



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Парафія Успіння Пресв. Богородиці

Our Mission is to joyfully
bring all people into the
knowledge, love and
service of the Holy Trinity,
Who dwells amongst us.

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

Sunday Divine Liturgy
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am

new

Major Feast Days at 7pm

Parish Website:

<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

Eparchial Website:

www.eeparchy.com

Pastor:

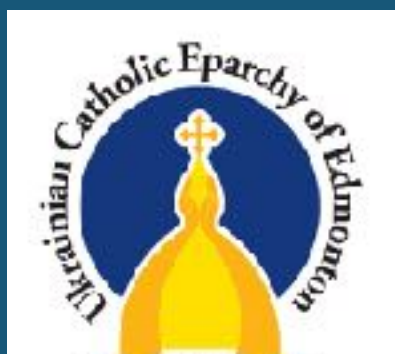
Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

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A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF
EDMONTON

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Sunday of Cheesefare - Sunday of Forgiveness;
Octoechos Tone 7; Our Venerable Father and Confessor
Procopius the Decapolitan (716-40)

**Our Special "Covid Friendly" Annual
General Meeting should be in your
hands (via mail and/or email). Please
reply as soon as you are able.**



If you have not gotten anything, you can go to our parish
website, and click on the big "AGM" button.

Ukraine crisis: Pope Francis calls for global day of fasting for peace on Ash Wednesday.

Read all about it on the following page.

**For Ukrainian Catholics "The Great Fast" (aka Lent) starts
tonight at sunset. Weekly Lenten Presanctified Liturgies will
take place Wednesdays at 5:30 pm at Dormition.**

**Please Lord, speedily end the
violence and fear that grip us in
Ukraine and in all places of
conflict.**

Lord, open everyone's eyes to Your ways, and
change all of our hearts so that we may serve
and care for all our brothers and sisters as You
have taught.

Render useless all machines of hatred and war.

Turn those who inflict pain and suffering in pursuit of power, so that they heal, comfort and
empower others. Remove from us all thoughts of hatred and revenge. Grant safety to those
who flee. Comfort to those who now mourn. Give rest to those who have died. Allow those
who are seized with anxiety to have hope and respite, and inflame those who are indifferent to
passion for life. Ease the nightmares that now plague children and adults alike. Shelter those
who are now homeless. Heal those who suffer horrible wounds. Let Your truth shine through
the propaganda. Open our homes, tables, and yes, even our wallets to those in need.

Help us to love our enemies as You love us, and teach us to forgive those who trespass against
us as You steadfastly forgive us.



Ukraine crisis: Pope Francis calls for global day of fasting for peace on Ash Wednesday

Vatican City, Feb 23, 2022 / 03:07 am

Expressing great sadness at the worsening situation in Ukraine, Pope Francis asked world leaders on Wednesday to “make a serious examination of conscience before God.”

Speaking at his live-streamed general audience on Feb. 23, the pope called for people to fast for peace on March 2, Ash Wednesday, praying that “the Queen of Peace will preserve the world from the madness of war.”

“I have great pain in my heart over the worsening situation in Ukraine,” Pope Francis said in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall.

“Despite the diplomatic efforts over the past few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people throughout the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests.”

“I would like all those who have the political responsibility to make a serious examination of conscience before God, who is the God of peace and not of war ... He wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all parties involved will refrain from any action that will cause even more suffering for people, destabilizing coexistence among nations and undermining international law.”

The pope’s comments came after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced in a televised address on Feb. 21 that he would recognize the breakaway Ukrainian regions of Lugansk and Donetsk as independent entities. The regions, which are run by Russian-backed separatists, include land currently held by the Ukrainian armed forces.

Western countries responded to the announcement by unveiling sanctions targeting Russian banks and politicians.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called off a meeting, scheduled for Thursday, with the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, saying that it served no purpose as the U.S. believes that Russia is beginning a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The Russo-Ukrainian War began in February 2014, focused on the east of Ukraine. The conflict has claimed more than 14,000 lives and driven 1.3 million people from their homes, according to Caritas Internationalis, a Vatican-based confederation of Catholic charities.



