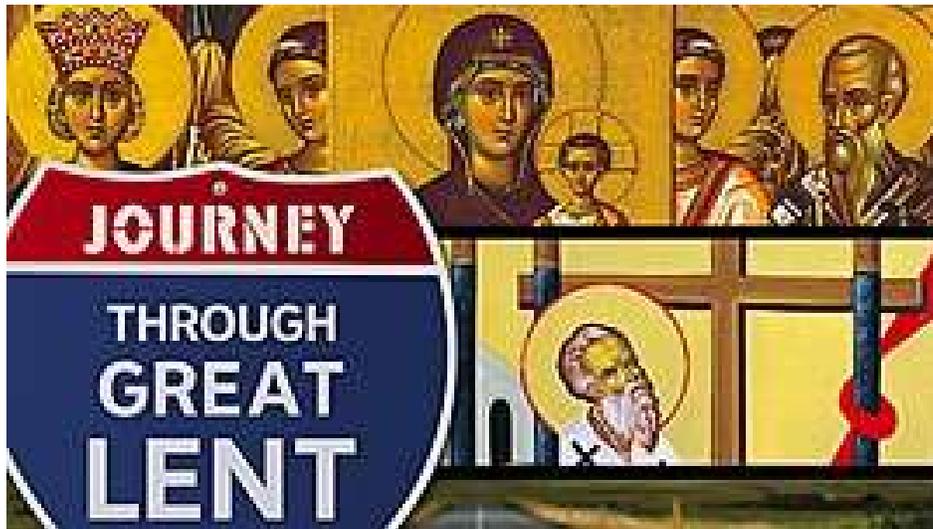
Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship or any special need:

Fr. Ted Shomsky * Fr. Frank Milanese * Fr. John Kopcha * Fr. Gregory Thompson * Fr. Ronald Hazuda * Fr. Donald Valasek * Fr. James Gleason * Fr. John Gido * Fr. Lawrence Barriger * Fr. Robert Lucas * Fr. John Zboyovski * Fr. John Baranik * Pan'i Peggy Teklinski * Pan'i Donna Smoley * Pan'i Lillian Hnatko * Sister Anastasia * Fr. Deacon Ed Brisbane * Subdeacon Constantin Ardeleanu and Family * Erin Susick & unborn child * CiJi Hurley & unborn child * Alexis Marovich * Aaron Marovich * Marie Kovalcik * Peter Dimitriadis * Mary Zuzak * Julia DaRe * Judy Moore * Laney Ross * Madison Gabriel Street * Marge & Richard Kasper * Sandy & Billie Jo Fox * Timothy Simandl * Eugene & Adrian Andronic * Pat & Manuel Thomas * Bob & Barbara Strain * Chuck & Joyce Snider and Family * Judy Antonik * Amelia (Punkin) Karpinski * Arleen Koval * Mike Rose * Mary Jane Kopral * Helen Kopral * Marlene Bolon * Rosalie Troyanovich * Joyce Baker & Family * The Lazo Family * Alex Sombaty * Laney & Anna Ross * Alexandra Sedor * Mick & Janie Strain * Eric Kocsis * The Greene Family * Jim Kopral * George Marovich * Audrey & Andy Zavatsky * Debbie Strain * Tony Neuhart * Rich Kozak * Eleanor Dussling * Stephanie Warble * James * Faye * Fr. Leo * Burl & Linda Matthews * Mary Kabel * Alberta Kabel * John Kelley * Jackie Hurley * David

