

*We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.*



# ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

## OCA – Diocese of New York & New Jersey

The Most Reverend Michael, Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Temporary Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson    Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky

Parish Council Vice President: Dean Inferrera

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### Resurrectional Troparion in Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

### Resurrectional Kontakion in Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

### Kontakion from the Lenten Triodion in Tone 6

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue, Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart! O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: Have mercy on me, a transgressor, O merciful Lord!

### *Prayer Requests*

#### *For Health of:*

**Andrew**, on his birthday, offered by the Romanofsky Family.  
**Emily**, on her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, offered by the Searfoorce & Turpin Families.  
**Archpriest Paul Kucynda**, who had fallen on ice and was released from the hospital Friday morning, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.  
**Matushka Irene Frawley**, who was released from the hospital and is doing well following a procedure, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.

#### *In Memory of:*

**Andrew Koss**, offered by the Searfoorce & Koss Families.  
**Matushka Barbara Kucynda**, who fell-asleep in the Lord Friday morning at home, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.

### *Bulletin Sponsors*

**Romanofsky Family;  
Searfoorce, Turpin & Koss Families**

# SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE DAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE: EXPULSION OF ADAM FROM PARADISE



## *Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise*

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church

services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit..."



## *St. Leo the Great the Pope of Rome*

Saint Leo I the Great, Pope of Rome (440-461), received a fine and diverse education, which opened for him the possibility of an excellent worldly career. He yearned for the spiritual life, however, and so he chose the path of becoming an archdeacon under holy Pope Sixtus III (432-440), after whose death Saint Leo was chosen as Bishop of Rome in September 440.

These were difficult times for the Church, when heretics assaulted Orthodoxy with their false teachings. Saint Leo combined pastoral solicitude and goodness with an unshakable firmness in the confession of the Faith. He was in particular one of the basic defenders of Orthodoxy against the heresies of Eutyches and Dioscorus, who taught that there was only one nature in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was also a defender against the heresy of Nestorius.

He exerted all his influence to put an end to the unrest by the heretics in the Church, and by his letters to the holy emperors Theodosius II (408-450) and Marcian (450-457), he actively promoted the convening of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, at Chalcedon in 451, to condemn the heresy of the Monophysites.

At the Council at Chalcedon, at which 630 bishops were present, a letter of Saint Leo to the deceased Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople (447-449) was read. Saint Flavian had suffered for Orthodoxy under the "Robber Council" of Ephesus in the year 449. In the letter of Saint Leo the Orthodox teaching about the two natures [the divine and the human] in the Lord Jesus Christ was set forth. All the bishops present at the Council were in agreement with this teaching, and so the heretics Eutyches and Dioscorus were excommunicated from the Church.

Saint Leo was also a defender of his country against the incursions of barbarians. In 452, by the persuasive power of his words, he stopped Attila the Hun from pillaging Italy. Again in the year 455, when the leader of the Vandals [a Germanic tribe], Henserich, turned towards Rome, he persuaded him not to pillage the city, burn buildings, nor to spill blood.

He knew the time of his death beforehand, and he prepared himself, with forty days of fasting and prayer, to pass from this world into eternity.

He died in the year 461 and was buried at Rome. His literary and theological legacy is comprised of 96 sermons and 143 letters, of which the best known is his Epistle to Saint Flavian.

## *St. Theodore (Komogovin) of Serbia*

No information available at this time.



### ***Venerable Cosmas of Yakhrom***

Saint Cosmas of Yakhrom was the servant of a certain nobleman, whom he comforted during his prolonged illness by reading him books. And so, travelling from city to city, they happened to stop at the River Yakhroma. Here in the woods an icon of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos appeared to Cosmas, and he heard a voice commanding him to become a monk and to build a monastery. His sick master then received healing from the icon, and Cosmas went to Kiev, where he was tonsured in the Monastery of the Caves. Then with the icon of the Mother of God, and on an inspiration from above, he again went to Yakhrom, 40 versts from the city of Vladimir, constructing a temple in honor of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos with the help of some good Christians.

Brethren began to gather around the monk, and a monastery was formed. Saint Cosmas was chosen as igumen. During this time, word of the monk's ascetic struggles reached even the Great Prince. Saint Cosmas died at an advanced old age on February 18, 1492, and was buried in the monastery he founded. His memory is celebrated also on October 14, the day that the Yakhrom Icon of the Mother of God is commemorated.



### ***St. Agapitus the Confessor the Bishop of Synnada in Phrygia***

Martyrs Agapitus, Victor, Dorotheus, Theodulus and Agrippa Saint Agapitus was born of Christian parents in Cappadocia during the reign of the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (284-305). From his youth he yearned for the monastic life and so he entered a monastery, where he struggled in fasting, prayer, and service to all the brethren of the monastery.

