

March 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Holy Period of Lent will begin on Monday, March 18th, with Great Compline and the Forgiveness Service at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Strict Fast Lenten Potluck. Lent is a period of fasting and abstinence, not only from foods, but also from our personal iniquities. During this period of Lent, we should make a special attempt to evaluate our calling as Christians, listen to the voice of the Gospel and heed its commandments, and accept the constant invitation to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

The First Sunday of Great Lent is the Sunday of Orthodoxy. On this day, we Orthodox Christians come together to honor the Holy Icons, rededicate ourselves to Orthodoxy and proclaim our Faith. During the Holy Procession of the Icons, we pray for the souls of our deceased Parish Priests, Teachers, Parish and Philoptochos Presidents and for the souls of the men and women who made the supreme sacrifice for our country.

The calendar of services is online and included in this mailing. Please check it frequently to be reminded of the weekly Great Compline, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, and Salutations to the Virgin Mary that are offered. Also, after each service will be a short discussion on various topics. All the information is online.

At this time, we are accepting donations for the flowers that will decorate our church, icons and Kouvouklion (Epitaphion) during Great Lent and Holy Week. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested in donating flowers for any of these services. Our hope is that each household of our Parish willingly contributes towards the flowers. Enclosed is one envelope for any donations. Please specify in the memo field of the check whether it's for flowers for a specific service, icon, or the Epitaphion.

Enclosed is the Lent and Holy Week Schedule. Please keep this in a handy place and refer to it often.

We appreciate your generosity and support you always give at this holy time. Thank you for helping us to maintain the solemnity and dignity of the Holy Week Services.

I pray that our Lord will bless you and your loved ones and that you will walk with Him throughout Great Lent in all the Church Services.

In Christ,

Fr. Nick