Gereg * The Stephens Family * Lou Nicklaus * Mark Magnone * Nicholas Marshall * The Wilson Family * Halley Russell * Katie Slavik * Cody St. John & Family * Geri Szymialis * Joseph Mlodzik * Craig & Jodie Tschappat * Payton Green * Emily Reilly * Rebecca Cain * Connie Gereg * Greg Saracco * Christy Drake * Teresa Bobbit * Roman Riselvato * Vic Marshall * The Boone Family * Linda Tennant * Dawn Kidd * Benjamin Ladich * Larry & Michelle Vuchelich and Sons * Christy Ray * Sandy Bauer * Danica Clement * Margie Shafer * Lori Crow * Melissa * Roger Lucas & Family * The Victor Rose Family * Bryant Lepic * Maddox Stillion * The Nardo Family * Karen Molnar * Janyce Duncan * David Blake * Louise Tamire * The Smutney Family * Jason Kordack * Scott Wheeler * Jenn Patterson * Jean Smith * Bob & Gayle Murphy * Roger Byard * Tammy Clary * Erin Donato * The LaMotte Family * Ida Hilliard * Keith * Diana Tazar * Deanna & Tim Shea * Susan Wisvara Weir * Susan Rayle * Jacob Hoskinson * Bethany * Gary Slaid * Claudia Miller * Mary Lou Kidd * John Mouhlas * Virginia Wiggins * Eleanor LeMasters & Family * James Grady * Sarah, John & unborn child * Donna Holtus * The Pence Family * Tony & Teresa Markawas * The Conroy Family * Alexis McManus * Carly Carroll * Jan Dobbs * Gary Brent Dobbs * Robert Donaldson & Family * Mellissa Clegg * Lucas * Mikea * Leo & the Zambori Family * Nancy Rodocker * Dana Stanley * Sarah Carellas * Nichols Family * Lynette * Valerie Pickett * Gale & Dan Fincham * Frank Pierson * Pat Brant * Maria Timkova * The Brown Family * Mark Costine * Flora Ross * Tina Curtis * Amy Draa * The McCammon Family * Anna Fera * Megan Draa.

The Children's Word: A Happy Lent

By [Presvytera Alexandra Houck](#) in [The Children's Word](#)



Have you ever done something nice for a friend? Well, of course you have! Maybe you picked out a present for him or her, or sent a card, or helped your friend with something. But did you grumble about it? Did you complain? Probably not. When we do something for a friend, we are happy. We want to help, don't we?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about how we should act when we fast. That's because tomorrow we start Great Lent, the time when we get ready for Easter, for Pascha! We get ready by eating not-so-fancy foods, by helping the poor more, by going to church more, by forgiving others, and helping people who need our help. Sometimes people might complain about Lent. YOU might even start to complain. You won't get to have a big ice cream sundae when you want it. You might not get to watch a TV show you wanted to watch, because your family is off to church. Or you might miss out on something else you want.

But always remember, when we do these things, we are remembering a friend, our Lord, Jesus Christ. And when we remember Him, we are happy too. Let's see if we can go through Great Lent without complaining about it. Instead, we can remember why we're doing it! Can you have a happy Lent?



Great & Holy Lent begins tomorrow...

Here are six things that will make Great Lent, Great Again!

1) Fast a little more. The standard of the Fast in the Orthodox Faith is a strict abstention from meat and dairy products throughout Lent and Holy Week (48 days). Do your best--at the very least--do more than you did last year (and if you stumble, don't despair, but try again the next day). In addition, try harder to stay away from entertainment, turn off the television a little more, listen to less radio, spend less time surfing the net & drop the video game controllers. If you have questions in regards to the best path for your family, ask your priest.

2) Go to Church! I would encourage you to attend at least one service per week; that is, in addition to the Sunday Divine Liturgy. The first week of Great Lent offers five opportunities; most of the other Lenten weeks will provide at least two opportunities on Wednesday's and Friday's. I promise there will be room in your church. Please do not pass them by without consideration.

3) Go to Confession. We all must do it. If we do not confess our sins, at least once per year, we remove ourselves from communion with the Church and really are not even an Orthodox Christian. It is certainly not easy to look at your soul and yourself in front of Christ, but we do so in order to be healed and move forward; in doing so we will probably find we like it. Let's prepare ourselves and go!

