

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

February 26, 2017

Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-fare)

SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4	Page 134
Gospel Reading	Matthew 6:14-21	Page 135
Creed		Pamphlet
The Lord's Prayer		Page 26
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 29-30
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		Pages 33-34

Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.

Memorial Service	Page 164
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Today's Calendar

- **Philoptochos is hosting today's Coffee Hour.**
- **Parish Council members on duty: John Grillakis, Charles Hondros, Paris Karahalios, Anna Manetta**

This Week

Monday, February 27 – Great Lent begins.

Wednesday, March 1 – Presanctified Liturgy – 4:00 pm

Friday, March 3 – Salutations to the Theotokos – 6:00 pm

Saturday, March 4 – 3rd Saturday of Souls – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

For Our Edification

Philoptochos to Meet

The first meeting of this year of the Philoptochos will be held next Monday, March 6, 6:30 pm, in the Church hall.

Sunday Lenten Vespers Begin March 5

On Sunday, March 5, Sunday Lenten Vespers will be held at the Transfiguration Church at 6:00 pm.

The remaining schedule is as follows: Sunday, March 12, 6:00 pm, Holy Trinity Church; Sunday, March 19, 6:00 pm, St. George Antiochian; Sunday, March 26, 6:00 pm, St. George Greek; Sunday, April 2, 6:00 pm, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church.

Light Lenten receptions and fellowship will follow each service.

Coffee Hours Available

Hosts are needed for the March 5 and March 12 Coffee Hours. Please call the office at (978) 458-8092 to schedule.

Box Tops for Education

Hellenic American Academy students are collecting "General Mills Box Tops for Education." There is a container in the Narthex for your contributions.

Great Lent

The Orthodox faithful observe Great Lent more widely than the other three Lenten Periods. Great Lent precedes the most important event in the Church, Christ's Resurrection.

Great Lent is a tremendous spiritual challenge for each individual. Three basic components are emphasized: fasting of body and soul, prayer, and philanthropy. Through self-examination, fasting, and giving to charity, the old way of life can be shed. Just as Christ received new life after His death, a new life is given at Easter to those who have prepared themselves. The soul must be cleansed by genuine repentance, the breaking of sinful habits, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The challenge is to recover the image of God within oneself (Theosis).

The Salutations to the Theotokos

On the first five Friday evenings of Lent, the small Compline Service and the Akathist Hymn honor the Virgin Mary. This Compline is a worship service with prayers and psalms. The Akathist Hymn, one of the most beautiful and beloved hymns of Orthodoxy, is an ecclesiastical poem about the Annunciation of the Mother of God and Nativity of Jesus Christ. Parishioners stand during the Hymn. The word "akathistos" means "not seated." The hymn contains 24 stanzas. A different one is sung on the first four Friday evenings. On the fifth Friday, the hymn is sung entirely.