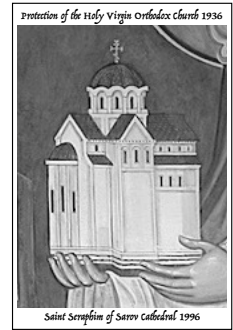


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, February 27, 2022 — Meat-fare Sunday



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

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 the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN, Tone Three:

Rejoice, [O Father Raphael](#), adornment of the holy Church! Thou art the champion of the True Faith, seeker of the lost, consolation of the oppressed, father to orphans, and friend of the poor, peacemaker, and good shepherd. Joy of all the Orthodox, son of Antioch boast of America: intercede with Christ God for us, and for all who honor thee.

- KONTAKION OF ST. RAPHAEL, Tone Eight:

Thou wast a guardian and a defender of the Church's teaching, thou didst protect thy flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in the true faith. O holy father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America, always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved.

- KONTAKION OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT, TONE ONE:

When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. The river of fire will bring men before Thy Judgement Seat, the Books will be opened and the secrets disclosed. Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand on Thy right hand, O Judge most righteous.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Feb. 26: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Holy Chrismation*
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, Feb. 27: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy (with *Prayers for Peace in the Ukraine*)
12:30 PM, Parish Annual Meeting (no church school)
- Monday, Feb. 28: **Begin to fast from all meat products**
6 PM, Fortieth Day Panikhida for Katherine Willens
- Wed., March 2: 5 PM, Vespers—*Lenten style*
- Thurs., March 3: 5 PM, Vespers—*Lenten style*
- Fri., March 4: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions
- Sat., March 5: 3:30 PM, Catechism, *on the Holy Eucharist*
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions

- Sunday, March 6: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Forgiveness Sunday
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
1:15 PM, *Vespers of Forgiveness*

- THE PROFOUND MEANING OF MEAT-FARE:

Beginning Monday, Orthodox Christians abstain from meat; has it any meaning apart from the ascetic, the disciplinary? Yes, it has, I think. There is a frightening passage in the ninth chapter of Genesis. After the flood, when mankind has become even weaker than before, less rooted in God, more tragically alone, more tragically dependent upon the created because it has lost communion with the uncreated, God says to Noah and his people, “From now on all living creatures are delivered unto you as food; they will be your meat, and you will be their terror...” That is the relationship which human sin, the loss of God in our lives, has established between us and all the created world, but particularly, in a particularly painful, monstrous way with the animal world. And our abstention from meat in the time of Lent is our act of recognition; it is also—oh, to such a small extent!—an act of reparation. We are the terror of the created world, we are those who destroy it, we are those who mar and pollute it, yet we are called originally to be its guide into eternity, into God’s glory, into the perfect beauty which God has intended for it. We were called to make of this world of ours God’s own world, God’s own Kingdom—in the sense that it is His family, the place where He lives among His creatures, and where the creatures of God can rejoice in Him and in one another. Let us therefore, to the extent to which we are faithful to the call of the Church, remember that apart from being an act by which we try to free ourselves from slavery to the material world, our fasting is an act of recognition of our sin against the world and, however small, a real attempt to make reparation for it, bring a testimony that we understand, that we are heartbroken, and that even if we cannot live otherwise, we live with a pain and a shame, and turn to God and to the world, which we treat so atrociously, with a broken and contrite heart. Amen. —*Metropolitan Anthony of London, reposed 2003*

- FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS—MARCH 6:

The [Vespers of Forgiveness](#) will be served on the Sunday of the “Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise” March 6 at 1:15 PM. The more popular names of that day are “Forgiveness Sunday” (based on the Gospel, [Matthew 6:14ff](#)) or [Cheesefare Sunday](#) (since after this day we abstain from all dairy and eggs until Pascha). Remembering that we do not currently live in paradise, but experience ourselves and the world in a fallen and sinful condition, we must follow the Lord’s command, and forgive one another. This Vespers “formalizes” forgiveness in a sober, serious and simple way with the *Mutual Rite of Forgiveness* at the end of the service. Questions? Please don’t hesitate to ask. All our parish members should attend. —*Fr Lawrence*

- SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT:

“I ponder the fearful day and lament my evil deeds. How shall I answer the immortal King? And with what boldness shall I the Prodigal gaze upon the Judge? O compassionate Father, only-begotten Son and Holy Spirit, have mercy upon me.” —*a hymn from Matins of the Sunday of the Last Judgment*

Brethren, we understand that our sins literally separate us from God, but which sins? Most of us know that breaking the Ten Commandments will separate us from God; Denying our faith, murder, stealing, lying, etc. But today’s parable wants to remind us that one of the standards of judgment is how we treat other people, how we consider other people, especially the poor and the needy. Let me share with you some verses of Scripture:

“*He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.*” —*Proverbs 14:21*

“*He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.*” —*Proverbs 14:31*

“*He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.*” —*Proverbs 19:17*

The Great Fast wants us to repent. Repentance, *metanoia*, means to change our minds, change our thinking, change our attitude about who we are, what we do, and how we relate to others. God, through Isaiah tells us what a true fast must include, saying: “loose every burden of iniquity, untie the knots of hard dealings, set the bruised free, and cancel every unjust account. Break thy bread with the hungry, and lead the unsheltered poor to thy house: if thou seest one naked, clothe him, and thou shalt not disregard thine own relatives. Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy health shall speedily spring forth: and thy righteousness shall go before thee, and the glory of God shall compass thee” (Isaiah 58: 6-8). Our actions are far more important than our words. Pharaoh made many promises, both to God and to Moses, but he didn’t follow through. He didn’t really believe that God would make good on His promise of judgment. Great Lent wants to remind us to make good on our promises. The Lord Jesus said, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46). And what, exactly, is He telling us to do today? Our Lord is telling us to be the kind of people who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, show hospitality to foreigners, (which is what the Greek says), clothe those who have no clothing, to visit and comfort the sick and the imprisoned. In other words, the Lord expects us to be kind, compassionate, and merciful towards others, to truly reflect not only the image, but also the likeness of God. —*Archpriest Basil Rhodes, sermon excerpt*

