

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

March 17, 2019

First Sunday of Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy

SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40	Page 136
Gospel Reading	John 1:43-51	Page 137
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

Today's Calendar

- Memorial – 12-year for Gregory Hayes
- Parish Council members on duty: Paris Karahalios, George Meltsakos, Joan Metropolis, George Potamitis
- 6:00 pm – Sunday Lenten Vespers at Holy Trinity Church

This Week

Wednesday, March 20 – Presanctified Liturgy – 9:00 am

Friday, March 22 – Salutations to the Theotokos – 6:00 pm

For Our Edification

Sunday Lenten Vespers Begin Tonight

Tonight, Sunday Lenten Vespers will be held at Holy Trinity Church at 6:00 pm.

The rest of the schedule is as follows: Sunday, March 24 – Great Vespers, Feast of the Annunciation, Holy Transfiguration; Sunday, March 31 – St. George Antiochian; Sunday, April 7– St. George Greek; Sunday, April 14– Assumption of the Virgin Mary. All Vespers will begin at 6:00 pm.

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Each Sunday in Lent has two themes, two meanings. On one hand, each one belongs to a sequence in which the rhythm and the spiritual “dialectics” of Lent are revealed. On the other hand, in the course of the Church’s historical development, almost each Lenten Sunday has acquired a second theme.

On this Sunday, we celebrate the restoration of the Icons to the Church. In 726 A.D., Icons were banned because many believed that Christ as God should not be depicted and those Icons were being worshipped as idols. In 843 A.D., the Empress Theodora ordered them restored. This event is commemorated with a procession of Icons through the Church.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts offers communion of the Holy Gifts (Eucharist) consecrated at the Divine Liturgy the previous Sunday. It is an opportunity to receive the sustaining spiritual strength of Christ during the difficult journey of Lent. Although the Church forbids the celebration of the Eucharist on weekdays of Lent (except the Annunciation) it recognizes the need for spiritual food.

Wisdom of the Fathers

Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons... We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family.

-His Grace Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia

Orthodoxy cannot be maintained simply by inertia. No tradition can survive unless it is continued through creative effort. The message of Christ is eternal and always the same, but it must be reinterpreted again and again so as to become a challenge to every new generation. We have not simply to keep the legacy of the past, but must first realize what we have inherited and do everything we can to present it to others as a living thing.

Fr. Georges Florovsky