

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



Sunday, Mar 1st, 2026

Sunday of Orthodoxy

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

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Sunday, March 1st Sunday of Orthodoxy / Tone 5

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

Tuesday, March 3rd Martyr Eutropius of Amasea

6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 4th Ven. Gerasimus of the Jordan

5:00 pm AA Meeting

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by Confessions

Friday, March 6th The Uncovering of the Precious Cross by Empress St. Helen

6:00pm Journey to Fullness/Catechisis

Saturday, March 7th Memorial Saturday

5:00 pm Great Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday, March 8th Saint Gregory Palamas / Tone 6

9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