4) Pray more than normal. I know I already spoke above about coming to church, but we should also make an effort to pray at home. The Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian is read during Lenten services, this should also be read at home, at least once a day, if not more often. Force yourself to read the Sacred Scriptures during this season. Pick out a spiritual book, or really, any "good" book, that wakes up and enlivens the soul and read it during Great Lent.

5) Gather the Fruits of the Spirit. No matter the manner in which you are fasting, fruit is more than likely fair game. As you fast from the sins of the flesh, gather the Fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)

6) Seek forgiveness & offer forgiveness. This requires humility. If we want it, we must give it.

I pray that each of you will have a most blessed, rewarding and spiritually enlivening Lenten season. If I have sinned against you in word, deed or thought, please forgive me, your unworthy priest, Fr. Michael.

**O LORD AND MASTER OF MY LIFE, TAKE FROM ME THE SPIRIT OF
LAZINESS, DESPAIR, LUST FOR POWER AND VAIN-TALKING.**

+ + +

**BUT GIVE TO ME YOUR SERVANT THE SPIRIT OF PURITY, HUMILITY,
PATIENCE AND LOVE.**

+ + +

**YES, LORD AND KING, GRANT ME TO SEE MY OWN SINS AND NOT TO
JUDGE MY BROTHER.**

+ + +

FOR BLESSED ARE YOU FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

The Fourth Sunday of the Triodion Period: Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)



The Lord Confronts the Disobedience of Adam & Eve; "The Expulsion from Paradise", Nave Mosaics from Palatine Chapel, Palermo, Sicily. Mid 12th Century.

Introduction

The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During the pre-Lenten period, the services of the Church include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

Biblical Story

The Sunday of Forgiveness, the last of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, has two themes: it commemorates Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and it accentuates our need for forgiveness. There are obvious reasons why these two things should be brought to our attention as we stand on the threshold of Great Lent. One of the primary images in the Triodion is that of the return to Paradise. Lent is a time when we weep with Adam and Eve before the closed gate of Eden, repenting with them for the sins that have deprived us of our free communion with God. But Lent is also a time when we are preparing to celebrate the saving event of Christ's death and rising, which has reopened Paradise to us once more (Luke 23:43). So sorrow for our exile in sin is tempered by hope of our re-entry into Paradise.

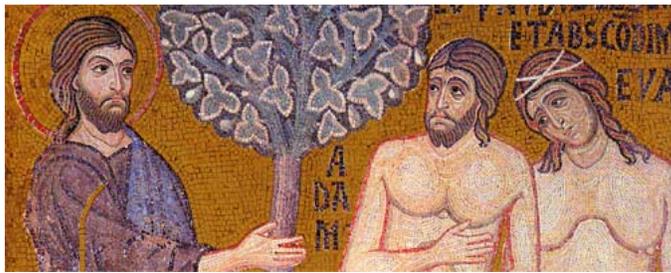
The second theme, that of forgiveness, is emphasized in the Gospel reading for this Sunday (Matthew 6:14-21) and in the special ceremony of mutual forgiveness at the end of the Vespers on Sunday evening. Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, 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. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from others, but should link us to them with ever-stronger bonds.

The Sunday of Forgiveness also directs us to see that Great Lent is a journey of liberation from our enslavement to sin. The Gospel lesson sets the conditions for this liberation. The first one is fasting—the refusal to accept the desires and urges of our fallen nature as normal, the effort to free ourselves from the dictatorship of the flesh and matter over the spirit. To be effective, however, our fast must not be hypocritical, a "showing off." We must "appear not unto men to fast but to our Father who is in secret" (vv. 16-18).