The warring parties agreed to a cease-fire in July 2020. But recently Russia has sent at least 150,000 troops to the Ukrainian border.

“And now, I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting,” Pope Francis said.

“I invite everyone to make next 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 preserve the world from the madness of war.”

This is the second day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine that Pope Francis has called since the crisis began to escalate in 2022.

Pope Francis has a long-standing connection with Ukraine. During a visit to the Ukrainian Catholic community in Rome in 2018, he recalled that a Ukrainian bishop in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires had taught him when he was 12 years old how to be an altar server at Eastern Rite liturgies and read the Ukrainian alphabet.

As pope, he has consistently shown his concern for Ukrainians. In 2016, he launched a charitable project, called “The Pope for Ukraine,” that has helped more than a million people.

He presided last month over a worldwide day of prayer for peace in Ukraine.

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the leader of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, has repeatedly expressed the hope that Pope Francis will visit Ukraine. The 85-year-old pope outlined ambitious travel plans for 2022 last fall but did not mention Ukraine as a possible destination.

Here at Dormition we will have Presanctified Liturgy at 7pm on Wednesday. At this liturgy we will pray in particular for peace in Ukraine.

Everyone is encouraged to take fasting seriously both for peace, and also especially this week as it is the first week of the Great Fast - Lent.



This message was give 2 days BEFORE the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

Appeal of His Beatitude Sviatoslav to the Sons and Daughters of the Ukrainian People in Ukraine and Abroad, and to all People of Good Will

Given at Kyiv, on February 22, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The recognition by the president of the Russian Federation of the “independence and sovereignty” of the self-proclaimed LNR and DNR creates serious challenges and threats for the entire international community and for international law, on the basis of which today people and their nations exist and cooperate. Irreparable damage has been done to the very logic of international relations, which are called to safeguard peace and the just order of societies, the supremacy of law, the accountability of state powers, the defence of the human being, human life and natural rights. Today all of humanity has been placed in danger—that the powerful have a right to impose themselves on whomever they wish, with no regard for the rule of law.

In its decision the government of the Russian Federation unilaterally withdrew from a lengthy peace process, tasked with ensuring the restoration of dignified conditions for life on the territories controlled by Russia in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, for those impacted by Russian military aggression. The war, initiated against our people in 2014, has inflicted deep wounds on many of our fellow citizens: thousands killed, wounded, left in solitude. Yesterday’s step taken by the president of the Russian Federation destroyed foundational principles for a long-term process of restoring peace in Ukraine, created the path for a new wave of military aggression against our state, opened the doors for a full scale military operation against the Ukrainian people.

We consider the defence of our native land, our historical memory and our hope, our God-given right to exist to be the personal responsibility and sacred duty of the citizens of Ukraine. The defence of our Fatherland is our natural right and civic duty. We are strong when we are together. Now has come the time to unite our efforts in order to defend the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Ukrainian state. The duty and responsibility of all of humanity—to actively work to avert war and protect a just peace.

We are convinced that the world cannot develop and find answers for the challenges of today by resorting to might and violence, by showing disdain for shared human values and the truth of the Gospel. I call upon all people of good will to not ignore the suffering of the Ukrainian people, brought on by Russian military aggression. We are a people who love peace. And precisely for that reason we are ready to defend it and fight for it.

Today we call out in prayer to the Almighty Creator, with a special appeal for wisdom for those entrusted with making important decisions for society, in whose hands lies the fate of humanity. We ask the Heavenly Father for assistance in restoring a just peace on Ukrainian land.

We pray especially for those who defend Ukraine, who in these days are for us an example of loving sacrifice and dedicated service to their people. May the merciful Lord protect them from every danger and crown their efforts with the victory of truth and good.