The Lord granted Saint Agapitus the gift of wonderworking. The emperor, Licinius (311-324), learned that Saint Agapitus was endowed with great physical strength, and he commanded the saint to be conscripted into military service against his wishes.

During the persecution against the Christians initiated by Licinius, Saint Agapitus was wounded by a spear, but remained alive. After the death of the emperor Licinius, he obtained his freedom from military service in the following manner.

The holy Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) heard that Saint Agapitus had healed people by his prayers. The emperor sent him a sick servant, who also received healing. The emperor wanted to reward Saint Agapitus, who instead asked only that he be permitted to resign from military service and return to his monastery. Permission was granted, and he joyfully returned to the monastery.

Soon after this, the Bishop of Sinaus in Bithynia summoned Saint Agapitus and ordained him to the holy priesthood. After the death of the bishop, Saint Agapitus was unanimously chosen by the clergy and all the people to the See of Sinaus. The new hierarch wisely governed his flock, guiding it in the Orthodox faith and virtuous life. Through his prayers, numerous miracles occurred. The saint died in peace.



### ***St. Flavian the Confessor the Patriarch of Constantinople***

Saint Flavian the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople, occupied the patriarchal throne of Constantinople under the holy Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) and his sister the holy Empress Pulcheria (September 10).

At first he was a presbyter and caretaker of church-vessels in the cathedral. He became Patriarch after the death of holy Patriarch Proclus (November 20). During this time, various disturbances and heresies threatened church unity.

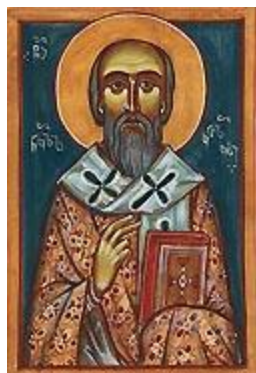
In the year 448, Saint Flavian convened a local Council at Constantinople to examine the heresy of Eutyches, which admitted only one nature (the divine) in the Lord Jesus Christ. Persisting in his error, the heretic Eutyches was excommunicated from the Church and deprived of dignity, but Eutyches had a powerful patron in the person of Chrysathios, a eunuch close to the emperor.

Through intrigue Chrysathios brought Bishop Dioscorus of Alexandria over to the side of Eutyches, and obtained permission from the emperor to convene a church council at Ephesus, afterwards known as the "Robber Council."

Dioscorus presided at this council, gaining the acquittal of Eutyches and the condemnation of Patriarch Flavian by threats and force. Saint Flavian was fiercely beaten up during the sessions of this council by impudent monks led by a certain Barsumas.

Even the impious president of the Robber Council, the heretic Dioscorus, took part in these beatings. After this heavy chains were put upon Saint Flavian, and he was sentenced to banishment at Ephesus. The Lord, however,

ended his further suffering, by sending him his death (+ August 449). The holy Empress Pulcheria withdrew from the imperial court. Soon the intrigues of Chrysathios were revealed. The emperor dismissed him, and restored his sister Saint Pulcheria. Through her efforts, the relics of holy Patriarch Flavian were reverently transferred from Ephesus to Constantinople.



### ***St. Nicholas the Catholicos of Georgia***

Nicholas Batonishvili was the son of Levan I, King of Kakheti (1520-1574). He lived during the grievous period of the Persian invasion of eastern Georgia. The young prince chose the path of monastic life and bravely helped his elder brother, King Alexandre II (1574-1605).

Despite his royal blood, he preferred the monk's habit and the sweet, light yoke of Christ to the glamour and opulence of his inheritance.

According to God's will, Nicholas was enthroned as Catholicos of All Georgia. The Georgian chronicle *Life of Kartli* (Kartlis Tskhovreba) relates the date of his enthronement as Saturday, February 28, 1584.

Armed with the highest hierarchical rank, royal blood, and personal integrity, Catholicos Nicholas was an exemplary leader for the Georgian nation. He struggled to plant the seeds of Christian love between countries of like faith.

He corresponded with Patriarch Job of Russia (1586-1590) and even sent him a horse. He also donated a leather-bound illuminated manuscript of the Gospels, copied in 1049, to the Metekhi Church of the Theotokos.

In his book *Pilgrimage*, the renowned eighteenth-century historian Archbishop Timote (Gabashvili) reports that there is an icon of Holy Catholicos Nicholas hanging in the refectory at the Iveron Monastery on Mt. Athos. Bishop Timote also describes another refectory, built by Ashtan Mukhran-Batoni, and notes, "There, I believe, Catholicos Nicholas Batonishvili reposed."

### ***Martyrs Agapitus, Victor, Dorotheus, Theodulus and Agrippa.***

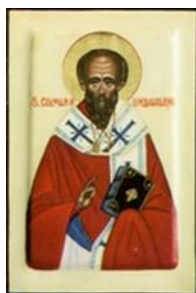
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### ***St. Colman of Lindesfarne***

No information available at this time.



# GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READINGS

## Epistle Reading

### Prokeimenon, Tone 8:

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (*Psalms 75:12*)  
vs. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (*Psalms 75:2*)

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### The reading from the \Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans:

**Brethren**, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

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### Alleluia, Tone 6:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. (*Psalms 91:2*)  
vs. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. (*Psalms 91:3*)

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## Gospel Reading

### The Reading is from Matthew

**The Lord said**, "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."

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### Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (*Psalms 148:1*)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



### Daily Inspirations by Abbott Tryphon

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*A replay of that which happened in the Garden of Eden*



The Orthodox Church teaches that the Lord took on our humanity by means of a Virgin Birth because he desired to become the first-fruits of a new spiritual humanity, one in which those who were to be united with him would be made sons and daughters of God.

According to the Fathers of the Church, it was necessary that Christ live out our human life in obedience, in opposition to what Adam and Eve had done, with their disobedience. Christ restored to humanity that which Adam had lost. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord replayed that which happened in the Garden of Eden. Because

Christ, the Word Incarnate said ‘Thy will be done’, he restored, by his obedience, what Adam had destroyed by his disobedience.

The curse, which was death, that came upon humanity by the Fall, was not an act of God’s anger, but a necessary provision for the salvation of man. Thus, the power of death was broken by the power of the one who is true life, Christ Jesus. The inherited death we all received through Adam’s fall needed to be destroyed from within. This was accomplished by the Immortal One who embraced our mortality, and embraced our death. For death to be destroyed it needed to be experienced by one who was mortal and subject to death. Thus the Immortal One became mortal by taking on our humanity.



### Daily Reflection

#### We Will Go With You Through Lent



*“Thus says the Lord of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace. Thus says the Lord of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts; In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the garment of a Jewish man, saying, ‘We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.’” (Zechariah 8: 19-23)*

This is the reading at Vespers today, on Cheesefare-Friday, a day when no Divine Liturgy is celebrated, and our church-services include other Lenten moments, like the Prayer of St. Ephrem with great prostrations. As Lent is just two days away, the prophetic text reminds me that times of fasting are times of “joy and gladness.”

It also speaks prophetically of our time, the era of the Church and her beautiful traditions, like Lent, when “many people and strong nations,” like ours in both East and West, “shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem.” We direct our gaze toward Jerusalem, the Holy City where one Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day, according to the Scriptures, as we begin our Lenten journey toward Great/Holy Week and Pascha. In our day people like us, “from every language of the nations,” from all over the world, “grasp the garment of a Jewish man,” – the garment of our Lord Jesus Christ that is His Church, saying, “We will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you.”

So let me re-direct my gaze toward Jerusalem today, and toward the Cross erected there two millennia ago, as I reach out and “grasp the garment of a Jewish man,” Who leads me to renewal, in the life-affirming season of Lent. “We will go with you,” Lord, as You lead us on the Lenten journey, re-teaching us to “love the truth and peace.” Amen!

## PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Today, February 18<sup>th</sup>, the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will sponsor a Cheesefare luncheon.](#) consisting of blini, pierogi, egg and cheese dishes. Tickets are also \$10. Please join us for these delicious meals.

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

## Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am: Sunday School  
9:40 am: Hours  
10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
After Communion: Sunday School pre-K -  
Grade 3

## Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm: The Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

## Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

6:30 pm: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

## Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm: Vespers

## Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am: Sunday School  
9:40 am: Hours  
10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
After Communion: Sunday School pre-K -  
Grade 3

## Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

## Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

6:30 pm: Vespers

## Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am: No Sunday School  
9:40 am: Hours  
10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
After Communion: Sunday School pre-K -  
Grade 3

**Request & Bulletin Sponsor:** Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

**Memorial Candles:** Candles can be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one.

**Private Confessions:** **Can be heard a half hour before any service.** See Father Matthew for other times.

**General Confession:** Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

**Receiving Holy Communion:** Holy Communion is offered to those baptized Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for the reception of the Sacrament by prayer and fasting. Blessed Bread is available for all our visitors at the very end of the Divine Liturgy.

**Pannikhida Service:** The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

**Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail: [OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com](mailto:OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com)

**The Living Clean Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

**The Grey Book Step Meeting Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

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### *Orthodox Quote of the Day*

One mustn't be fooled by the politeness he may encounter.  
Worldly politeness can be very harmful because it contains  
hypocrisy.

**St. Paisios of Mount Athos**  
**Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life 173**