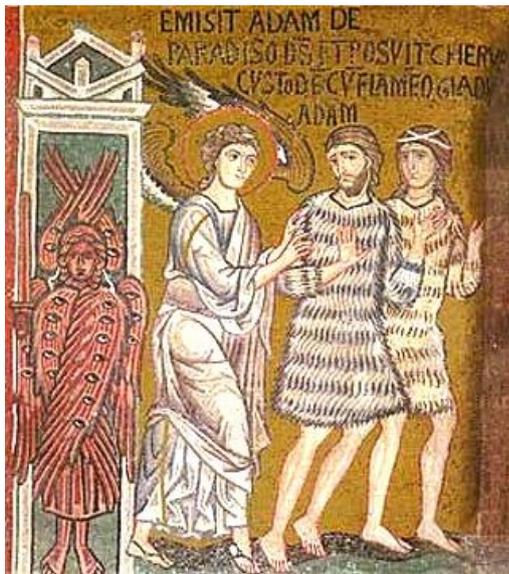




PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 250/14 March 2021



Thirty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost; Expulsion of Adam from Paradise; Forgiveness Sunday; Cheesefare Sunday

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Grave Mode.

By Thy Cross Thou didst abolish death; to the thief Thou didst open Paradise; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst order Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ our God, bestowing great mercy upon the world.

Seasonal Kontakion. Mode Pl. 2.

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 have fallen.

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4. Psalm 75.11,1

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the 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.



The Gospel According to 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."

Word of the week – Reflection Forgiveness Sunday/Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

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 (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

First Saturday of Lent: Commemoration of the Kollyva Miracle of St. Theodore

Julian the Apostate, knowing that the Christians purify themselves by fasting most of all during the first week of the Fast -- which is why we call it Clean Week -- planned to defile them especially at that time. Therefore he secretly commanded that during those days the markets be filled with foods that had been defiled with the blood of animals offered in sacrifice to idols. But by divine command the Martyr Theodore (see Feb. 17) appeared during sleep to Eudoxius, then Archbishop of Constantinople. The Saint revealed to him the tyrant's plan, then told him to call the faithful together immediately on Monday morning and prevent them from purchasing those foods, but rather to make kollyva to supply their needs. The bishop asked what kollyva might be, and the Saint answered, "Kollyva is what we call boiled wheat in Euchaita." Thus, the purpose of the Apostate was brought to nought, and the pious people who were preserved undefiled for the whole of Clean Week, rendered thanks to the Martyr on this Saturday, and celebrated his commemoration with kollyva. These things took place in 362. Wherefore, the Church keeps this commemoration each year to the glory of God and the honour of the Martyr.

St. Benedict of Nursia (March 14th)

This Saint, whose name means "blessed," was born in 480 in Nursia, a small town about seventy miles northeast of Rome. He struggled in asceticism from his youth in deserted regions, where his example drew many who desired to emulate him. Hence, he ascended Mount Cassino in Campania and built a monastery there. The Rule that he gave his monks, which was inspired by the writings of Saint John Cassian, Saint Basil the Great, and other Fathers, became a pattern for monasticism in the West; because of this, he is often called the first teacher of monks in the West. He reposed in 547.

St. Alexis, the Man of God (March 17th)

Saint Alexis was born in old Rome of illustrious parents named Euphemitianus and Aglais, and at their request was joined to a young woman in marriage. However, he did not remain with her even for one day, but fled to Edessa, where he lived for eighteen years. He returned to Rome in the guise of a beggar and sat at the gates of his father's house, unknown to all and mocked by his own servants. His identity was revealed only after his death by a paper that he had on his person, which he himself had written a little before his repose. The pious Emperor Honorius honoured him with a solemn burial. The title "Man of God" was given to him from heaven in a vision to the Bishop of Rome on the day of the Saint's repose.

From goarch.org

Liturgical Schedule for this week

Sunday <i>March 14</i>	7:00 pm	Forgiveness Vespers
Monday <i>March 15</i>	6:00 pm	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Tuesday <i>March 16</i>	6:00 pm	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Wednesday <i>March 17</i>	2:00 pm 5:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Thursday <i>March 18</i>	6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Friday <i>March 19</i>	6:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday <i>March 20</i>	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy & Memorial (St. Theodore) Vespers
Sunday <i>March 21</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy – Sunday of Orthodoxy

Announcements:

- **Happy name day** to Theodore Yanka and Theodore Rapsomanikis (St. Theodore – March 20th).
- **Happy birthday** to Nick Thomo (March 14th) and Ruth Yanka (March 17th).
- **Today is Cheesefare Sunday/Great Lent begins tomorrow:** Today is the last day to eat dairy, eggs, and fish before Great Lent begins. Please see th calendar.
- **School snack drive:** Please bring individually-wrapped snacks for the local schools.
- **Church cleaning:** Please sign up for a time.
- **Please see:** hand out for the Archdiocese Lenten Spiritual Progam.



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