We call for the gracious blessing of a loving God and Creator upon Ukraine and its people!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

† SVIATOSLAV

Here is a link to a pastoral video message from His Beatitude (in Ukrainian) from yesterday, Saturday, February 26, 2 days after the invasion.

<https://fb.watch/bpOebMhZJv/>

Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

oca.org

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..."



Venerable Prokopios the Confessor of Decapolis

oca.org

Saint Prokopios lived during the VIII century in the region of Dekapolis, east of the Sea of Galilee. Forsaking the vanity of this world, Prokopios was tonsured in a certain monastery, where he labored for his salvation, devoting himself to a life of prayer and fasting. As he grew experienced in ascetical labors, he was adorned with virtue and purity of soul, so that other ascetics began to notice him.

Meanwhile, about this time, the heresy of iconoclasm appeared. Prokopios was distressed by the policies of the wicked Emperor Leo the Isaurian, who regarded the Holy Icons as idols, and those who venerated them as idolaters.

The righteous Prokopios, together with other zealots of Orthodoxy, fought against the wicked heresy of the iconoclasts. He refuted their mindless madness and defeated them by declaring that Orthodox Christians do not worship icons, we venerate them, and that veneration passes to the original prototype. This brought upon him the wrath and disfavor of the Emperor. At his command, Saint Prokopios was arrested and subjected to cruel torments: he was flogged, beaten with rods, and raked with iron claws, and then was thrown into a dank dungeon. There Saint Prokopios and Saint Basil (February 28), his co-struggler in the monastic life, languished until the death of Emperor Leo, when the Holy Confessors were released.

Saint Prokopios the Decapolite spent the remainder of his life in peace, guiding many on the path of virtue and salvation. He reposed at an advanced age, around the year 750.



Statement of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) condemns the escalation of tensions and violence in the Ukraine marked by Russia's invasion, which was seen today, Thursday, 24 February 2022, in the form of militarization and bombing in various Ukrainian cities.

In solidarity with the Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, in unison with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, with the people of Ukraine as well as with Canadians of Ukrainian origin and descent, we encourage the faithful and all people of good will to pray for the imminent restoration of peace, dialogue, and human fraternity.

Conscious of the regrettable lessons about violence which we have all learned throughout human history, we implore all involved to pursue non-violent means to resolve disputes and disagreements. The use of military force does not favour dialogue and peace; rather, it endangers innocent human life, the dignity of the human person and the security and safety of all the people caught up in this conflict.

Jesus came to bring the gift of peace, and it is through Him that new pathways of dialogue can be opened, even when all other avenues appear closed. With Pope Francis, who has entrusted this situation to the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, we ask Our Lady, through her powerful intercession, to open hearts so that anger, resentment, and division may start to be healed and that any further escalation of unnecessary violence may be avoided.

Thursday, 24 February 2022



A mother flees the violence with her children. Men aged 18-60 are not allowed to leave the country.

Lent Starts Tonight: Fasting

On the first day of Lent the faithful who are healthy enough to fast should, according to teachings of the Church, abstain from both meat and dairy products. To learn more about fasting, you can pick up Fr. Kapusta's "Fasting 101" booklet, that speaks all about it. Find it online or next to the bulletins in church.

- **Please pray for** several of our parishioners and family members including (but not limited to): Mickey, Sister Andrea, Kristopher, Greg, Peter, Ross, Ron, Peter, Jean, Verna, Miranda, Sarah, Marge, Ann & Louis.
- **Happy birthday** to **Ryan Gerace** who celebrates his birthdays this week. May God grant you many happy years. Mnohaya Lita.
- **Please continue to take Covid seriously.** If you are feeling sick please stay home. In the parish, please keep a safe distance from each other (2+ m), sanitize your hands regularly and always wear a mask. At the end of each Liturgy we'd appreciate you helping us sanitize your pew. At this time we are not allowed to do congregational singing. Bishop is allowing for one family to sing as a cantor only. Most of our service will be recited. Thanks for your cooperation.
- This past **Thursday, our parish opened its doors** for anyone who wished to come and pray. It was a beautiful profound day of prayer on the occasion of a horrible international event. I want to thank all those who came.
- **First Solemn Communion Classes** are underway. Please say a prayer for our 3 FSC Boys.
- If you are **feeling overwhelmed**, Fr. Bo would be happy to spend some time listening to you. Just give me a call if you wish.
- **Confessions:** Fr. Bo is always happy to hear confessions. Just me know and I will make some time for you.
- Got any ideas? What can we do as a parish for all the new **refugees**?
- Don't forget to **say a prayer for all the other "hot spots"** of conflict around the world.

