

The Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH



The Renewal of Great Lent

How Great Lent can help give us a proper perspective of life

Our Church, in her wisdom, has given us this wonderful opportunity to re-orient the direction of our souls. Sometimes we need a gentle re-directing, and at other times we experience more dramatic events in our lives that give us a deeper spiritual perspective of what life is truly all about. The time of Great Lent gives us the opportunity to voluntarily re-direct our energies toward God and ask Him to lead us back toward Him from the depths of our heart.

Deep down we all know what life is really all about: it's about offering our love and thanksgiving to God for everything that He has given us; to gift ourselves back to Him who gave our very existence to us as a gift. But, oftentimes, we lose this perspective and everyday life with all its worries takes away our attention. Great Lent aids us the time of renewal. A time to renew in our souls what life is about. The purpose of Lent, therefore, is to be united to Christ in our constant thanksgiving by offering ourselves to Him, and to offer this spiritual thanks, which becomes love, to our brother and to all mankind equally. This is renewal of the soul.

Thus, Great Lent, helps to lead us back to the proper perspective of life, to allow us to go through a little suffering so that we can re-orient ourselves to give thanks to God for all things in this life and for that which is to come. May we all have a fruitful and blessed Great Lent, With love in Christ, Fr. Ambrose.

Upcoming Events & News

Hall Exploration Meeting

Friday, February 10th at 4pm. We have had many successful gatherings and we are looking to continue our discussion about the future plans of a hall/ activity center. All are invited to attend!



Foundation of Our Orthodox Faith Classes Have Now Begun.

We have now started a series of 9 classes for inquirers, catechumens, and the faithful who want to go deeper into the Orthodox Faith. All classes will be down in the parlor and on Zoom. We are discussing the Holy Mysteries.



Forgiveness Sunday is soon approaching!

Be sure to stay after Sunday Divine Liturgy on February 26th for this wonderful service. We will have a short coffee-hour and then we will proceed upstairs for the rite of forgiveness. You don't want to miss it!



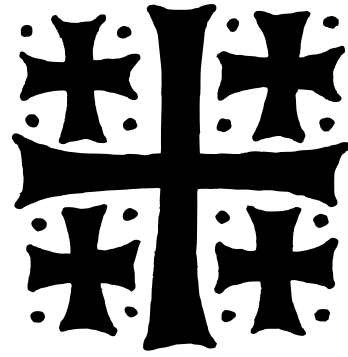
Women's Evening In

Friday, February 10th at 6:30pm. Once a month, the women of the parish are invited to gather for an evening at another person's home. It is a time of fellowship, a light dinner, and a time to be together with others of all ages. See Clare Flaherty for details.



Great Lent begins Feb. 27th

it is that wonderful time of year where we get the opportunity to consecrate ourselves to God. Let us take advantage of this opportunity for repentance and refreshment to be renewed in spirit.



Pan-Orthodox Vespers

This year, we will pick back up the tradition of Pan-Orthodox Vesper services with the surrounding Orthodox communities. See the schedule below.



Great Canon of St. Andrew

On the first 4 evenings of Great Lent, we will be serving the penitential canon of St. Andrew of Crete. Many have mentioned how this service is one of their favorites. Take the time after work and come to sanctify the beginning of Lent by praying with us during the Great Canon.



Community Family Dinner: Monday, February 20th - 4:30pm to 6pm

If you would like to help pick up recovered food from Panera or Syracuse University, please let Fr. Ambrose know. If you can help cook, or help interact with our guests, we would be most appreciated!



Spiritual Retreat with Archbishop Michael

Saturday, March 18th. Divine Liturgy at 9:30am. Q & A Coffee Hour with His Eminence at 11:15am. Retreat will be at 12:30pm.





GETTING READY FOR GREAT LENT

The significance of the four Sundays from St. Tikhon's Monastery

The word Triodion is used frequently and it is used to denote the three-odes used during the matins canon that are specifically Lenten. During the time before Lent, the Church in Her wisdom offers us five preparatory Sundays (Russian Tradition) to get us ready to enter the season of Great Lent. The Lenten Triodion officially begins with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee.

First Sunday: Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican

To get our attention, the Church's Gospel this week focuses on true and false repentance by comparing actions and words. The Pharisee correctly 'practiced the faith' in regards to Jewish prayer and fasting, but within him the love of God was not present. The publican outwardly lived a sinful life as a tax collector for Rome, but inwardly realized the sin that was dominating him. The Pharisee demanded God's approval while the publican pleaded for God's mercy. The lesson for us is to diligently practice the 'outward' aspects of our Faith while inwardly realizing nothing we can do will earn God's favor and that we need to constantly seek His mercy. The central theme of this Gospel is the need for humility.

Second Sunday: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Modern dictionaries often translate 'repentance' as 'regret' or 'feeling sorry' for having done something. However, the true meaning of the word metanoia (repent) in the New Testament is to 'change one's mind (nous) or purpose' (Vines). Just as the Prodigal son left his father, realized the misery of his 'new' life, and returned to ask forgiveness, we too must realize that we have left our Father for the world and need to 'change' our life and return to Him. This Gospel gives us the assurance that God the Father will joyfully welcome us back if we turn from the sin in our life. This Sunday emphasizes repentance and the loving embrace of the Father.



Third Sunday: Sunday of the Last Judgement

James 2:17 states "...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." The corporal (physical) works of mercy, which the Lord uses to pass judgement, are a reflection of the love or lack thereof in the hearts of the 'sheep and goats'. Individual repentance and love of God has been emphasized in the first two Sundays: love of neighbor, 'icons of Christ', is the central focus here. Giving alms and other exterior actions of love are also a vital part of the Lenten journey. This parable does not imply that we can 'work' our way into heaven but rather if our soul shows no active love for man then we really don't have true love of God.

Fourth Sunday: Forgiveness Sunday

This Sunday summarizes the readings of the previous three weeks and prepares us for Lent. Like the Prodigal we must turn and leave behind the things of the world, of the past. We must forgive others or God will not forgive us. Why? Because we ask God to do that each time we pray the Lord's Prayer! We must not be like the Pharisee and draw attention to our fasting by trying to gain sympathy or praise of men. Finally, we must begin to store spiritual treasure in heaven by using our earthly treasure to help others through alms and other works of mercy. With this attitude we are ready for a successful Lent.

St. Paisios on Great Lent

St. Paisios: "A layman once went to a monastery in the beginning of Lent and a certain monk there was abrupt and rough to him. However, the poor man had good thoughts and justified him. He later came to me and said:

'I do not blame him, Father. After all, he had just completed the Three Day Fast!' (1)

If this monk had done the Three Day Fast in a spiritual way, he would have had a spiritual sweetness and would have spoken to the layman with kindness. But he pushed himself egotistically to do the Three Day Fast, and so he blamed everybody for everything."

*

A nun: Elder, what should I reflect on during Great Lent?

St. Paisios: You should reflect on the Passion, the Sacrifice of Christ.

During Great Lent, we are given a greater opportunity to struggle and participate more intensely in the Saving Passion of Christ: with our repentance and prostrations; with the cutting off of our passions; with a reduction of our food intake. For the love of Christ.

Another nun: Elder, how can I struggle more with temperance during Lent?

St. Paisios: Now, during Lent, those in the world take greater care to cultivate temperance, but we monks must always be careful. What is more important, though, is to be careful with the passions of the soul and then the body's. Because if one prioritizes bodily asceticism over them and does not struggle to eradicate the passions of the soul, he will accomplish nothing.

*

We must make use, as much as we can, of all the opportunities this spiritual arena offers to us, in order to approach closer to the Crucified Christ. Then, we will be helped by Him and rejoice spiritually at His Holy Resurrection, since we would have experienced more spiritually Great Lent.

I pray that God gives you strength during Great Lent, so that you may climb Golgotha and be near Christ there, together with the Theotokos and your patron Saint, John the Theologian, and that you may be granted worthy to participate in the awesome Passion of our Lord. Amen.

From the sixth volume of the series 'Spiritual Counsels of the Elder Paisios of Mount Athos': About Prayer.

Γέροντος Παΐσιου Αγιορείτου Λόγοι ΣΤ΄ «Περί Προσευχής», εκδόσεις Ιερόν Ησυχαστήριον «Ευαγγελιστής Ιωάννης ο Θεολόγος» Σουρωτή Θεσσαλονίκης 2012, σελ. 199-200.

Transl. by the little city hermit



Please Join Us!

**2023 PAN-ORTHODOX
LENTEN VESPERS**

*Schedule of Services
6:00 pm on Sundays
followed by a Fasting Meal*

March 5, 2023

Sunday of Orthodoxy

*St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
325 Waring Road ~ Syracuse, NY 13224*

March 12, 2023

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

*St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church
4988 Onondaga Road ~ Syracuse, NY 13215*

March 19, 2023

Sunday of the Holy Cross

*Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
401 Hamilton Street ~ Syracuse, NY 13204*

March 26, 2023

Sunday of St. John Climacus

*St. Luke's Ukrainian Orthodox Church
3290 Warners Road ~ Warners, NY 13164*

April 2, 2023

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

*St. George Macedonian Orthodox Church
5083 Onondaga Road ~ Syracuse, NY 13215*



The background of the entire poster is a photograph of the interior of a church, looking up at a large, ornate dome. The dome is covered in colorful frescoes and mosaics, depicting various religious figures and scenes. The architecture is highly detailed, with arches and decorative elements. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures and colors of the artwork.

LENTEN RETREAT

WITH ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

SATURDAY
MARCH 18

DIVINE LITURGY
9:30am

Q & A SESSION
11:15am-
12:30pm

LENTEN RETREAT
12:30pm-
4:30pm

Ss. Peter and Paul
401 Hamilton St.

February 2023

Note: If this calendar and The Weekly are different, assume The Weekly is the most accurate.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 5pm Budget Mtg ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm VIGIL 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feast of the Meeting ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 50th Anniv. Event ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry Delivery ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing ● 4pm Hall Mtg ● 6:30pm Womens' Evening 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry Delivery ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Ladies Lunch 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Memorial Div. Liturgy ● 10:15am CFD Meal Prep ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last Judgement (Meatfare) ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal ● 12:30pm Parish Council Iv 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meat Fast ● Food Pantry Delivery ● 4:30pm Family Dinner (CF) ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Pre-Lenten Vespers 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feast of the Forerunner ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forgiveness Sunday ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal ● 11:30am Forgiveness Ves 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean Week ● Food Pantry Delivery ● 5pm Holy Confessions ● 6pm Great Canon ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Prayer & Holy Fathe ● 5pm Holy Confessions ● 6pm Great Canon 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Great Canon ● 12pm Prayer & Holy Fathe ● 5pm Holy Confessions ● 6pm Pre-Sanct Liturgy 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Prayer & Holy Fathe ● 5pm Holy Confessions ● 6pm Great Canon ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing ● 9am Pre-Sanct Liturgy 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal