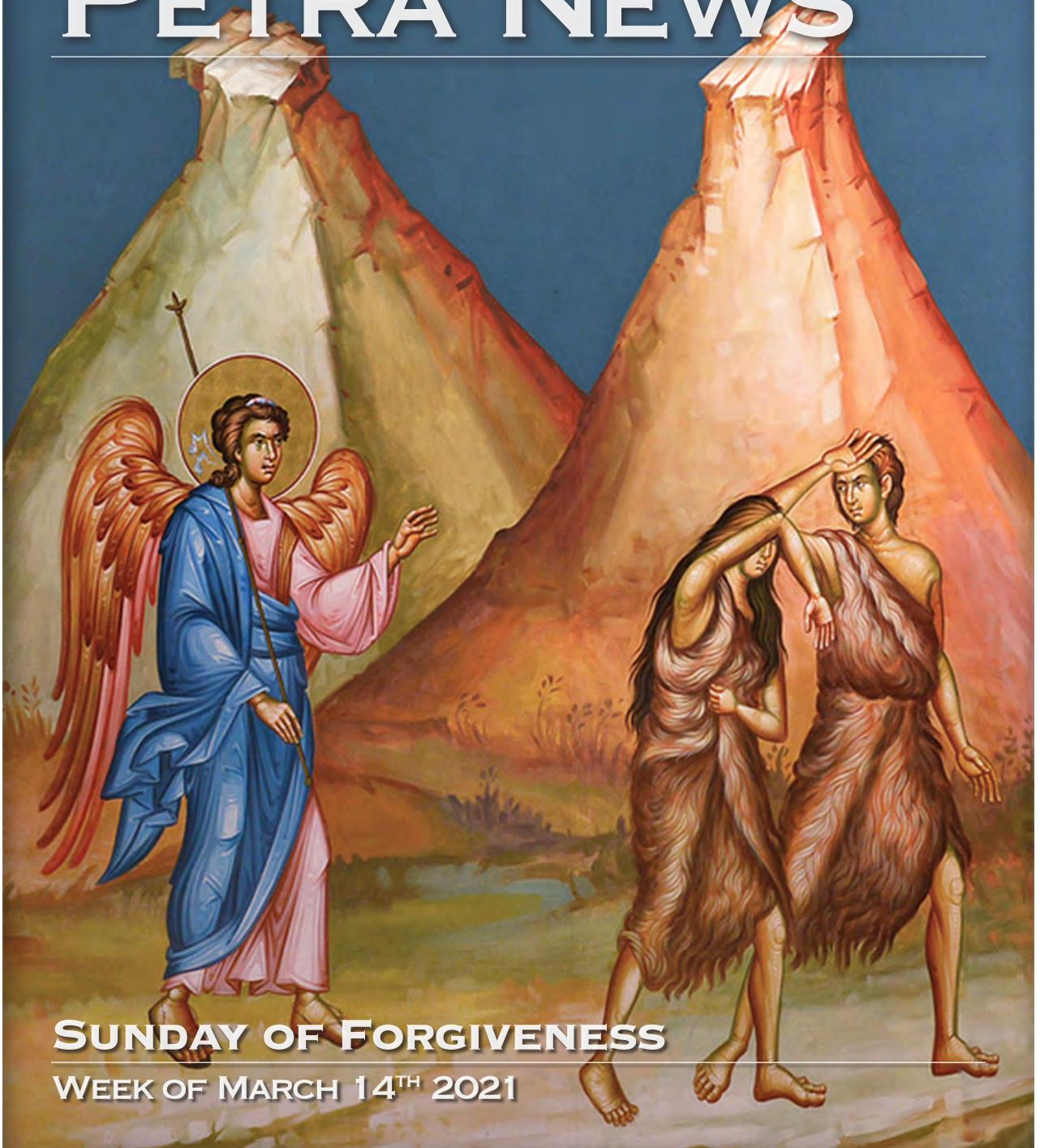


THE EXPULSION FROM PARADISE

PETRA NEWS



SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

WEEK OF MARCH 14TH 2021

STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 14

Forgiveness Vespers _____ 5pm

MONDAY, MARCH 15

Clean Monday 1st Day of Great Lent

Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew _ 6pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew _ 9am

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew _ 9am
Presanctified Liturgy _____ 5:30pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew _ 9am

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Presanctified Liturgy _____ 9am
Salutations / Hairitismi _____ 6pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Saturday of Souls

Orthros _____ 8am
Divine Liturgy _____ 9am
Great Vespers _____ 5pm

PRAYER FOR THE CATECHUMENS

“Lord our God, Who dwells on high and watches over the humble, You sent forth Your only-begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the human race. Look down upon Your servants, the catechumens, who have inclined their necks to You, and grant them at a proper time the baptism of rebirth, the remission of sins, and the garment of incorruption. Unite them to Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and number them among Your chosen flock.”