Normally during Lent we have 1 special collection over and above the regular collection for the needs of the parish. This year, due to the war, we now have 2. (and... we also collect money to help decorate the church with flowers too... so I guess that's 3.)

Special, Special Collection

Amid the unfolding Russian invasion of Ukraine, our Church, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters there, is collecting donations to support the full mobilization of humanitarian aid, medical help and spiritual and psychological care.

To date, the Eparchy of Edmonton has sent over \$47,000 to provide aid for the Ukrainian people. We thank our faithful who have already donated towards this purpose, and we pledge to continue to support our brothers and sisters there. Donations can be made directly on the eparchial website <https://eeparchy.com/donate/>.

We also encourage our parishes in Alberta to take up a special collection on Sunday, February 27 and Sunday, March 6, 2022. All donations will be forwarded to the Eparchy, and we will send all funds collected to those organizations already in Ukraine providing support and aid. Please be generous.

Lord, Great and Almighty, protect our beloved Ukraine!

A generous family from our Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy has **pledged to match all donations** in support of humanitarian aid in Ukraine up to \$250 000. Help us meet this goal. Please support generously!

Every Year During Great Lent, the Eparchy of Edmonton conducts its annual collection for “Aid to the Missionary Church in Canada.”

The purpose of this collection is to support the needs of the Church in Canada. Three charitable institutions are the recipients of the collection: the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta, Catholic Missions in Canada, and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The **Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta** responds to the call of Christ to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28: 19-20). The Eparchy of Edmonton supports local priests in their travel, health care, pension, and clergy substitution, thus ensuring that they can respond to the pastoral needs of the faithful, especially the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and funerals in rural Alberta. Visit www.edmontoneparchy.com to see how the Church is working for you.

Catholic Missions in Canada supports over 600 missionaries – priests, deacons, sisters, brothers and lay ministers – throughout 27 eparchies and dioceses right here in Canada, including the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Catholic Missions supports the local churches in our call to proclaim the Gospel among First Nations communities, missionary support,



religious education programs, building and repairs, lay pastoral leadership programs, and education of seminarians. To learn more about the work of *Catholic Missions in Canada* visit (www.cmic.info) and sign up for a free subscription to its quarterly magazine by calling toll free 1-866-937-2642.

Each year the **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops** is asked to speak out, give leadership, and provide guidelines for the faithful on a wide variety of topics in our daily lives. For our bishops to do so, they must have the benefit of research and expert advice. Research and gathering information require staff, time and money. Through the yearly bishops' collection, an appeal is made to all Catholics to be generous towards the work of their bishops. To learn more about the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, visit www.cccb.ca.



So... Why do we Eastern Christians start the Great Fast on "Forgiveness Monday" and not on "Ash Wednesday" like Western Christians?

Well. I know why we Byzantine Catholics start on Monday, but I didn't know why RCs start on Wednesday. Till now.

The easiest way to explain this is to draw it out, so I made us all a calendar on the next page.

First let's explain what I understand well. Byzantine Catholics (that's us) start the season of the Great Fast 40 days before Holy Week. This first day is called "Clean Monday", and technically it starts at sundown on Sunday evening. Why? Because the Church always starts the new day at sundown (not midnight like the civic calendar does).

