

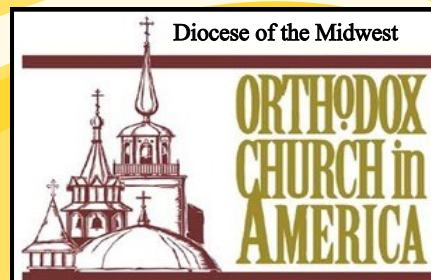
Today's Scripture Readings
Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

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.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

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."

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!



Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

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Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

March 17, 2024

Tone 8



Expulsion of Adam & Eve from Paradise
Forgiveness Sunday

*St. Patrick,
Enlightener of Ireland*

Divine Liturgy

Readings

(Readings on Back)

- ◆ **Romans 13:11-14:4**
- ◆ **Matthew 6:14-21**

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 18

6:00pm - Canon of St. Andrew

Tuesday, March 19

6:00pm - Canon of St. Andrew

Wednesday, March 20

6:00pm - Canon of St. Andrew

Thursday March 21

6:00pm - Canon of St. Andrew

Saturday, March 23

9:00am - Soul Saturday Liturgy

6:00pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 24

10:00am - Divine Liturgy @ St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

6:00pm - Great Vespers w/Litya for Annunciation

Monday, March 25

9:00am - Festal Divine Liturgy for Annunciation

Today's Panikhida

is being said for Paula Baymiller.
May her memory be eternal!

Announcements:

St. Gregory Palamas Monastery Pilgrimage

Saturday, March 30. 9:30 am entrance of the bishop 10:00am Hierarchical Liturgy. Followed by a Lenten meal in the monastery dining hall. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by calling 419-368-5335 or email monasery@palamasmonastery.org. St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, 934 Coe Rd, 2256, Perrysville, OH 44864 .

Soul Saturday

Please email or give Fr Joseph a list of your departed loved ones that will be commemorated at the Liturgy.

From the Parish Council

1. The parish Council has bought an AED device: Automated External Defibrillator device for the church. We will be having training soon for all those that want.
2. Painting and repair of basement and elevator area: Cost is estimated for repair, paint and labor at \$3,000 plus. We would like to get donations to help offset the cost as we don't have that in the budget. The basement has not been painted in 25+ years and really needs it. See Sam or Ted for information, make your donations for basement painting.
3. Please note that the guard rails have been repaired.
4. Thanks to Mat. Maura and everyone all that helped with the Maslenitsa. We made close to \$450 dollars.
5. Specialty piroghis sales: \$1432 / Piroghis dinner (March 8): \$1452.
6. We will be making stuffed cabbage on Thursday, March 21st, start rolling at 12:00 noon, Piroghi dinner Friday March 22 at 4:30 to 7:00 PM, please get the word out and come and support Your church.

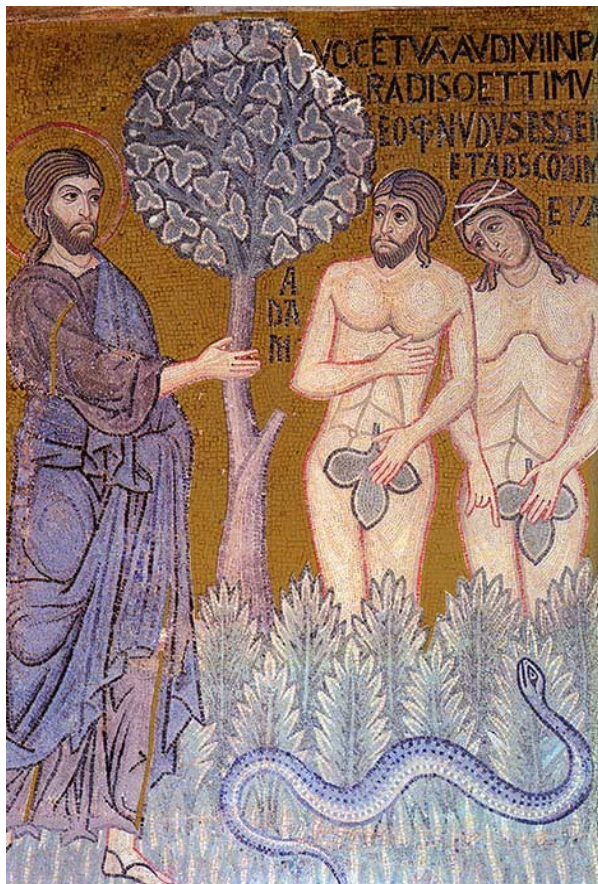
On Today's Gospel Reading

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.

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 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.

The icon of the Sunday of the Last Judgment incorporates all of the elements of the parable from Matthew 25:31-46. 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. 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 to disobey God and eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:15-17).

St. Patrick of Ireland

Saint Patrick, the Apostle of the Irish, was seized from his native Britain by Irish marauders when he was sixteen years old. Though the son of a deacon and a grandson of a priest, it was not until his captivity that he sought out the Lord with his whole heart.

In his Confession, the testament he wrote towards the end of his life, he says, "After I came to Ireland - every day I had to tend sheep, and many times a day I prayed - the love of God and His fear came to me more and more, and my faith was strengthened. And my spirit was so moved that in a single day I would say as many as a hundred prayers, and almost as many at night, and this even when I was staying in the woods and on the mountain; and I would rise for prayer before daylight, through snow, through frost, through rain, and I felt no harm."

After six years of slavery in Ireland, he was guided by God to make his escape, and afterwards struggled in the monastic life at Auxerre in Gaul, under the guidance of the holy Bishop Germanus.

Many years later he was ordained bishop and sent to Ireland once again, about the year 432, to convert the Irish to Christ. His arduous labors bore so much fruit that within seven years, three bishops were sent from Gaul to help him shepherd his flock, "my brethren and sons whom I have baptized in the Lord - so many thousands of people," he says in his Confession.

His apostolic work was not accomplished without much "weariness and painfulness," long journeys through difficult country, and many perils; he says his very life was in danger twelve times. When he came to Ireland as its enlightener, it was a pagan country; when he ended his earthly life some thirty years later, about 461, the Faith of Christ was established in every corner.

Troparion: O Holy Hierarch, equal of the Apostles, Saint Patrick, wonderworker and enlightener of Ireland: Intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offences.

Kontakion: The Master revealed thee as a skillful fisher of men; and casting forth nets of Gospel preaching, thou drewest up the heathen to piety. Those who were the children of idolatrous darkness thou didst render sons of day through holy Baptism. O Patrick, intercede for us who honor thy memory.

Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Chris, Marianne,
Dan, Rick,
Mat. Nadean
Mat. Krystyna
Mat. Kathy

Departed:

Paula (Seraphima)

Tall Candles

Tall Candles are given by
Subdeacon Theophan Chris
Baymiller

In memory of
Paula Baymiller

On the occasion of the 40th
day since her repose.

May her memory be eternal!

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday, March 11

St. Sophronius, of Jerusalem
3 John 1:1-15
Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39

Tuesday, March 12

St. Gregory Dialogus,
Pope of Rome
Jude 1:1-10
Luke 22:39-42, 45-23:1

Wed, March 13

St. Sabinus of Egypt
Joel 2:12-26
Joel 3:12-21

Thurs, March 14

Ven. Benedict of Nursia
Jude 1:11-25
Luke 23:2-34, 44-56

Friday, March 15

Martyr Nicander of Egypt
Zechariah 8:7-17
Zechariah 8:19-23

Saturday, March 16

All Departed Righteous Monastics
Rom 14:19-23, 16:25-27
Matthew 6:1-13