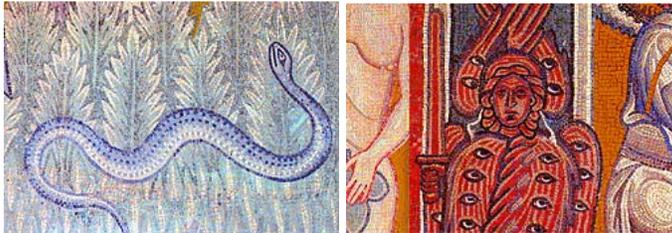
The second condition is forgiveness—"If you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you" (vv. 14-15). The triumph of sin, the main sign of its rule over the world, is division, opposition, separation, hatred. Therefore, the first break through this fortress of sin is forgiveness—the return to unity, solidarity, love. To forgive is to put between me and my "enemy" the radiant forgiveness of God Himself. To forgive is to reject the hopeless "dead-ends" of human relations and to refer them to Christ. Forgiveness is truly a "breakthrough" of the Kingdom into this sinful and fallen world.

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Sunday of the Last Judgment incorporates all of the elements of the parable from Matthew 25:31-46.



1. Ashamed for the sin that they committed by eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve now stand before Christ.



2. Adam and Eve were tempted to sin by the devil who appeared to them as a serpent.

3. A cherubim with a flaming sword was appointed by God to guard the gate of Eden and the way to the tree of life.



4. For their disobedience, the Lord has Adam and Eve expelled from Paradise. They leave dressed in garments prepared by God.

Christ sits on the throne and before him the Last Judgment takes place. He is extending his hands in blessing upon the Theotokos on his right, and John the Baptist on his left. Seated on smaller thrones are the Apostles, represented by Peter and Paul, a depiction of the words of Christ in Matthew 19:28. (1.)

The icon shows Adam and Eve standing before Jesus Christ [1.]. Prior to their descent into sin through disobedience, Adam and Eve were blessed with a beautiful relationship of communion and fellowship with God. However, they were tempted by the devil appearing in the form of a serpent [2.] to disobey God and eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:15-17).

When they took of the fruit and sinned, they realized that they were naked. Further, when “they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden”...they hid themselves “from the presence of the Lord” (3:8). The icon shows Adam and Eve attempting to cover themselves with fig leaves as they try to hide, and yet they stand ashamed before the Lord.

Because of their disobedience the Lord expelled them from the garden. The icon shows the Archangel of the Lord directing them out of Paradise, through the gate of Eden where God placed “the cherubim and a sword flaming and guarding the way to the tree of life” (3:23-24) [3.]. Adam and Eve are dressed in the garments of skins made for them by God (3:20) [4.].

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Sunday of Forgiveness

The Sunday of Forgiveness is commemorated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on Saturday evening. The hymns of the Triodion for this day are added to the usual prayers and hymns of the weekly commemoration of the Resurrection of Christ. The naming of the Sunday is taken from the commemoration of the Exile of Adam and Eve from Paradise and from the Gospel reading of the Divine Liturgy.

Scripture readings for the Sunday of the Last Judgment are: At the Matins: The prescribed weekly Gospel reading. At the Divine Liturgy: Romans 13:11-14:4, Matthew 6:14-21.

The Sunday of Forgiveness is also known as Cheesefare Sunday. This is the last day that dairy products can be eaten before the Lenten fast. The full fast begins the following day on Clean Monday, the first day of Great Lent. On the evening of the Sunday of Forgiveness the Church conducts the first service of Great Lent, the Vespers of Forgiveness, a service that directs us further on the path of repentance and helps us to acknowledge our need for forgiveness from God and to seek forgiveness from our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the first time that the Lenten prayer of St. Ephraim accompanied by prostrations is read. At the end of the service all the faithful approach the priest and one another asking for mutual forgiveness.

Orthodox Christians are encouraged to enter Great Lent in repentance and confession by attending these services, coming for the Sacrament of Confession, and dedicating themselves to worship, prayer, and fasting throughout the Lenten period. The first day of Lent, Clean Monday, signifies the beginning of a period of cleansing and purification of sins through repentance. As we set out on the Lenten fast we are reminded that we will make this journey as members of a family, supported by the intercessions of the Saints.

From: lent.goarch.org