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Sunday, February 22, 2026

Cheesefare Sunday

8:30am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

6pm: Forgiveness Vespers

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Mode

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Ἄπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ἦχος δ΄.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριά, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρήψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσχύλεται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode

An example of the faith and a life of humility: * as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, * and through the truthfulness of your deeds * were exalted to greatness through your humility, * uplifting all, and by poverty gaining wealth. * Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, * intercede with Christ our God * that our souls may be saved.



Kontakion of Cheesefare Sunday in the Plagal Second Mode

Guide in wisdom and the Benefactor in prudent thought; the Corrector of the foolish, and Protector of all the poor: Master, grant enlightenment, and give strength to my feeble heart; O Word of the Father, give a good word to me! Behold and observe my lips; I shall not hinder them from crying out: “O Most Merciful, show Your mercy to me, who have fallen.”

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:11 – 14; 14:1 – 4

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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:14 – 21

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.”

Saints and Feasts

Cheesefare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday)

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam’s exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind.

The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today’s Gospel to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another

and all creation.

The Finding of the Precious Relics of the Holy Martyrs in the Quarter of Eugenios

During the persecutions against Christians the relics of these Holy Martyrs were usually buried by the faithful in hidden places. Thus, at Constantinople, near the Eugenios Gate and tower, the incorrupt relics of several Martyrs were found. Their names are not known, but they are written in the Book of Life.

Wishing to glorify His servants, God began healing people of their infirmities at the place where the relics of the Martyrs were found. They were transferred to a church with great honor by a certain Hierarch. After the fragrant relics were revealed, there were more miracles of healing, and demons were cast out of those who were possessed.

It was revealed to a devout clergyman, Nicholas the Calligrapher, that among the relics discovered at the Eugenios gate were the relics of the holy Apostle Andronikos of the Seventy and his helper Junia, whom the Apostle Paul mentions in his Epistle to the Romans. In the XII century, a large domed church was built at the place where the relics of the Holy Martyrs were discovered. This work was undertaken by Emperor Andronikos (1183-1185), whose patron Saint was the Holy Apostle Andronikos.

Wisdom of the Fathers

“In this time of fasting and prayer, brethren, let us with all our hearts forgive anything real or imaginary we have against anyone. May we all devote ourselves to love, and let us consider one another as an incentive to love and good works, speaking

in defence of one another, having good thoughts and dispositions within us before God and men. In this way our fasting will be laudable and blameless, and our requests to God while we fast will be readily received. We shall rightly call upon Him as our Father by grace and we can boldly say to Him, ‘Father, forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors’ (Matt. 6:12).”

- St. Gregory Palamas, *Homily* 7, §4.

“O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power and idle talk to come into me. Instead, grant me, Your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience and love. Yes, Lord and King, give me the power to see my own faults and not to judge my brother. For You are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

- Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian.

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your God-pleasing prayers the servants of God:

Robert Tewis; Robert (Tikhon) Foster; Lance (Stylianios) Schmitt; Alexandra Currier; Karen (Marie) Eagle

If you would like for yourself or a loved one to be added to the prayer list, please contact Fr. Jeremy.

Parish Information

Church School

Church School for our children begins following Holy Communion. We have two classrooms: one for elementary-school

ages, and one for middle school and up. Please allow our Church School kids and their teachers to come up for Communion first.

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

Our Adult Ed class meets on Sundays following coffee hour. We meet in the classrooms downstairs. Any who would like to learn more about our Orthodox Faith, whether a newcomer or a life-long member, are welcome to attend. Please contact Fr. Jeremy to be added to the distribution list for readings.

On Behalf of All

Funded through the Lilly Endowment, OBOA is a program aimed at ensuring that children with disabilities are able to participate fully in our parish life. We are a pilot parish in this program, and are looking for volunteers from the parish to help coordinate our participation in this ministry. If you are interested in learning more, please talk to Fr. Jeremy or Pres. Allison.

Byzantine Chant Classes

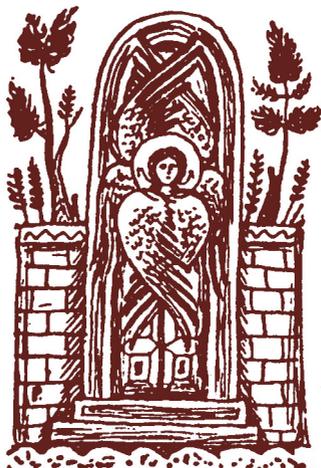
Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **March 7 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, March 12** at 12pm.



This Week at St. Nicholas

- Sunday, February 22: 6pm Forgiveness Vespers
- Monday, February 23 **Lent Begins:** 6pm Great Compline w/ Canon of St. Andrew
- Wednesday, February 25: 6pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Friday, February 27: 6pm Akathist to the Theotokos (*First Stasis*)
- Saturday, February 28 **Miracle of the Kollyva:** 9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy, 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers