

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit..." We also ask for and receive from our brothers and sisters forgiveness as we enter into great Lent. It is customary to say "Forgive me brother/sister" with the response being "God forgives and I forgive, may God forgive us both" before exchanging the kiss of peace. May God grant us each forgiveness, and a period of deep & meaningful spiritual growth as we journey through Great Lent to the joy of our Lord's great & holy Pascha!

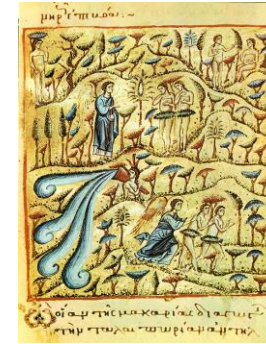
St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

2220 Reeves Road NE

Warren, OH 44483

www.stjohnswarren.org

Friend of the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)



Sunday, March 2nd, 2025

The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

Fr. Brian Crivella, *Rector*.....330-372-3895 / BrianCrivella@gmail.com

Dn. John Tutoki, *Hall Coordinator* 330-720-3541

Nina, *Prayer List Coordinator*.....treasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

Sunday, Mar 2nd Sun of Forgiveness/Expulsion of Adam & Eve / Tone 3

9:30 am Youth Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, Mar 3rd Beginning of the Great Fast. Martyr Eutropius of Amasea

6:00 pm Canon of St. Andrew of Crete followed by Confessions

Tuesday, Mar 4th Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

6:00 pm Canon of St. Andrew of Crete followed by Confessions

Wednesday, Mar 5th Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

4:00-5:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm AA Meeting

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by Confessions

Thursday, Mar 6th Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

6:00 pm Canon of St. Andrew of Crete followed by Confessions

Saturday, Mar 8th Miracle of Saint Theodore

9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Departed followed by blessing of Koliva

5:00 pm Great Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday, Mar 9th Sunday of Orthodoxy / Tone 4

9:30 am Divine Liturgy with the Procession of Icons & Reading of the Synodicon

Attendance/Stewardship February 23rd

Attendance: 60 Adults and 17 Children	77 Total
Weekly Stewardship Offerings:	\$XXXXXXXX
Weekly Candle Offerings:	\$XXXXXXXX
Charity of the Month (Zoe for Life):	\$XXXXXXXX
YTD Budget Inflows:	\$XXXXXXXX
YTD Budget Outflows	\$XXXXXXXX
YTD Surplus/deficit	\$XXXXXXXX

Prayer Corner

Sbdcn Joseph (Clyde)	Sbdcn George Kaschack
Sarah Crivella & Larry Lees	Ellen Malacky
Patty DiGiacobbe	James Livermore Jr.
David Campbell	Cassandra, Patrick, Elizabeth, & Patrick
Anna	Jeffrey
Laura & Roy	Greg, Clara, Jeanie
Azouria	Cara DeToro (Fr Dcn John's Friend)
Tristan Beil	Barb Leis
David McGee (David Wood's friend)	Helen Koplín
The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy	
The Suffering Christians in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East	

Newly Departed: Phillip Johnson (2/20), & also Tom Freer (2/21) [Vadim's Good Friend] Renee Dann (2/9) [Jennifer's Cousin] Ann Backiu (1/28) [Cheryl's Aunt]

Expecting: Tom & Cadie Kirk, Natalie & Chase York, Erin & Paul DiGiacobbe & their unborn children

Newborns: Allegra & her parents Nick & Raquel Cironi

Catechumens: Lucian & Lilianna Vasil, Kayla, Donald, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Robert, Timothy, Melissa, Ian, Christophher, & William Cunningham, Matthew Rose, Nicky Lewis, Alexander Mackey, Tristan & Colleen Beil

Birthdays: Sarah Crivella & Lou Zalewski (2nd), Paul Kuzmiak (3rd), & Geraldine Nicholson (8th)

Anniversaries: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Candle Commemorations

Theotokos	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Altar	For the Memory of George E. Kaschak
Christ	For the Memory of the Regnall & Yedinak Families

Announcements

Forgiveness Vespers - Beginning Great Lent

Tonight, we will enter into Great Lent with Forgiveness Vespers, one of our faith's most beautiful and moving services where we will ask for and give forgiveness to each of our brothers and sisters in the parish as Christ taught us. At the conclusion, as is customary, we will sing the Paschal Troparion - Christ is Risen from the Dead - granting us a foretaste of the joy of Pascha which we are preparing for. Every Orthodox Christian should plan to be in attendance.

Liturgy for the Departed Names

This coming Saturday we'll celebrate the Divine Liturgy with the Litany for the Departed and the reading of all the names of our departed loved ones. The list of names commemorated is on the candlestand, please take a moment to check it for accuracy and to write in any names that need to be added to update it.

PARISH ALMS GIVING PROJECT FOR GREAT LENT

During Great Lent we invite all parishioners to collect toiletries for women, men, and children, which will be used to create "hygiene bags" to be passed out to the needy by the Warren Family Mission on Tod Avenue. Please place your donations of NEW and UNUSED FULL-SIZED (not travel-sized) ITEMS in the labeled bins in the church hall. Questions? Contact: Mat. Deb Belonick (914-274-1150), Carol Bobosh (330-898-7935), or Daria Fickes (330-727-3319).

Go Paperless - Giving Online With Tithely

You can now support our parish online by going to our website (<https://saintjohnswarren.org/>) and clicking the word "DONATE" in the upper right corner which will take you to our parish's Tithely page. This convenient method of Christian Stewardship allows families to go paperless, choose which of our funds to give to specifically, and can also easily be set to give automatically on a weekly, bi weekly, or monthly schedule. If you use Tithely to support our parish and would like to stop receiving church envelopes, or want to use it and need help, please let Fr. Brian or Mark Malacky know.

Paska Bread Bake & Fundraiser

Mary Kaschak is interested in getting a group together at the parish to bake Paska Breads that will later be sold to help raise money for our parish. If you're interested in helping her out, a sign up sheet is at the candlestand. No baking experience required!