



# ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*  
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641  
[www.allsaintsortodox.org](http://www.allsaintsortodox.org)

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**  
Sunday of Forgiveness • Cheese-Fare



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**Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 4):** Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying: ‘Death hath been spoiled! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!’

**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.

**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 and grant 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.

## **EPISTLE READING**

*Prokeimenon – Psalm 46:6, 1*

Sing praises to God, sing praises. Sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
Clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy!

### **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.

## GOSPEL READING

### **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.

## **MESSAGE FOR GREAT LENT 2026**

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

By the grace of God, we welcome the season of holy Lent—this blessed time which the Church has appointed for us as an opportunity for renewal, repentance, and a sincere return to the depths of the heart, where we encounter our Lord in an atmosphere of stillness and clarity. This helps us to reorder our priorities and to realign our lives with our pursuit of the true life that is in Christ. It is a time to remember:

- That fasting, as we have received it from the living Tradition of the Church, is not an end in itself, nor is it merely abstaining from certain foods. Rather, it is a comprehensive spiritual journey whose aim is the liberation of the inner person and the reordering of our relationship with God, with ourselves, and with others.
- That we fast not to humiliate or punish the body, but so that the body may become obedient to the spirit. We fast because we ourselves are in need of fasting; through it, we grow spiritually and humanly, our inner depths are healed, and our hearts are enlarged to receive the grace of God. God does not need our fasting, but He rejoices in our return to Him with a humble heart.
- That we were created for the heavenly Kingdom, and fasting helps awaken this deep longing within us. It purifies our spiritual vision so that we may view our lives in the light of eternity. For this reason, the Church calls us to live Lent within its communal framework—not as an individual effort or a selective choice, but as an experience lived by the community of believers across the generations, and walked by the saints as a path toward true freedom.

*(Read the entire article at [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org))*

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services, visit [www.allsaintsorthodox.org](http://www.allsaintsorthodox.org)*

## **Today: Forgiveness Sunday and Cheese-Fare**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by last names A-F
- Church school for all ages; adult class led by Joseph Letendre
- Forgiveness Sunday Vespers, 7pm

*The holy season of Lent begins tonight at Vespers, and thus we begin the full fast from meat, eggs, alcohol, etc. Of course not everyone will be able to observe the fast in the same way, so please see Fr. Andrew if you would like to discuss a rule of prayer and fasting for you and your family. All coffee hours and communal church meals should reflect the rules.*

**Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 23 & 24:** Compline with the Canon of Repentance and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt (Parts I & II), 7pm

**Wednesday, Feb. 25:** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 7pm. *Prepare as you normally would for Holy Communion in the evening.*

**Thursday and Friday, Feb. 26 & 27:** Compline with the Canon of Repentance and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt (Parts III & IV), 7pm

## **Saturday, Feb. 28:**

- All Saints Icon Academy, 9am-5pm
- Ladies' dinner and book discussion, 5pm
- Teen & pre-teen dinner and Bible Bowl study (Exodus), 5pm
- Vespers, 7pm

## **Next Sunday, March 1: The Triumph of Orthodoxy**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am, followed by children's icon procession. Kids and teens, bring an icon from home!
- Coffee hour provided by last names G-K
- Church school for all ages; adult class led by Fr. Pat
- Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:30pm at Holy Resurrection Serbian Cathedral on Redwood Drive.

## OTHER UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

**Saturday, March 21:** Akathist to the Theotokos and annual ladies' retreat, beginning 9am

**Tuesday, March 24:** Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation, 7pm

**Sunday, April 5:** Palm Sunday

**Sunday, April 12:** Pascha Sunday

**JOIN OUR ALL SAINTS PSALTER GROUP** for Great & Holy Lent 2026! We begin Monday, February 24 and read & pray each day through Friday, April 3. For more details please contact JoAnne via text 773-220-3179 or email [jotheo@yahoo.com](mailto:jotheo@yahoo.com).

**CHURCH GIVING:** As we enter the season of Lent, our thoughts often turn to fasting and charitable giving. We are blessed to have many opportunities for Lenten almsgiving presented to us at All Saints:

- **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.
- **Other charitable giving.** Donate to our local Lenten food drive or the archdiocese's "Food for Hungry People" program.

**LENTEN FOOD DRIVE:** Please bring your donations of non-perishable foods, which will be once again donated 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. Please place your donations in the back of the church on or near the table. **The deadline is Sunday, April 5.** 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:** Support our Antiochian Archdiocese's annual Lenten program. We have a limited number of coin boxes at our greeters' table, or write a check to All Saints Church marked

**“For the Poor”** in the memo line. If you have any questions, contact Pat K.

## volunteer schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Prospora</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Food</b>
<b>Sun 2/22*</b> <i>Forgiveness</i>	Steve K	Sandy A	John O	Zach C	A-F
<b>Wed 2/25*</b> <i>Presanctified</i>	N/A	Sarah C	JoAnne T	<i>volunteer</i>	Potluck
<b>Sun 3/1*</b> <i>Orthodoxy</i>	Joseph L	Sephora I	Azizeh	Lydia A	G-K
<b>Wed 3/4*</b> <i>Presanctified</i>	N/A	Sarah C	Richard B	<i>volunteer</i>	Potluck
<b>Sun 3/8*</b> <i>Palamas</i>	Rich C	Debbie K	Nancy L	Domitille	L-P
<b>Wed 3/11*</b> <i>Presanctified</i>	N/A	Pat K	Tobey L	<i>volunteer</i>	Potluck
<b>Sun 3/15*</b> <i>Holy Cross</i>	Michelle C	Domitille	John O	<i>volunteer</i>	R-Z
<b>Wed 3/18*</b> <i>Presanctified</i>	N/A	Pat K	Domitille	<i>volunteer</i>	Potluck

***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!***

***\*Shaded dates indicate fasting. No meat, eggs, or dairy should be served on these days (with the exception of Feb. 22, on which dairy and eggs are allowed).***



# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY 22-28, 2026

*The readings for Great Lent, with a few exceptions, take us through the books of Genesis, Proverbs, Isaiah, Hebrews, and St. Mark's Gospel.*

**Sunday, Feb. 22: Sunday of Forgiveness**

Luke 24:1-12 / Romans 13:11-14:4 / Matthew 6:14-21

**Monday, Feb. 23: Hiero-Martyr Polycarp of Smyrna**

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

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 24: Finding of the Skull of St. John the Baptist**

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

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

**Wednesday Feb. 25: Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople**

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

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

**Thursday, Feb. 26: Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza**

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

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

**Friday, Feb. 27: Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis**

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

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

**Saturday, Feb. 28: 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**