Holy Week is the 8 days before Pascha where we live out liturgically the passion of Jesus. (Pascha is the Eastern way of saying Easter.) It starts on Lazarus Saturday where during the Liturgy we read the gospel about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, and continues to Great and Holy Saturday where Jesus descends into death to begin a glorious exit with his beloved people.

Before the Great Fast (which Latin Rite Christians call Lent) we have 4 weeks of Pre-Lent. This is kicked off right after the church reads the gospel about Zacchaeus. This is meant to be a time of preparation for the fast (because it's hard to start cold turkey).

So with this knowledge in hand, how do we Byzantines find the date for the Great Fast to start?

Well, first thing we need to do is figure out the date of Easter. Of course the date of Easter changes every year because Easter falls each year on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the Spring Equinox. But thankfully the days of the week stay the same every year. Easter Sunday will always take place on a Sunday, Good Friday on a Friday, and Forgiveness Monday on a Monday.

Once we find the date of Easter Sunday, then we simply count backwards for the 8 days of Holy Week, and another 40 more for Clean Monday.

On the calendar on the next page this is all laid out for you. The names of the days as we call them in the Byzantine Church are in Black. The numbering of the 40 days of the Fast are in red.

Now for the tricky part. Trying to explain something that wasn't clear to me:

Almost everyone I've asked has a different theory as to why Western Christians (including Roman Catholics) start on the day they call "Ash Wednesday".

Even when I look it up on Catholic websites I get several answers. Here is one of them which explains some common theories:

When does Lent begin for RC's?

Traditionally, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. Since this is more than forty days, some contend that Sundays are not counted in Lent. Instead, they argue, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are counted instead. Others say that Lent begins on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday. No one is exactly sure how Ash Wednesday became the first day of Lent.

<https://www.aboutcatholic.com/beliefs/lent-in-the-catholic-church/>
(as of Saturday, Feb 13)

I have asked many Roman Catholic clergy over the years also and the answers I got were likewise mixed. The second funniest and most humble answer I ever got was: "Roman Catholics simply didn't count very well back when they made the calendar."

But as of last year I have asked a RC priest who actually could give me a little more history. Here is the answer from Fr. Sylvain Casavant:



Greetings Fr. Bo, you have asked a good question. Our liturgical books state, "Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive." Another book that indicates a little bit of the history of lent states that "The first four days of lent are of more recent origins since the season began on the following Sunday until the time of Gregory I". [Pope Gregory the 1st lived from 540-601.]

If you count from the Sunday after Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday before the Mass of the Lord's Supper, you have 40 days. Today we actually celebrate 44 days including Holy Thursday or 43 if you exclude Holy Thursday all together.

So there you have it. We don't know exactly why but hundreds of years ago Roman Catholics added four extra days to the beginning of their Lent. (Maybe some scholar somewhere knows why.) Roman Catholic's now start their Lent on Ash Wednesday and go till Holy Thursday, a total of 44 days (or 43 if you don't count Holy Thursday). We Byzantine Catholics start on Clean Monday and go till "Holy Week", a total of 40 days. Holy Week then lasts for another 8 days till the great feast of Pascha.

Yay! We are smarter now!




















Whether you are Roman Catholic or a Byzantine Catholic may your Fasting journey be profound, and may we reach the Feast of the Resurrection as holier people.

(BTW: The funniest answer I got is that we Byzantine Catholics are worse sinners than the "Latins", so we need a couple extra days of penance to get ready for Easter. Therefore we start two days earlier.)

How Byzantine Catholics count the days of the Great Fast & Holy Week: and the best explanation I've heard about why Roman Catholics start their Lent on Ash Wednesday. Now if only we could figure out why they added 4 days.

