



**Sunday February 26, 2017 SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE — Tone 3.** The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza (420). Ven. Sebastian of Poshekhónsk (ca. 1500). Martyr Sebastian (1st c.).

**This Week's Schedule**

*Today 2/26 : Following coffee hour **Forgiveness Vespers***

*Monday 2/27 Great Compline Canon of Repentance 7:00 p.m.*

*Tuesday 2/28 Great Compline Canon of Repentance 7:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday 3/1 Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 p.m.*

*Thursday 3/2 Great Compline Canon of Repentance 7:00 p.m.*

*Friday 3/3 Akathist 6:30 p.m.*

*Saturday 3/4 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.*

*Sunday 3/5 Sunday of Orthodoxy Hours 8:40 a.m.*

*Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.*

*With Icon procession*

*Followed by Coffee hour & Church School*

**Reader Schedule**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>3<sup>RD</sup> HOUR</u></b>	<b><u>6<sup>TH</sup> HOUR</u></b>	<b><u>EPISTLE</u></b>
Feb-26	SOUDER	PECK	PECK
Mar-5	LEWIS	SULPIZI	CAREY
Mar-12	BUNITSKY	BUNITSKY	BRASOWSKI
Mar-19	LEWIS	SOUDER	FINCK
Mar 25	ANNUNCIATION		

## Hymns and Prayers

### **Tone 3 Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

### **Tone 3 Kontakion**      *(Resurrection)*

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

### **Tone 6 Kontakion**      *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

O Master, Teacher of wisdom,

Bestower of virtue,

Who teach the thoughtless and protect the poor,

strengthen and enlighten my heart!

O Word of the Father,

let me not restrain my mouth from crying to You:

“Have mercy on me, a transgressor,//

O merciful Lord!”

### **Tone 8 Prokeimenon**      *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! (*Ps 75/76:11*)

*v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)*

### **Epistle** Romans 13:11-14:4

*And do this, knowing the time, that now 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.*

## **Tone 6**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps 91/92:1)*

*v. to declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps 91/92:2)*

## **Gospel Matthew 6:14-21**

*For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

*But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

*Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

*But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

*but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

## **Communion Hymn**

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

## *This Week's Announcement*

**Great Lent to Begin** Our Lenten journey will begin with **Forgiveness Vespers today** following coffee hour. All should make a sincere effort to begin the Lenten season with this service and the “Mutual rite of forgiveness”. “On Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam’s exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord’s teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.

*If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14–18). ”*

**Newly Chrismated** Yesterday morning we welcomed into the Church William (Michael) Wennburg by the sacrament of Chrismation. May God grant him Many Blessed Years!

**Property Cleanup:** A reminder that we are having a general cleanup of the church property on Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4. We will start at 9:00. In addition to cleaning up the wooded area, we will need to clean up the branches in the open space. The branch clean up would be a perfect job for some industrious teens. There is a lot of trash in the wooded area that we must take care of or we will be sited by the county for a violation. Please wear long sleeves and pants and bring your own work gloves. Your help is needed. Be a steward of our

**Grass Cutting:** We are looking for volunteers to assist with the grass cutting chores this year. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. The intent is to set up teams of 3 people to work the cutting on a rotating basis. The more teams we can form, the less of a chore it is for everyone. Please help with this effort this year.

**Lenten Retreat** On Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> we will be offering a Lenten retreat. The guest speaker for the retreat is Frederica Mathewes-Green. We are trying to get an accurate count of those planning on attending so we are asking if all would please sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa4a92da0fd0-lenten>

***Perogie Available*** Thanks to all who came and helped pinch perogies this past week. Perogies are available for sale in the church hall. Please see Elizabeth Melnick. Get them now before they are gone!

***Diaper Drive*** We are conducting a Diaper Drive to benefit Catholic Charities Bayard House. Bayard House serves young mothers in need. Diapers of all sizes and baby wipes would be appreciated. To contribute, drop items off over the next two Sundays: Feb 25 and March 5. If you have any questions, see Anne Riley.

***Study Group*** Our Study group will continue this Thursday at 10 am with the 15<sup>th</sup> Step from “The Ladder of Divine Ascent”. All are welcome to join us.

***Basics of Orthodoxy Update*** We will be offering the basics of Orthodoxy class on Friday evenings during the Lenten season. We will begin this Friday evening Feb 24<sup>th</sup> following vespers. All are welcome to attend.

## **What is Forgiveness?**

This past week, a few days before the Sunday of Forgiveness, the Church celebrated the memory of Saint Polycarp of Smyrna. This man was a student of the Holy Apostles, and can teach us a something important about forgiveness.

Polycarp was appointed Bishop of Smyrna by Saint John the Evangelist and Gospel writer sometime before John was banished to the island of Patmos in the year 96. Over the long years of his episcopacy, Polycarp attracted and taught many disciples of his own. They remembered the majesty of his countenance, the holiness of his behavior, and the conversations in which he told them the words he had heard from the Apostle John's own lips.

