

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, February 26, 2012**

**Saturday of Souls**

Through the Apostolic Constitutions (Book VIII, ch. 42), the Church of Christ has received the custom to make commemorations for the departed on the third, ninth, and fortieth days after their repose. Since many throughout the ages, because of an untimely death in a faraway place, or other adverse circumstances, have died without being deemed worthy of the appointed memorial services, the divine Fathers, being so moved in their love for man, have decreed that a common memorial be made this day for all pious Orthodox Christians who have reposed from all ages past, so that those who did not have particular memorial services may be included in this common one for all. Also, the Church of Christ teaches us that alms should be given to the poor by the departed one's kinsmen as a memorial for him.

Names of Christians who were not Orthodox may be submitted. Please write "non-Orthodox" by their names.

**Our last Saturday of Souls services will be on Saturday, March 3rd  
Orthros at 9:00am; Liturgy at 10:00am**

**HOPE/JOY**

Seek and ye shall find...

Let's journey through Lent together with a scavenger hunt! An afternoon of fun and learning!

**Saturday, March 3**

12 p.m. (following Saturday of the Souls Liturgy) Lunch will be provided.

HOPE/JOY is a youth ministry for children 4 to 11 years old

For questions or if you want to help, please call Tom Gouris at 263-5866.

**Agape Children's Choir Rehearsals**

Mark your calendars! The Agape Children's Choir will have rehearsals

at 9:15 a.m. in Mount Tabor Hall on the following days: **March 4th, 18th, & 25th.**

ALL AGES WELCOME! If your child is 7 years old or younger, you will need to sit with them in the balcony anytime the Agape Choir participates in the Liturgy. We will be preparing for Pascha and brushing up on all Liturgical music. Please contact Lainie Horwedel with any questions: [mymommysings@gmail.com](mailto:mymommysings@gmail.com)

**OCF (Orthodox College Fellowship)**

OCF will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 28th at 6:30pm at UT. Contact Blagoje Djordjevic at [bzdjordje@gmail.com](mailto:bzdjordje@gmail.com).

**GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)**

GOLF will meet on Thursday, March 1 at 10:00am to continue their study of Path to Sanity. All women are encouraged to attend!

**Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors:**

Keys, Khan, Kinnas, Miller, Leatherwood

**YAL/OYA**

The young adults have moved their meeting nights to Mondays! They will begin after Compline on 3/5 and 3/19

**Thank you to last week's Luncheon Sponsors:**

The Bjeletich and Suehs families

**Next Week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:**

Korioth, Kounelias, Kourkounakis, Leara, Kobzar

**Thank you to today's ushers:**

Ioannis Ousaklidis, David Horwedel, Kevin & Tricia Korioth

**Thank you to last week's ushers:**

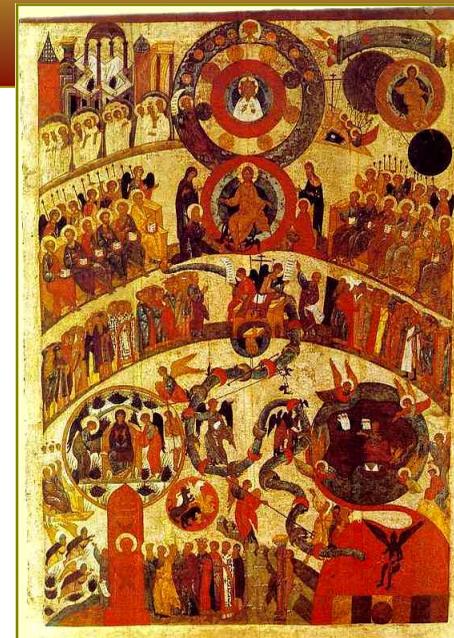
Stuart Yoder, Jerry Burks, Allen Wynn

**The ushers for next Sunday are:**

Brandon Suehs, Nyda Glaros, Dan & Gigi Appling

SUNDAY BULLETIN  
FEBRUARY 26, 2012

**FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**  
*CHEESEFARE SUNDAY*



**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**  
**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

414 ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL ROAD  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - [WWW.TRANSFIGURATION.ORG](http://WWW.TRANSFIGURATION.ORG)

**SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE**

ORTHROS 8:45AM; DIVINE LITURGY 10:00AM

**Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos**  
574-1972

## Hymns for Today

### **Resurrection Hymn** (Fourth Tone)

*“To fedron tis anastaseos kirigma ek tu angelumathuse e tu Kiriumathitrie ke tin progonikin apofasin aporrripsase tis Apostolis kafhomena elegon eskilefte o thanos i gerthi Christos o Theos thorumenos to kosmo to mega eleos.”*

*“When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.”*

### **Hymn for the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

*“Metemorfothis en to ori, Christe o Theos,  
dixas tis mathites Sou tin doxan Sou, kathos i dynando  
Lampson ke imin tis amartolis to fos Sou to aidion,  
presvies tis Theotokou Fotodota doxa Si.”*

*“When O Christ our God Thou wast Transfigured on the mountain  
Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy disciples in proportion as they could bear it.  
Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners.  
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.”*

### **Kontakion for the Forgiveness Sunday**

*“O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and  
Defender of the poor: establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master.  
Grant me speech, O Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying  
unto Thee: Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who has fallen.”*

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, February 26, 2012

### *Services for this week:*

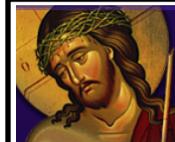
Monday, Feb. 27, Clean Monday Compline- 6:00pm  
Wednesday, Feb. 29th, Presanctified Liturgy– 6:00pm; followed by dinner and discussion  
Friday, March 2nd, Salutations to the Theotokos- 6:00pm  
Saturday, March 3rd: Saturday of Souls- Orthros 9:00am; Liturgy 10:00am  
Saturday, March 3rd: Great Vespers- 5:00pm

### Forgiveness Vespers

This evening, Feb. 26, we will have the Forgiveness Vespers at 5:00pm  
Plan to join us for this beautiful service to begin Great Lent.

### Coming Up!

- On Monday, Feb.27 - Clean Monday, we will have the Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew beginning at 6:00pm
- On Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Pan-Orthodox Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy at 2:30pm, with refreshments to follow. PARENTS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR CHILDREN BRING THEIR ICONS WITH THEM TO CHURCH THAT SUNDAY, MAR. 4



### **“The Prayer of St. Ephraim and Our Journey Towards Pascha”**

Please join us for this discussion led by Fr. David and Prsv. Vasiliki Eckley on Wednesday evenings, February 29, March 7 and March 14 following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and a Lenten dinner provided by the ladies of Philoptochos

*During the period of the Great Fast, we are aided in our preparation with our spiritual journey through the Holy Scriptures, the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies, fasting, prayer and increased opportunities for worship.*

On the first 3 Wednesdays of the Great Fast, the opportunity of sharing the important significance of the Prayer of St. Ephraim will be offered by Father David and Presbytera Vasiliki Eckley. Fr. David will provide a meditative bridge between our Liturgical worship and the prayer of St. Ephraim. With Prsv. Vasiliki, we will study the 3 parts of this prayer which is so relevant to our preparation for Pascha.

**Join us on Wednesdays, February 29, March 7, and March 14  
as we share in this spiritual journey.**

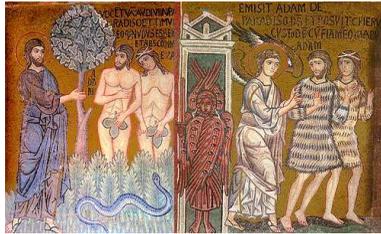
### **OUR PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES WILL BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 29**

We have ordered many copies of the book Lenten Liturgies.  
This is a wonderful soft-cover book that has the Presanctified Liturgies and all of the Lenten readings, including the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.

If you would like to have your own copy, they will be for sale in the bookstore for \$25.

## The Sunday of Forgiveness

The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During the pre-Lenten period, the services of the Church include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.



