



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise February 18, 2018

Troparion – Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

Kontakion – Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion – Tone 6

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue, Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart! O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: Have mercy on me, a transgressor,// O merciful Lord!

Prokeimenon – Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel

Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

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....”

Epistle: 1 Romans 13:11-14:4

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Service Schedule for the week of February 18

Today – 9:00 AM Church School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Forgiveness Sunday prayers, and then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

Monday February 19 – 7:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew (Trenton)

Tuesday February 20 – 7:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew at St. Spiridon Church in Perth Amboy

Wednesday February 21 – 7:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew at Princeton Chapel

Friday February 23 – 8:30 AM Confession, 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession

Saturday February 24 - 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday February 25 – 9:00 AM Church School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

February 11 –51 adults, 14 youth, \$1,450

Parish Announcements

Please remember to turn in your blue Stewardship card as soon as possible to Nina Laushell, Ludwig Koerte, or Herman Meyer. So far we have 25 cards turned in! Thank you for your continuing support of St. Vladimir Orthodox Church.

There will be a Senior R Club meeting next Sunday, February 25, during coffee hour.

The Senior R Club is selling Gertrude Hawks chocolate candy for Easter. Please see Paul or Betty Kavchok for a catalog and order form. The proceeds are used by the Club to support the church and various Orthodox charities. Orders can be turned in anytime up through March 11.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church. Strict Lenten potluck food is needed for the meal after the Mission Service we are hosting on Sunday March 11. Vespers will be held at 4:00 PM followed by the Lenten meal in Daria Hall. We are anticipating possibly 80-90 people. Please indicate what you are able to bring (remember no meat, no dairy) – appetizer, food, beverages, desserts, paper products - so we can properly prepare. Thank you.

The picnic grounds will be cleaned up on Saturday March 17 (weather permitting) starting 9:00 AM. There is a lot of trash that has blown in over the last several months that needs to be picked up and bagged for disposal. We will also rent a bushwhacker from Home Depot to clear out a lot of the overgrowth surrounding the grounds. Please contact Father Volodymyr if the weather is questionable so he can advise if the project will be postponed.