Baily, Chad, Natasha, Yehor, Kate

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

RESURRECTIONAL HYMN (BARIS TONE)

“O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death,
and granted unto the thief blessed paradise.
The Myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy.
The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command,
that You had risen from the dead O Christ our God,
bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.”

HYMN FOR ST NIKIFOROS THE LEPER & WONDERWORKER

(praying for intercessions during the pandemic)

“All the Angels were awestruck by the courage and fortitude
of Saint Nikiforos the Leper in ascetic deeds and contests,
for like another Job he suffered pains with patience, ever
glorifying God, who has crowned him now with glory,
granting him grace to work great and wondrous miracles.
Rejoice, O guide of monastics and their aid, Rejoice, O
shining beacon of light, Rejoice for your relics now exude a
fragrance bringing joy to all.”

HYMN FOR STS PETER PAUL

“O Leaders of the Apostles,
and teachers of the world,
intercede with the Master of all
that He may grant peace unto the world,
and to our souls His great mercy.”

KONTAKION

“O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence,
disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor,
fortify and discipline my heart, O Master;
You, give me a word, O Word of the Father.
For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O
merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Orthros Gospel: John 20:1-10
Epistle: Romans 13:11; 14:1-4
Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

SEVENTH ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:1-10

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the

linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

EPISTLE: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE 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.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 6:14-21

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."

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT: SPECIAL SERVICES

GREAT COMPLINE

The Great Compline service is offered on Monday evenings of Great Lent, and the first four days of Lent along with the Canon of St Andrew. It is a

quiet and solemn service with readings from the psalms, prayers of repentance, and the prayer of St Ephraim.

CANON OF ST ANDREW

The central theme of Lent is repentance. This theme is at the heart of the Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete. The Canon is read during the first week of Lent as part of the Great Compline Service.

The Canon is a dialogue between the Christian and his/her soul. The central theme is the call to change one's life. The Great Canon contrast human frailty with the goodness and mercy of God.

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

The Presanctified Liturgy is held during Great Lent on Wednesday Evenings and Friday mornings, and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. In a time of fasting and repentance, the Church offers nourishment during this time of spiritual struggle. It is called 'Presanctified' because

on the Sunday before the Presanctified Liturgy, the bread for the service is offered up along with the bread and wine for Holy Communion. The 'Presanctified Gifts are placed in a tabernacle on the Holy Altar Table until they are needed for the weekday service.

SALUTATIONS 'HAIRITISMI'

The Salutations service is a profound and devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It was originally prayed in the year 626 A.D., in the church of the Theotokos of Vlachernae in Constantinople, on the occasion of the deliverance of the 'Queen City' from the

siege of the Avars. The Virgin Mary is the most exalted and most honored person by God. She is the most revered and the most loved by humans. The Salutations is celebrated during the first Five Fridays in Lent (6 pm). To Her we pray as our intercessor and loving, protecting Mother.

SATURDAY OF THE SOULS

On the two Saturdays before Lent and the one on the first Saturday of Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy with a Memorial Service at the end in honor of our loved ones who have died before us. The Lenten Journey is something we do together as a family, and this family includes those who have passed through this life. We continue to pray that they dwell eternally with Christ, and we ask them to pray for us. The faithful prepare the boiled wheat 'kolyva' along with the names

(baptized) of those who have fallen asleep in the hope of the Resurrection. The Kolyva is symbolic of the resurrection of the dead on the 2nd Coming of the Lord. St. Paul said, 'what you sow does not come to life unless it dies,' (1 Cor 15:34), and St. John, 'unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit,' (Jn 12:24).

Continued on the following page.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Great Lent is a season when many Christians participate in the Sacrament of Confession. Like the prodigal son, we look at our lives and decide what we must change so that we may live the way God has taught us to live. Like the father in the parable, God “runs” to greet us when we decide to turn toward Him. All he has to see is our sincere repentance, or change, and our desire to return

to Him. His arms are always open and waiting to embrace us. The sacrament of Holy Confession is our opportunity to speak to God - courageously, humbly, and honestly - in the presence of a priest. The priest then guides us and proclaims God’s forgiveness. Father Jordan is available for Confession. Please contact him to schedule your confession during the week or Saturday.

FASTING

Clean Monday: The First Day of Great Lent.

When you hear that Great Lent is 40 days long, these 40 days are counted from Clean Monday (March 15) to Saturday of Lazarus, which begins Holy Week and Pascha. Clean Monday begins the time of sweeping away the clutter of our lives and focusing on our spiritual journey and on Christ. It also reminds us to clean out all of the foods that we won’t be eating as we observe the Great Fast. Through the discipline of fasting from certain foods, we ‘clean our own house’ spiritually, controlling our habits in two obvious and specific ways - with what and how much we eat. It is challenging to say no and to hold back. Fasting is

a spiritual activity, not just a physical one. Christ advises us not to be “like the hypocrites” who draw attention to their fasting so they can appear holy and obedient. Instead, He teaches not to show that we are even fasting at all: no bragging, griping, or anything else to get attention for our discipline. We fast to show God, not to show off.

The fast should not be limited to foods, either. We may need to “reprogram” ourselves or simply unplug - put limits on our time spent watching TV, texting, listening to music, playing video games, and anything else that stops us from being peaceful, mindful, and prayerful. During Lent, we offer more time to God and to others.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, MARCH 21

Please bring an icon from your home in order to participate in the Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession. The procession will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

THE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

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.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE 3/14/2021

The revised Colorado Safer-at-Home guidelines set forth by the Governor of Colorado allow Sts Peter Paul to 45 people in Church during the services.

PLEASE NOTE:

MASK IS REQUIRED AND TO BE PROPERLY WORN AT ALL SERVICES, INCLUDING ALL WEEKDAY SERVICES.

Please be considerate and sign-up for only one of the weekend services (Divine Liturgy). Please allow others to sign up if you have already attended, especially if it was the prior Sunday. If at the end of the week (Saturday evening), the list is not filled, then please sign up. If you did not

sign up or prefer not to attend on Sunday, please contact Father Jordan (frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 720-329-5212. Arrangements can be made to receive Holy Communion during the week.

Our hope and prayer is to reopen the Parish Hall on Sundays. God willing the doors of the hall will open during Great Lent. We are in the process of creating the proper procedures to ensure the health and safety of our parish family. Please be patient with us.

The Welcome committee and members of the Parish Council will offer coffee & pastry 'To Go' at the end of service of today.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH BOOK READING

Dear parishioners, I am presenting you with a gift, a very special book:

*Come, Let us Worship:
A Practical Guide to the Divine
Liturgy for Orthodox Laity*

The author, Father Patrick O'Grady, offers a wonderful reflection on the Divine Liturgy. I ask you to join me in reading this book during Great Lent. Couples and families can read together. Lent brings us all together with prayer, fasting and works of charity. The Divine Liturgy is the foundation of our faith, and it is the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist which brings us together as a parish family. I pray this special parish family reading will bring us closer to our Lord and Savior, and reunite us in worship. Please begin reading the Introduction and 1st section, 'What is the Divine Liturgy,' the first week of Lent (March 15-20). **Your book is available in the Narthex. If you are new to our parish, please take on and join us for this special parish family reading during Lent.**

With love in Christ, Father Jordan

BLESSING OF HOMES 2021

Father Jordan will continue blessing homes this month. If you are new to our parish, please contact Father Jordan to schedule your house blessing. Frjordanbrown@gmail.com 303-581-1434



BOOKSTORE

We are here for you! Philoptochos would be happy to help you with your bookstore purchase on Sunday's after Liturgy. Please see Lis Troicky or Julie Powers.



ADULT EDUCATION

ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES

The Orthodox Christian Faith Class will not meet today. If you are interesting in learning about the Orthodox Christian Faith and/or becoming an Orthodox Christian, please join us for class. Father Jordan will be leading, and providing the reading material. Classes will begin at 12 noon and end around 12:30 / 12:45 pm. We will be meeting in the church. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 303-581-1434.

**MARCH 21 CLASS TOPIC:
ICONS, VENERATION & WORSHIP**

BIBLE STUDY: LENTEN SERIES

**FRIDAY MORNINGS DURING LENT:
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
BEGINNING MARCH 19TH**

Questions please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SATURDAY!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH
5PM TO 7PM**

Schedule:

5pm Vespers (Evening Prayers)
5:45pm Dinner
6pm - 7pm Breakout Classes
(pre-k thru grade school)



HOME VISITATIONS

Father Jordan is available to make home visitations for our elderly, shut ins, and all those with 'high risk' health challenges. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Jordan to schedule a visit. Parishioners with 'high risk' health challenges are welcome to visit the church during the week to schedule a time to pray and receive the Holy Sacraments.