



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent • Veneration of the Precious Cross



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Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 7): Thou didst shatter death by Thy cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief. Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Holy Cross (Tone 1): O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by the virtue of Thy cross, preserve Thine habitation.

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 to the Theotokos for the Sundays of Lent (Tone 8): O Champion Leader, to thee I offer thanks of victory! O Theotokos, thou hast delivered me from terror. As thou hast invincible power, O Theotokos, thou truly can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O bride without bridegroom!

In Place of the Trisagion Hymn: Before Thy cross we bow down in worship, O our Master, and Thy holy resurrection we glorify!

EPISTLE READING

Prokeimenon – Psalm 27:9, 1

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; be Thou their shepherd, and carry them forever. To Thee, O Lord, I call!

The reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (4:14-5:10)

BRETHREN, seeing that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without

sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "Thou art my Son; today I have begotten Thee." As He also says in another place: "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek," who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL READING

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

THE LORD SAID, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

The Orthodox Liturgy: Its Theology and Spirituality, Part III

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

The Liturgy is concerned with the sanctification of time and of life, so that every act in the life of the world may become a blessed and holy act. In this way, the Liturgy draws the world toward the Kingdom and urges it to realize that Kingdom, for it is the very purpose of its existence. ...

The purpose of all these arrangements is to allow the faithful to participate in worship with all their senses, to help the human person enter fully into worship with his entire being. Through the five senses, the whole person is engaged. At the same time, the believer is constantly reminded of his calling to restore the transfigured beauty of creation and to share in its splendor. ...

The Orthodox Liturgy teaches the believer that he lives not merely because he eats, but because he is preserved by the grace of God. It does not only teach this truth – it helps him to live it. The Church provides prayers for nearly every occasion in a person's life: for the blessing of a home; for a child at birth and at his or her first entrance into the church; for the first day of school; before and after meals; before and after travel; before and after study; the blessing of a new car; and many others.

Orthodox liturgical services may appear long to an outside observer, but their length is not measured, in Orthodox understanding, by the number of hours they last, but by their spiritual benefit. Perhaps this story captures the Orthodox view of worship and its spirituality: After a Western monk visited Mount Athos and spent time among its monasteries, he asked an Orthodox monk there: "What do you do during this long time in church? Why are the services so long? What is the purpose? Would it not be better to do some work instead of remaining in church for such extended periods?" The monk replied: "What does a child do in its mother's womb during the nine months it remains there? Can we grow, be formed, and become living beings in whom the Holy Spirit dwells, without this long abiding?"

Read the entire article at www.antiochian.org

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services, visit www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today: Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

- Orthros, Cross Procession, & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by last names R-Z
- Church school for all ages; adult class led by Fr. Pat

Tuesday, March 17: Lenten morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, March 18:

- Lenten morning prayers, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-3pm
- Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm, followed by potluck meal

Thursday, March 19: Lenten morning prayers, 9am

Friday, March 20:

- Lenten morning prayers, 9am
- Akathist to the Theotokos at St. George Church, 7pm

Saturday, March 21:

- Akathist to the Theotokos, 9am
- Annual ladies' retreat, led by Azizeh Constantinescu, 10am-5pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, March 22: St. John Climacus

- 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
- Choir practice, 1-3:30pm

OTHER UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 12: Pascha Sunday

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 men's shelter. They mainly need items that don't need to be cooked: 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: Once again, let us be generous with the Antiochian Archdiocese's annual Lenten charity to help the poor and hungry around the world. Please take a coin box (at the greeters' table), and use it throughout Lent. Turn them in at Pascha to be blessed, and replace any coins with a **check made out to All Saints Church marked "For the Poor" in the memo line**, or submit paper money and designate it for the poor. If you have any questions, contact Pat K.

ARCHDIOCESE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS. Registration is open for our Antiochian Archdiocese camps, for children and teens ages 9-18. We have some scholarship funds designated to our parish from the Order of St. Ignatius; please see Fr. Andrew before the end of March if your child is interested in attending camp at Antiochian Village or Camp St. George in Iowa.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun 3/15* <i>Holy Cross</i>	Michelle C	Domitille	John O	<i>volunteer</i>	R-Z
Wed 3/18* <i>Presanctified</i>	N/A	Pat K	Domitille	N/A	Potluck
Sun 3/22* <i>Climacus</i>	Sd Joseph	Cristina P	JoAnne T	Zach C	A-F
Tues 3/24* <i>Annunciation</i>	Jim K	Dn Walid	Azizeh C	N/A	Potluck
Sun 3/29* <i>Mary of Egypt</i>	Paul K	Sandy A	Richard B	Lydia A	G-K
Wed 4/1* <i>Presanct.</i>	N/A	Dn Walid	Nancy L	N/A	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.*

**"DO NOT BE FAINTHEARTED IN YOUR PRAYER, NOR
NEGLECT TO GIVE ALMS."**

(WISDOM OF SIRACH 7:32)



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH 15-21, 2026

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

Sunday, March 15: Veneration of the Precious Cross

John 20:1-10 / Hebrews 4:14-5:10 / Mark 8:34-9:1

Monday, March 16: Sabine the Martyr of Egypt

Isaiah 14:24-32 / Hebrews 9:1-10 / Mark 6:30-44
Genesis 9:1-7 / Proverbs 11:19-12:7

Tuesday, March 17: St. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland

Isaiah 25:1-9 / Hebrews 9:11-15 / Mark 6:45-56
Genesis 9:8-17 / Proverbs 12:8-22

Wednesday, March 18: Edward the Martyr, King of England

Isaiah 27:1-13 / Hebrews 9:15-22 / Mark 7:1-23
Genesis 9:18-29 / Proverbs 12:23-13:9

Thursday, March 19: Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria

Isaiah 28:14-22 / Hebrews 9:23-28 / Mark 7:24-30
Genesis 10:1-32 / Proverbs 13:19-14:6

Friday, March 20: Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne

Isaiah 29:13-24 / Hebrews 10:1-10 / Mark 8:1-10
Genesis 11:1-26 / Proverbs 14:15-27

Saturday, March 21: James the Confessor

Hebrews 6:9-12 / Mark 7:31-37

**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**