

season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people, Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a “good deed” required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says: “In vain do you rejoice in no eating, O soul! For you abstain from food, but from passions you are not purified. If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast.”

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.

Very Rev. Archpriest Alexander Schmemmann

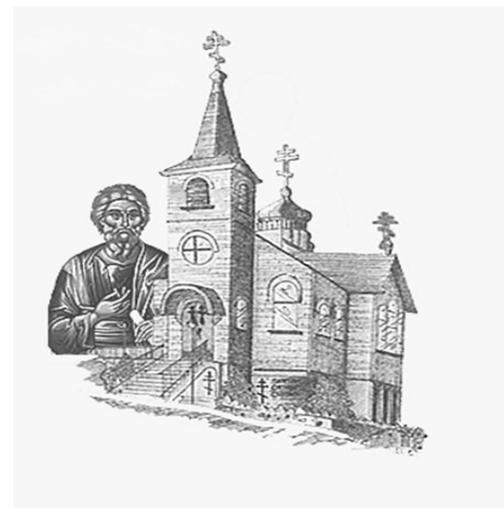
Saint Andrew Orthodox Church

201 Penn Avenue,
Lyndora, PA 16045

Church (724) 285 6010 Presbytery (724) 285 1336

Very Rev. Archpriest Keith W. Lowe, M.Div
Locum

www.standrewlyndora.com



March 10, 2019

Meatfare Sunday

The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

1st Sunday Church Charities/ 2nd Sunday Building Fund/3rd Sunday for the food bank

Times of Services

Mar	10	Sun	Cheesefare & Forgiveness Sunday
			10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
			Vespers of Forgiveness Sunday
	11	Mon	Beginning of Great Lent
			5:30 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew
	12	Tue	5:30 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew

Mar	13	Wed	05:30 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
	14	Thu	05:30 PM	Great Canon of St. Andrew
	16	Sat	05:30 PM	Vespers
	17	Sun	10:30 AM	Divine Liturgy Panikhida for Olga Bruner
	23	Sat		Soul Saturday
			09:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	24	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	30	Sat		Soul Saturday
			09:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	31	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

Parish Council

The next parish council meeting will for 4 April, 2019.



Birthdays

March	3	Helen Jankovich
	12	Samuel Enslen
	14	Ethan Daller

Happy Birthday and Many Years!

Pierogi Making Party

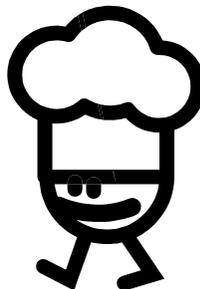
The parish will be making pierogis on the following:

March 13, 14 & 15

April 10, 11 & 12

Please ensure that you have your orders in.

Pierogis are \$8.00 / dozen and can be picked up after 12:00 PM Friday of the week that they are made.



From the Pastor



I wish to express my thanks to every body who worked so hard last Sunday to make the His Eminence’s visit to our parish the success that it was.

As always the sisterhood and the women of this parish who do a sterling job of taking care of us Again thank you!

Also I want to thank Jeff Campbell for taking care of the microphone for me so that we could all hear. Thanks again Jeff.

And thanks to each and everyone of you for the things that you did that might not have caught my eye. And we did all together as a team!

Archpriest Keith W. Lowe, M. Div.

Forgiveness Sunday

In the Orthodox Church, the last Sunday before Great Lent – the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated – is called Forgiveness Sunday.

On the morning of that Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ: “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses...” (Mark 6:14-15).

Then, after Vespers – after hearing the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimenon: “Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!” [and] after making our entrance into Lenten worship, with its special memories, with the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations – we ask forgiveness from each other, we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin Lenten