

Please join me in giving thanks to God for blessing us with the Services of Clean Week: the 8 AM Matins, the 7 PM Great Compline and Canon of St. Andrew and the Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday and Friday. The singing, reading and serving was done reverently and beautifully every morning and evening. Such things are a result of a great deal of study, rehearsal and a sacrifice and offering of time by those who love to serve the Lord. From Sunday afternoon's *Vespers of Forgiveness*, to Friday's Presanctified, there are **ten Church Services**. Thank you, Choir Master Nicolas, singers, readers, clergy, servers and sacristans for giving us so much. —*Fr Lawrence*

Those who commune regularly (that is, each Sunday and feasts) prepare themselves by confessing at least monthly.

Catechism this Saturday (at 3:30 PM in the Parish Hall) will be about the Holy Mystery, the Sacrament of Confession. We will speak about the Old and New Testament background, the practice of the early church and how to prepare and make a confession. If you think you might need a refresher, or not sure about any of it, please do come.

Since the days of the early Church, Lent has been the time for preparing for Baptism and Chrismation those catechumens who, for the most part, have been worshipping and studying for many months. Lent is the final course of spiritual therapy of repentance, for the cleansing of the heart, culminating in Pascha. Their baptism is the way in which they, and we all, are united to Christ and concretely share in His death and resurrection. In other words, we join with our Savior in the passover from death to life.

Keep the Catechumens in your prayers: Nicholas Belli, Alyssa Ruiz, Nicholas Morgan, Kelly McKenna, Nikki Singh, Atticus Nicholas, Matthew Morrison, Eileen Waggoner, Anthony Ruble, Owen Dawson, Gabriel Dolce-Pacheco, Ron Brooks, Brian Lawrence, Sam Still, Judges Cantara, Antonio Gonzalez, Esmeralda Gonzalez, Antonio, Jr. Gonzalez, Valentina Gonzalez, Gabriel Wagner, Oscar DeJung, Alicia Garrett, Forrest Condit, Krissy Abshire, Rory Donahue, Avery Merritt.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



March 1, 2026

Sunday of Orthodoxy ~ First Sunday of Great Lent



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:
Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.
- TROPARION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Tone Two:
We venerate Thy most pure icon, O Loving Lord, asking Thee, O Christ our God, to pardon our transgressions. For of Thine own will wast Thou well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver from the bondage of the enemy those whom Thou hast fashioned. Therefore, in thanksgiving, we cry aloud to Thee: Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, when Thou camest to save the world.
- KONTAKION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Tone Eight:
The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, and He has restored the sullied image to its

ancient glory, filling it with divine beauty. This our salvation we confess in deed and word, and we depict it in the holy icons.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, Feb. 27: 10 AM, Confessions
10:30 AM, Presanctified / [Blessing of Koliva](#)
- Saturday, Feb. 27: 3:30 PM, Catechism, [On Confession](#)
5 PM, Resurrectional Vigil
- Sunday, March 1: 8 AM, Divine Liturgy
9 AM, Choir Rehearsal
9 AM, Baptisms
10 AM, Divine Liturgy / Procession with Icons
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tues., March 3: 8 AM, Matins
- Wed., March 4: 8 AM, Matins
5 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Presanctified and Meal
- Thurs., March 5: 8 AM, Matins
- Fri., March 6: 10 AM, Confessions
10:30 AM, Presanctified

Many Years and congratulations to those who will be baptized on Sunday morning at 9 AM: Kimmy Ann and Brendan Doonan and Tami Brigid Skikos. May the Lord bless them and their sponsors. Please keep our catechumens in your prayers. See the list on the back page.

Please bring an icon on Sunday morning to carry during the procession after the 10 AM Divine Liturgy. FYI, Church School will pick up again next week, March 8.

After the Liturgy and the procession with icons, we will gather in front of the cathedral (assuming it is not raining) for an all parish photo.

[The Feast of the Sunday of Orthodoxy](#), also known as the *Triumph of Orthodoxy*, or, the *Restoration of the Holy Icons*, is celebrated on the first Sunday

of Lent. The historical events leading to this feast day—that of iconoclasm and the destruction of icons—are extremely interesting and instructive. [HERE](#) is a helpful fifteen minute video (from *Be the Bee*) which gives a general outline of the history. The celebrations of the Church are spiritual celebrations. We have no reason to gloat, brag or boast, since some of us distinguish ourselves by our sins and vices, rather than our virtues and faith and love. This humble *Triumph of Orthodoxy* has nothing to do with worldly victories, which are almost always about power and pride. This victory is one of Godly love and joy, not over *other* people, but over that which is false within each of us, over evil and idolatry, over darkness, death and sin, and the evil one, who before Christ “held the power of death, that is the devil” (Heb. 2:14). [Archimandrite John \(Krestiankin\)](#) preached that “the Triumph of Orthodoxy will ever be celebrated in the Church, for this triumph is not of the visible glory of Orthodoxy, but of the only thing that gives life to the world, and which no external troubles or enemies now can take away—it is the triumph of Divine love for the world and the eternal life of the world in this love and by this love. And for us, for every one of us, there remains only one personal question: Will we be participants in this Divine love? Will we preserve for ourselves and for our posterity that which Christ Himself gave to us and which His faithful followers in the Church have handed down to us in purity?”

On Monday, Matushka Ann and I will fly out to visit the parish of St. Anthony the Great in Bozeman, MT, hopefully returning on Wednesday afternoon by the time of the Presanctified. The parish in Bozeman has a new temple being constructed, and Matushka Ann and I have been asked to speak with the parishioners about the interior iconographic plan and our own experience here at St Seraphim.

On Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings we will have an opportunity to receive Holy Communion at the *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* and be strengthened in our Lenten efforts. Those who will receive Holy Communion are asked to prepare themselves by fasting from all food and drink (on Wednesday, from noon), praying the *Prayers before Communion* and a recent confession. Confessions will be heard before and during the service, until we sing the hymn *Now the Powers of Heaven...*