- THE CATECHUMENS AND US:

Since the time of the early Church, the Forty Days of the Great Fast, also called “Lent” (days *lengthen* in Spring) have been the period focused on preparing (training) catechumens for their entrance into the Church. Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) wrote that in the weeks before their baptismal initiation, the candidates undergo a period of intensive training, with daily instruction, special services and fasting. “The existing members of the church community [are] encouraged to share with the catechumens in this prayer and abstinence, thus renewing year by year their baptismal dedication to Christ. So the forty-day fast came to involve the whole body of the faithful, and not just those preparing for Baptism.” For catechumens, this is preparation for Holy Baptism—also called Holy Illumination. The Great Fast of Lent is the best time to struggle to acquire the Godly virtues of love, peace, joy, patience, long-suffering,, mercy, kindness, and so forth. In that struggle, the grace of God cleanses us from our sinful passions, making us ready to receive the Holy Mysteries. We support the catechumens in our ascetic path, since each of us needs to pass through a time of preparation so that we all may also experience the full power of the Paschal joy. Metropolitan Kallistos continues: “For every member of the Christian community, Lent is a time of spiritual training and renewed illumination. It is a time to realize afresh that, by virtue of our baptismal initiation, we are crucified, buried and risen with Christ; it is a time to reapply to ourselves the words of St. Paul, ‘I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me’ (Gal. 2:20). It is a time for us to listen more closely to the voice of the Spirit in whom we were sealed at our Chrismation, immediately after our ‘burial’ in the baptismal waters.” —*Fr. Lawrence*

- ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN:

From his youth, Saint Raphael’s greatest joy was to serve the Church. When he came to America in 1895, he found his people scattered abroad, and he called them to unity, traveling ceaselessly across the country, performing sacraments and founding churches. At the time of his death on February 27, 1915, the Syro-Arab Mission (under the Russian Orthodox Church and Bishop Tikhon) had, thanks to his labors, thirty parishes with 25,000 faithful. St. Raphael loved and sacrificed himself in order to bring the Light of Faith not only to Arabic speaking people from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and elsewhere, but to evangelize for the Church in America by publishing and conducting church services in English. Through his prayers may we continue his work.

- LENTEN RETREAT IN SAN FRANCISCO:

Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco is planning their Annual Lenten Retreat for Saturday April 2. This will be a “do not miss!” occasion. Fr. Bogdan Bucur, Ph.D., professor of patristics at St. Vladimir’s Seminary, will help us reignite our understanding, preparation, and full participation in the great mystery of the Passover—the Pascha—of our great Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! More information forthcoming.

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 27 / Meat Fare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Prayers for Peace in Ukraine • 12:30 PM, Parish Annual Meeting 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, 40th Day Panikhida for Katherine Willens 	MARCH 1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Pre-Lenten Vespers 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, <i>Angels Unawares</i> • 5 PM, Pre-Lenten Vespers 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the Eucharist</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
6 – Forgiveness Sun/40 Martyrs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 1:15 PM, Vespers of Forgiveness 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 7 PM, Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 7 PM, Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Canon of St. Andrew of Crete • 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank • 5 PM, Confessions • 6:15 PM, Presanctified, Meal and Reading 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 7 PM, Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Presanctified and Canon to St. Theodore the Recruit • 6 PM, Akathist 	12 – St. Theodore Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Confession</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
13 – Sunday of Orthodoxy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Icon Procession • Noon, Agape Meal 	14 <i>Visit by Real Break participants</i>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 5 PM, Confessions • 6:15 PM, Presanctified, Meal and Reading 	17 – St. Patrick of Ireland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting 	18 – St. Nikolai of Zicha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Akathist 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 Catechism, <i>On the Priesthood</i> • 5 PM, Vespers only/Confessions • 8 PM, <i>Concert*</i>
20 – St. Gregory Palamas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 3 PM, <i>Concert*</i> 	21	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank • 5 PM, Confessions • 6:15 PM, Presanctified, Meal and Reading 	24 <i>No morning service</i> 6:15 PM, Festal Matins for Annunciation	25 – ANNUNCIATION 11:30 AM, Vesperal Divine Liturgy	26 – Archangel Gabriel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 Catechism, <i>On Marriage</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
27 – Veneration of the Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Baptism (Stameroff) • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 5 PM, Confessions • 6:15 PM, Presanctified, Meal and Reading 	31 – ST. INNOCENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins 	APRIL 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In SF, Holy Trinity Cathedral, 10:30 AM Presanctified</i> <i>No Evening Service</i> 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Lenten Retreat in SF</i> • 3:30 Catechism, <i>On Holy Unction</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions

* The [Green Mountain Singers](#) will present two sacred choral concerts of music by Palestrina: Saturday, March 19 at 8 PM, and Sundays, March 20 at 3 PM.