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Pre-Lent: 4 weeks	Sunday of Zacchaeus						
	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee						
	Sunday of the Prodigal Son						An “All Souls” Saturday
	Sunday of the Fearful Judgement (aka Meat-fare Sun.)						
Clean Week: first week of the fast	Forgiveness Sunday (aka Cheese-fare Sun.)	Day I Clean Monday: The first day of the Great Fast for us.	Day 2	Day 3 Roman Catholic’s “Ash Wednesday” the “current” start of their Lent	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
	Day 7 1st Sun. of the fast: Sun of Orthodoxy Historically the first day of Lent for Roman Catholics at least until Pope Gregory the 1st.	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13 An “All Souls” Saturday
The Great Fast: (often called Lent) 40 days	Day 14 2nd Sun. of the fast: St. Gregory P.	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20 An “All Souls” Saturday
	Day 21 3rd Sun. of the fast: Sunday of the Cross	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27 An “All Souls” Saturday
	Day 28 4th Sun. of the fast: St. John of the Ladder	Day 29	Day 30	Day 31	Day 32	Day 33	Day 34 Akathist Saturday
	Day 35 5th Sun. of the fast: St. Mary of Egypt	Day 36	Day 37	Day 38	Day 39	Day 40 the last day of The Great Fast	Lazarus Saturday
Holy Week: Starts on Lazarus Saturday goes till Holy Saturday	Palm Sunday: aka: Feast of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem 40 days for Roman Catholics if you <u>do</u> count Sundays and start on Ash Wednesday.	Great and Holy Monday: Gospel of the fig tree	Great and Holy Tuesday: Gospel of the 10 virgins	Great and Holy Wednesday: Gospel of the washing of the feet	Great and Holy Thursday: The Last Supper. The day Roman Catholics actually finish Lent according to their books. It is 40 days from the first Sunday of Lent.	Good Friday: the Crucifixion.	Great and Holy Saturday: the descent of our Lord into Hades. 40 days for Roman Catholics if you <u>don’t</u> count Sundays and start on Ash Wednesday.
Bright Week: first week of Pascha	Pascha (Easter)	Bright Monday (aka Watery Monday)	Bright Tuesday	Bright Wednesday	Bright Thursday	Bright Friday	Bright Saturday