The one piece of writing we have from Polycarp's own hand is his letter to the Philippian Christians. In it, he mentions by name several believers who have undergone torture and died for the faith. Then, despite all the suffering he has seen, he cautions the Philippians never to be vengeful, but to forgive and show mercy to everyone.

Yet it was said that Polycarp had once met the heretic Marcion in the street, and neglected to greet him. Marcion was offended and said,

"Polycarp, what is this? Do you not know me?" Polycarp's answer was, "Yes, I know you to be the son of the devil!" His disciples also said that Polycarp would literally stop his ears and flee from the room if he heard a heretical statement.

The encounter with Marcion and the description of Polycarp's "fleeing" show us that he never confused forgiveness with acceptance of heresy or sin. That is a temptation for many people in our day. When people do or say things that contradict the teachings of the Church, we may let it go in the name of tolerance, and tell ourselves that we are practicing Christian forgiveness.

But Polycarp would disagree. As he stood in the Roman arena awaiting martyrdom, he calmly prayed and asked forgiveness for everyone, including those eagerly gathering wood to build a fire and burn him to death. But his prayers for forgiveness did not include accepting the sin and heresy of denying Christ and worshipping a false god. When urged to do so he said, "I have served Him these 86 years, and He never did me any harm, but much good, so how can I now blaspheme my King and Savior?"

On this Sunday before Great Lent we are called to forgive and to ask God's mercy. Polycarp's example reminds us not to confuse forgiveness with acceptance or toleration of anything people do or say.

As we struggle to do what is right and say only what is true, we can pray for others to do the same, and guide them when we have the chance. If we make that effort, we will be able to stand in our own "arena"—whatever trials and tests come—and say that we, too, refuse to blaspheme the One who "never did me any harm, but much good."

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America.*

*This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.*

### **Wisdom from the Holy Fathers**

*"Listen and groan, all you who overlook your suffering brethren, or rather, Christ's brethren, and do not give the poor a share of your abundant food, shelter, clothing and care as appropriate, nor offer your surplus to meet their need.... But more grievously to be mourned over are those who have treasures in excess*

*of their daily needs, who hold on to them and even strive to increase them. They have been commanded to love their neighbours as themselves and have not even loved them as dust, for what are gold and silver, which they loved more than their brethren, other than dust." "May we make haste to obtain the riches of kindness and buy an eternal kingdom in exchange for a little money [i.e. almsgiving]."*

**-St. Gregory Palamas.** *"The Parables of Jesus: Sermons"*

*And here's one from a desert mother (amma):*

*Amma Syncletica said, 'In the beginning there are a great many battles and a good deal of suffering for those who are advancing towards God and afterwards, ineffable joy. It is like those who wish to light a fire; at first they are choked by the smoke and cry, and by this means obtain what they seek (as it is said: "Our God is a consuming fire" [Heb. 12.24]): so we also must kindle the divine fire in ourselves through tears and hard work.'*

*Abba Poemen's brethren said to him, 'Let us leave this place, for the monasteries here worry us and we are losing our souls; even the little children who cry do not let us have interior peace.' Abba Poemen said to them, 'Is it because of voices of angels that you wish to go away from here?'*

*Abba Poemen said, 'Even if a man were to make a new heaven and earth, he could not live free of care.'*

*Offer to Christ the labors of your youth, and in your old age you will rejoice in the wealth of dis-passion. What is gathered in youth nourishes and comforts those who have grown feeble in old age. In our youth let us labor ardently and let us run vigilantly, for the hour of death is unknown.*

**St John of the Ladder**

**Prayers for the Departed:** Anwor Kawaja

**Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:** Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Lemlem Resat, Alfred Mokhiber, Peter Melnik, Agnes Timchak, Olga Riley, Anna Hotrovich, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Maria Current, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Michael Vannello, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Carson, Stephen, Maria, Aiden, Peck Family, Walter Danchenka, Anne Peck, George Coyle

**Prayers for Women and the Child to be born:** Tatyana Klimova

**Prayers for Catechumens:** Carolyn Peck, Stephanie Smiertka

**Prayers for Newly Illumined/Chrismated:** William(Michael) Wennburg, Emily (Theodora) Zushi, Misty (Mary) Robinson, Cedric Peck

<b>Date</b>	<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b>	<b><u>Service Duty</u></b>	<b><u>Church Cleaner</u></b>	<b><u>Library</u></b>
<b>26-Feb</b>	Cheesefare Pot Luck	Bunitsky/ Lewis	Skomorucha/ Lewis	Gundersen
<b>5-Mar</b>	<b>Pot Luck</b>	Elia/ Morjana	Baldychev/ Shatley- Sylvest	Farrell
<b>12-Mar</b>	Najemy/Kendall	Riley	Sulpizi	Skomorucha
<b>19-Mar</b>	Elia/ Gundersen/ Farrell	Sulpizi/ Fink	Riley	Maloney

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>VESPERS and LITURGY</b>
Feb-26	Team Gabriel
Mar-5	Team George
Mar-12	Team Conover
Mar-19	Team Gabriel

Attendance

Feb 19th Liturgy: 115