

ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
773-231-6177 • www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Sunday of Forgiveness • Cheese-Fare

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

Sunday Vespers with Rite of Forgiveness, 7pm



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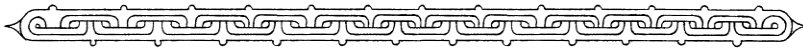
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Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 3): Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

Kontakion for Forgiveness Sunday (Tone 6): O Thou who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor: Strengthen my heart, granting it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful one: Have mercy upon me who am fallen!

Apolytikion of All Saints (Tone 4): Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people! Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.



THE EPISTLE

For the Sunday of Forgiveness

Prokeimenon – Psalm 75:10, 1

Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them.

God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (13:11-14:4)

Brethren: it is high time to awake out of sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats;

for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Alleluia – Psalm 91:1-2

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High.
To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

THE GOSPEL

For the Sunday of Forgiveness

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (6:1-21)

The Lord said to His disciples: Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

THUS, WHEN YOU GIVE ALMS, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

AND WHEN YOU PRAY, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then like this: *“Our Father who are in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”*

For 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.



REFLECTIONS ON FORGIVENESS

From Metropolitan Saba, excerpted from a lecture by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

"He is free because he forgives." In Kevin Andrews' book *The Flight of Ikaros*, there is a story that encapsulates the essence of forgiveness. Andrews was studying medieval fortresses in Greece. In 1949, he traveled through a region devastated first by the German occupation during World War II and then by the brutal Greek civil war that followed, which was in its final stages at that time.

One evening, Andrews arrived in a village where he was hosted by the parish priest, Papastavros. His home had been burned down during the civil war, so he received his guest in the barn where he himself was living.

Andrews gradually learned the priest's story. His two eldest sons had joined the resistance against the German occupation, but some traitors from the village informed the Germans of their whereabouts. They were captured, and no one saw them again. During that time, the priest's wife died of starvation. After the Germans left, Papastavros lived alone with his married daughter and her young child, while she was expecting a second child in a few weeks.

One day, as he was returning home, he found his house in flames. He recounted to Andrews: "I saw them dragging my daughter outside and executing her. They emptied their bullets into her pregnant belly. Then, they killed the little boy right in front of me."

Those who committed these atrocities were not strangers from a distant land; they were local men, people whom Papastavros knew and encountered daily. One of the village women remarked to Andrews, "I'm amazed he hasn't lost his mind!" But the priest did not go mad. Instead, he spoke to the villagers about the need for forgiveness. He told Andrews, "I tell them to forgive and that there exists no other way." He added that they laughed in his face.

When Andrews later spoke to the priest's surviving son, the young man did not laugh at his father's message but instead said: "He is free because he forgives."

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today: Forgiveness/Cheese-Fare Sunday

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by last names R-Z
- Church school for all ages. Today's adult class will be taught by Joseph Letendre.
- Forgiveness Vespers, 7pm. *This service marks the beginning of Lent, and is perhaps the most important thing we do all year. "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" (Matt. 6:14).*

Monday & Tuesday, March 3-4: Canon of Repentance & Life of St. Mary of Egypt (parts 1-2), 7pm

Wednesday, March 5:

- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 7pm followed by potluck meal

Thursday & Friday, March 6-7: Canon of Repentance & Life of St. Mary of Egypt (parts 3-4), 7pm

Saturday, March 8:

- Icon Academy, 9am-5pm
- Ladies' group – Lenten recipe exchange and dinner, 5pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, March 9: Triumph of Orthodoxy

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by families A-F
- Church school for all ages, following coffee hour
- Triumph of Orthodoxy Vespers, 6:30pm, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church (601 S. Central Ave.). Guest homilist will be Bishop Alexei of Alaska (OCA).

CHURCH SCHOOL DAY OF SERVICE: Melissa W. is looking for donations of black and blue pens, pencils, 8 or 12 crayon boxes, boxes of 10 markers, match box cars individually

packaged, small stuffed animals, and kids toothbrushes (no toothpaste). All the items must be new and can be placed in the donation box. We also have an Amazon wish list with additional ideas! Deadline is March 19. Thank you in advance!

PSALTER GROUP: We begin March 3, and we'll read & pray each day through April 11. For more details please contact JoAnne via text 773-220-3179 or email jotheo@yahoo.com.

LADIES' LENTEN RETREAT: Save the date! Our annual ladies' retreat will take place Saturday, March 29, beginning with the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos at 9am.