Dormition Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27  Sunday of Cheesefare - Sunday of Forgiveness; Octoechos Tone 7; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolitan (716-40) Matins Resurrectional Gospel 7. Romans 13:11-14:4; Matthew 6:14-21 10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng followed by “Forgiveness Service” 2 pm Liturgy & Meal 5:30 pm Possible First Solemn Communion Class Ryan Gerace’s Birthday	28   First day of the Great Fast. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Ascetical Companion of Procopius (716-40) Abstinence from meat, dairy, and eggs, and foods that contain these ingredients. Isaiah 1:1-20; Genesis 1:1-13; Proverbs 1:1-20; 5:30 Appointment	I  The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eudocia (98-117) Great Fast Day 2. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Isaiah 1:19-2:3; Genesis 1:14-23; Proverbs 1:20-33; All Day Appointment 10:30 am Divine Liturgy at Venta Care Centre	2  The Holy Priest-Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrenia (c. 321) Great Fast Day 3. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Isaiah 2:3-11; Presanctified - Genesis 1:24-2:3; Proverbs 2:1-22; Global day of Prayer and Fasting for Ukraine 11 am Appointment 5:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy with prayers for Ukraine. 7 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	3  The Holy Martyrs Eutropius and His Companions Cleonicus and Basiliscus (286-305) Great Fast Day 4. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Isaiah 2:11-21; Vespers - Genesis 2:4-19; Proverbs 3:1-19; 6 pm Camp Oselia Society Meeting ECSD Teacher’s Convention	4  Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan (475) Great Fast Day 5. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Isaiah 3:1-14; Presanctified - Genesis 2:20-3:20; Proverbs 3:19-34; 11 am Appointment 6 pm High School Catechism ECSD Teacher’s Convention Natasha Gerace’s & Steve Konowalec’s Birthdays	5  First Saturday of the Great Fast: Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit; The Holy Martyr Conon (249-251) Great Fast Day 6. Hebrews 1:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:1-10; Mark 2:23-3:5; John 15:17-16:2
6  First Sunday of the Great Fast: The Sunday of Orthodoxy; Octoechos Tone 8; The Holy Forty-Two Martyrs of Ammorium (848) Great Fast Day 7. Matins Resurrectional Gospel 8. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated today. Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40; 12:1-2; John 1:43-51 10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng 5:30 Appointment	7  The Holy Priest-Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and Others (284-305); Passing into Eternal Life (1935) of Blessed Leonid Fedorov, Exarch of the Russian Catholic Church, and Martyr Great Fast Day 8. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Isaiah 4:2-5:6; Vespers - Genesis 3:21-4:7; Proverbs 3:34-4:22; Jess Lastiwka’s & Catherine Ostopowich’s Birthdays	8  Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophilactus, Bishop of Nicomedia (c. 845) Great Fast Day 9. Isaiah 5:7-16; Vespers - Genesis 4:8-15; Proverbs 5:1-15; Isaiah 43:9-14; Wisdom 3:1-9; Wisdom 5:15-6:3;	9  The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (321-23) Great Fast Day 10. Polyeleos Feast. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 5:16-26; Presanctified - Genesis 4:16-26; Proverbs 5:15-6:3; Hebrews 12:1-10; Matthew 20:1-16 11 am Appointment 7 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Panachyda for all Souls	10  The Holy Martyr Codratus and Those with Him (249-51) Great Fast Day 11. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 6:1-12; Vespers - Genesis 5:1-24; Proverbs 6:3-20;	11  Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638) Great Fast Day 12. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 7:1-14; Presanctified - Genesis 5:32-6:8; Proverbs 6:20-7:1; 11 am Appointment	12  Second Saturday of the Great Fast: All Souls Saturday; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophanes of Sigriana (817); Our Holy Father Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome (604) Great Fast Day 13. Hebrews 3:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Mark 1:35-44; John 5:24-30 all day Scouter Training Helen Moneta’s Birthday
13  Second Sunday of the Great Fast: St. Gregory of Palamas. Octoechos Tone 1. The Transfer of the Relics of Our Holy Father Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople (847) Great Fast Day 14. Matins Resurrectional Gospel 9. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated today. Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Mark 2:1-12 Last Day to	14  Our Venerable Father Benedict of Nursia (547) Great Fast Day 15. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 8:13-9:7; Vespers - Genesis 6:9-22; Proverbs 8:1-21;	15  The Holy Martyr Agapius and the Six Martyrs with Him (284-305) Great Fast Day 16. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 9:9-10:4; Vespers - Genesis 7:1-5; Proverbs 8:32-9:11;	16  The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas (284-305) Great Fast Day 17. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 10:12-20; Presanctified - Genesis 7:6-9; Proverbs 9:12-18;	17  Our Venerable Father Alexius, Man of God Great Fast Day 18. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 11:10-12:2; Vespers - Genesis 7:11-8:3; Proverbs 10:1-22; St. Patric’s Day Iconography Workshop with St. Theresa Catholic School	18  Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (386) Great Fast Day 19. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today. Sixth Hour - Isaiah 13:2-13; Presanctified - Genesis 8:4-21; Proverbs 10:31-11:12; 11 am Appointment	19  Third Saturday of the Great Fast: All Souls Saturday. The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (253-60). Great Fast Day 20 Hebrews 10:32-38; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Mark 2:14-17; John 5:24-30

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Sunday of Cheesefare - Sunday of Forgiveness; Octoechos Tone 7; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolitan (716-40)

Troparion: By Your cross You destroyed death;* You opened Paradise to the thief;* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,* and charged the apostles to proclaim* that You are risen, O Christ our God,* offering great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion: O Master, Guide to Wisdom*, Bestower of prudent counsel,* Instructor of the foolish and Defender of the poor ones,* make firm my heart and give it understanding.* Give me a word, O Word of the Father:* Behold, I shall not stop my lips from crying out to You:* In Your mercy, have mercy on me who am fallen.

Prokeimenon:

Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.* Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.

verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. (*Psalms* 75:12,2)

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters, Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Alleluia verses:

It is good to give praise to the Lord, and to sing to Your name, O Most High.

To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night.

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21 (NRSV)

The Lord said, For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store 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 your heart will be also.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Alternate Ambo Prayer:

We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have brought us to this opportune time of fasting unto salvation, you have establish this brief season to heal the great wounds of our souls, and to bring about the rejection of our many sins. Good master, we pray you, remove from us any pharisaical hypocrisy in fasting, and banish all false sorrow. Drive from us all pride in our self denial and moderation in deeds, words or thoughts. Fill us with light and the truth which you have taught. Strengthen us in the struggle against passions and in the war against sin. By putting far from us our passions, prepare us to follow you by our fasting. Show us victory over the devil, that we may partake of your death and resurrection, and be glad in the joy which you have prepared for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

For You are the God of mercy, and glory is Yours, together with the Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and ever.

Forgiveness Service on the next page:

Forgiveness Service:

This is to mark the beginning of the Great Fast *(technically done at the “Vespers” service, but since we don’t have one tonight... we are doing it now).*

Priest: My brothers and sisters, at this time let us try to remember all of our sins which we have committed throughout the course of our life, and with which we have offended God.

All: Lord, we have sinned against You in thought, word and action. We have been wrong and we have done wrong. Forgive us.

Priest: Let us try to remember if we harbour any ill-feelings towards God for anything that happened in our life.

All: Lord, help us to accept your will in our lives, to try to understand your ways, and not to feel angry with You or blame You for anything that might happen to us or go wrong for us in our lives.

Priest: Let us try to remember all of those people who have offended us, hurt us, angered us; all those people against whom, for whatever reason, we bear grudges, feel hatred, and whom we find hard to forgive.

All: From the bottom of my heart, I truly and sincerely forgive those who hate me, who have offended or hurt me, and against whom I carry a grudge or nourish ill-feelings.

Priest: Let us try to remember all of those people whom we ourselves have hurt or offended, knowingly or unknowingly, in word or in deed; and all those whom we, for whatever reason, hate and who bear grudges against us.

All: From the bottom of my heart, I truly and sincerely ask forgiveness and pardon of all those whom I hate, whom I have offended and hurt, and who hold a grudge against me because of this.

Priest: My brothers and sisters, if I have sinned against you, hurt you, or offended you in thought, word or action, knowingly or unknowingly, in any possible way, please forgive me, a sinner, and pray to God for me.

All: May God Himself forgive you and pardon your sins and transgressions, and we also forgive and pardon you. Father, bless us and forgive us our sins and offences and transgressions, committed voluntarily or perhaps unwittingly, against you.

Priest: May the Lord God, through His grace and loving kindness, forgive you. And I also pardon and forgive you.

And now, let us ask forgiveness of one another by saying: “Forgive me my brother/sister.” And let the other answer: “May God forgive you, and I also forgive you.”

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

In Byzantine Churches the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is considered too festive for weekdays of the Great Fast (Lent). Yet the Church recognizes the intense need for the faithful to receive the Eucharist during this penitential time. In order to make it available, the church celebrates Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Presanctified Liturgies are basically evening prayers (Vespers) with the distribution of Eucharist. The Eucharist is consecrated during Divine Liturgy on the preceding Sunday, is kept in the Tabernacle, and then is brought out to the people during the service.

This year we will have Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays in our parish. Normally these will take place at 7pm, but this week we are doing it earlier at 5:30 due to a Parish Pastoral Council Meeting.

I will not have Presanctified Liturgies on Fridays due to a commitment I made to teach Catechism every other Friday. You can certainly join another parish at their service, or you can re-watch/attend the Liturgy that we record on Wednesday via Youtube.

Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power, and idle chatter. (prostration)

Instead, grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. (prostration)

O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brothers and sisters; for You are blessed, now and ever and forever. Amen. (prostration)