*(The Lord Confronts the Disobedience of Adam & Eve; The Expulsion from Paradise,"Nave Mosaics from Palatine Chapel, Palermo, Sicily. Mid 12th Century.)*

### Biblical Story

The Sunday of Forgiveness, the last of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, has two themes: it commemorates Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and it accentuates our need for forgiveness. There are obvious reasons why these two things should be brought to our attention as we stand on the threshold of Great Lent. One of the primary images in the Triodion is that of the return to Paradise. Lent is a time when we weep with Adam and Eve before the closed gate of Eden, repenting with them for the sins that have deprived us of our free communion with God. But Lent is also a time when we are preparing to celebrate the saving event of Christ's death and rising, which has reopened Paradise to us once more (Luke 23:43). So sorrow for our exile in sin is tempered by hope of our re-entry into Paradise.

### Forgiveness Vespers will be at 5:00pm today

The second theme, that of forgiveness, is emphasized in the Gospel reading for this Sunday (Matthew 6:14-21) and in the special ceremony of mutual forgiveness at the end of the Vespers on Sunday evening. Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from others, but should link us to them with ever-stronger bonds.

The Sunday of Forgiveness also directs us to see that Great Lent is a journey of liberation from our enslavement to sin. The Gospel lesson sets the conditions for this liberation. The first one is fasting—the refusal to accept the desires and urges of our fallen nature as normal, the effort to free ourselves from the dictatorship of the flesh and matter over the spirit. To be effective, however, our fast must not be hypocritical, a “showing off.” We must “appear not unto men to fast but to our Father who is in secret” (vv. 16-18).

The second condition is forgiveness—“If you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you” (vv. 14-15). The triumph of sin, the main sign of its rule over the world, is division, opposition, separation, hatred. Therefore, the first break through this fortress of sin is forgiveness—the return to unity, solidarity, love. To forgive is to put between me and my “enemy” the radiant forgiveness of God Himself. To forgive is to reject the hopeless “dead-ends” of human relations and to refer them to Christ. Forgiveness is truly a “breakthrough” of the Kingdom into this sinful and fallen world.

*February 26, 2012 - Forgiveness Sunday*

*Epistle - Romans 13: 11-14; 14: 1-4*

Brethren, and also this, knowing the time, that it is an hour now to be awakened out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we believed. The night is advanced, and the day hath drawn near. Let us therefore put away from ourselves the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in revellings and drunkenness, not in acts of unlawful intercourse and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and cease taking forethought for the flesh, in regard to the lusts thereof.

Now the one who is weak in the faith, be taking to yourselves, but not for passing judgments upon his opinions. One, on the one hand, hath faith to eat all things; but one, on the other hand, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not the one who eateth despise him who eateth not, and let not the one who eateth not judge him who eateth; for God hath taken him to Himself. Who art thou who judgeth Another's household slave? To his own Lord he standeth or falleth; but he shall be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Ἀδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἢ σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νύξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν· ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκότους, καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὄπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρα, εὐσχημόνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κώμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ. Ἄλλ' ἐνδύσασθε τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιεῖσθε, εἰς ἐπιθυμίας. Τὸν δὲ ἀσθενοῦντα τῇ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὅς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθιοντα μὴ ἐξουθενεῖτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθιοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; Τῷ ἰδίῳ κυρίῳ στήκει ἢ πίπτει. Σταθήσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς στήσαι αὐτόν.

*Gospel - St. 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."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἐὰν γὰρ ἀφήτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, ἀφήσει καὶ ὑμῖν ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος· ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀφήτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ἀφήσει τὰ παραπτώματα ὑμῶν. Ὅταν δὲ νηστεύητε, μὴ γίνεσθε ὡσπερ οἱ ὑποκριταὶ σκυθρωποὶ· ἀφανίζουσι γὰρ τὰ πρόσωπα αὐτῶν ὅπως φανῶσι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύοντες· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἀπέχουσι τὸν μισθὸν αὐτῶν· σὺ δὲ νηστεύων ἀλειψαί σου τὴν κεφαλὴν καὶ τὸ πρόσωπόν σου νίψαι, ὅπως μὴ φανῆς τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύων, ἀλλὰ τῷ πατρὶ σου τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ, καὶ ὁ πατὴρ σου ὁ βλέπων ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ ἀποδώσει σοι ἐν τῷ φανερῷ. Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σῆς καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται διορύσσουσι καὶ κλέπτουσι· θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῷ, ὅπου οὐτε σῆς οὐτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται οὐ διορύσσουσιν οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν· ὅπου γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θησαυρὸς ὑμῶν, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδία ὑμῶν.

**Receiving Holy Communion**

The sacrament of Holy Communion is reserved for only baptized and/or Chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by fasting, prayer and confession. The Orthodox Church is not in sacramental communion with any other church outside the Orthodox Christian Faith. If you are not Orthodox, you are invited with everyone to receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the end of service. If you would like information about the Orthodox Church and becoming an Orthodox Christian, please see Father Vasileios after services.

**Please allow the Church School children and teachers to go to Holy Communion first so they can leave for their classes.**

**All others should wait until the ushers dismiss you by rows to receive Communion.**

*PRAYERS FOR HEALTH*

Dolly, Betty, Arlena, Sophie, Archie, Lou, Thomas, Kathy, Suzanne, Pat, Steve, Nina, Phyllis, Katheryn, Panayioti, Anna, Margaret, Sami, Ibrahim, Mary, George, Susan, Matthew, Ellen, Katina, Nelda, Nick, Elaine, Malone, Tracy, Richard, Lilly, Kimberly, Dion, Jamil, Dimitrios, Lisa, Maggie, Mindy, Joan, Nakis, Micky, Kiane, Lari, Ed, Sally, Mariana, Brian, Kaeley, Tristan, Matt, Jeff, Sophia, Angela, Jennifer, Romeo, Konstandinos, Elia, Rose Marie, Bilyana, Maria, Susan, Jane, Clara, Costa, Cindy, Philip, Trey, Barbara, Evangia, Michael, Jeffrey, Victoria, Nicole, Anastasia, Katie, Suzanne, Katie, Stella, Michael, Nicole, George, Katherine, Fr. Peter, Venton, Nick, Tatiana, Sandy, Caleb, Pete, Wendy, Lorraine, Tina, Anna, Michael, Anna, Pamela, Shawn, Megan, Leo, Lili, Christy, Glenn, Philip, Katelyn, Joshua, Jason, John, Julia, Nick, Maria, Carolyn, Betty, Ruth, Nicholas, Joyce, Connie, Deacon George, Ralph, Vana, Andreas, the Nun Elizabeth, Alexandra, Arsinoi, Sultana, Boyd, Argyre, Carol, Susie, Sultana, John, Iliana, John, Dimitrios, John, Nick, Cecilia, George, Ricky, Mackenzie

*PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:*

Sgt. Jennifer D. Atkinson, Staff Sgt. John Atkinson, Col. Dave Romine, Capt. James Alfaro, Staff Sgt. Deane Anderson, Captain William Willett, Maj. Timothy Ullman, Major Chris Chase, Cadet Mindy Keys, Army Ranger Specialist Andrew Bentzel

**The Prayer of St. Ephraim**

O Lord and Master of my life, deliver me from the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power and gossip.

Rather, grant the spirit of wisdom, humility, patience, and love to me Your servant.

Yes, O Lord and King, grant that I may see my own faults and not judge my brother; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Κύριε καὶ δέσποτα τῆς ζωῆς μου, πνεῦμα ἀργίας, περιεργίας, φιλαρχίας καὶ ἀργολογίας μὴ μοι δῶς.

Πνεῦμα δὲ σωφροσύνης, ταπεινοφροσύνης, ὑπομονῆς καὶ ἀγάπης, χάρισαί μοι τῷ Σῷ δούλω.

Ναί, Κύριε, βασιλεῦ, δώρησαί μοι τοῦ ὄραν τὰ ἐμὰ πταίσματα καὶ μὴ κατακρίνειν τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, ὅτι εὐλογητὸς εἶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων. Ἀμήν.