CHURCH GIVING: As we enter the season of Lent, our thoughts often turn to fasting and charitable giving. We are fortunate to have many opportunities for Lenten almsgiving presented to us at All Saints. Please see Alice our treasurer if you have any questions!

- Tithes and gifts for the general fund. It is the responsibility to all church members to support the work and upkeep of the church on a regular basis.
- Pastoral Discretionary Fund. These donations are given to the church to allocate as Fr. Andrew sees fit to best serve the needs of our community. Suggested recipients are always welcomed, but the final decision is at the pastor's discretion.
- Donate to our Lenten food drive or "Food for Hungry People."

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE: As we approach the Lenten season, again we are blessed to be able to participate in a Lenten food drive for the poor in our city. Beginning Sunday, March 2, please bring your donations of non-perishable foods and clothing items (underwear & white t-shirts sizes M-XL, shoes sizes 9-12). These will be given to individuals served by Northside Housing in their drop-in center and new men's shelter. In particular, they are asking for items that don't need cooking, heat and serve containers, or cans with pop-tops. A list of suggested items is on the greeter table. Please place your donations in the back of the church on or near the table. **The deadline is Sunday, April 13.** Monetary donations are also accepted, please write "**Food Drive**" on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please call or email Sandy Abraham. God blesses those who remember the poor.

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE: Coin boxes, as supplied by our Archdiocese, are once again available for Lent at our greeters' table. Use these boxes during Lent and turn them in at Pascha to be blessed. Please replace the coins with a check marked "**For the Poor**" in the memo line, or submit paper money. All donations will go to the Antiochian Archdiocese's "Food for Hungry People" program. If you have any questions, contact Pat K.

"Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor." (Prov. 14:21)

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun., March 2 <i>Forgiveness*</i>	Michelle C	Domitille N	John O	Lydia A	R-Z
Wed., March 5 <i>Presanctified</i>	n/a	Pat K	Nancy L	Volunteer	Potluck
Sun., March 9 <i>Orth. Sunday</i>	Sdn Joseph	Cristina P	JoAnne T	Zach C	A-F
Wed., March 12 <i>Presanctified</i>	n/a	Pat K	Azizeh C	Volunteer	Potluck
Sun, March 16 <i>St Gregory</i>	Christy K	Sandy A	John O	Alina S	G-K
Wed, March 19 <i>Presanctified</i>	n/a	Dn Walid	Domitille	Volunteer	Potluck
Sun, March 23 <i>Holy Cross</i>	Jim K	David J	JoAnne T	Domitille	L-P

For Sunday coffee hour, the last names of our church members have been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

If you have children, monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and make sure they don't take more than they can eat. Please also help your children clean up after themselves.

Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour, but of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!

****Meat-Fare Sunday (Feb. 23) is our final day for meat until Pascha (April 20). Forgiveness Sunday (March 2, also known as Cheese-Fare) is our final day for dairy products and eggs. Coffee hour offerings on March 2 may include dairy and eggs but no meat.***



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH 2-8, 2025

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

Sunday, March 2: Forgiveness Sunday

Mark 16:9-20 / Romans 13:11-14:4 / Matthew 6:14-21

Monday, March 3: Nonnita, mother of Saint David of Wales

Isaiah 1:1-20 / Hebrews 1:1-14 / Mark 1:12-28

Genesis 1:1-13 / Proverbs 1:1-20

Tuesday, March 4: Gerasimos the Righteous of Jordan

Isaiah 1:19-2:3 / Hebrews 2:1-9 / Mark 1:29-39

Genesis 1:14-23 / Proverbs 1:20-33

Wednesday, March 5: Mark the Ascetic

Isaiah 2:3-11 / Hebrews 2:10-18 / Mark 1:40-45

Genesis 1:24-2:3 / Proverbs 2:1-22

Thursday, March 6: 42 Martyrs of Amorion in Phrygia

Isaiah 2:11-22 / Hebrews 3:1-11 / Mark 2:18-22

Genesis 2:4-19 / Proverbs 3:1-18

Friday, March 7: Holy Martyred Bishops of Cherson

Isaiah 3:1-15 / Hebrews 3:12-19 / Mark 2:23-28

Genesis 2:20-3:20 / Proverbs 3:19-34

Saturday, March 8: St. Theodore the Recruit

2 Timothy 2:1-10 / John 15:17-16:2

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AMERICA
ARCHIMANDRITE JEREMY DAVIS, VICAR FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO & THE MIDWEST