

## *Feb. 26, 2017: The Cheese fare Sunday*

### **Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4:**

*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.*

On the eve of Great Lent, the Cheesefare Sunday, the Epistle reading reminds us that the time of preparation is over and the season of spiritual renewal is already upon us: *"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."*

The Orthodox Church teaches us that we should never let our (spiritual) guard down, but be constantly on the look out for the temptations of life. If we were to head the teaching of the Church, these special seasons, such as Great Lent, would constitute a progression to a higher level of spiritual transparency, rather than a start from the bottom: *"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."*

In the same context, the Gospel reading of this Sunday teaches us how we can benefit the most of our spiritual journey to Pascha, the Spring of our spiritual renewal;

First, we have to be at peace with our fellow human beings, forgiving their wrong doings against us in order to receive forgiveness from God: *"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."*

Second, our fasting should be enshrouded in humility, not seeking praises and compliments from other people: *"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."*

Third, our focus in life should be the acquisition of good deeds, as opposed to being obsessed with the material things which have only temporal value: *"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."*

May God make our spiritual journey a fruitful one and bless us with the gift of forgiveness!

**Fr. George Bazgan**

### **Altar boys for this Sunday:**

**Matthew Cotfasa  
Arsenie Gavriș**

### **Sunday Fellowship**

The following families are scheduled to look after  
this Sunday's fellowship:

**Dinică Ștefan & Suzana  
Jurgea Eugeniu & Nicoleta  
Mocanu Ștefan & Adriana**

**Thank you all very much!**

### **SPECIAL SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT:**

**Fridays at 7:00 PM: AKATHIST TO THE HOLY VERGIN.**

**Saturday at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.**

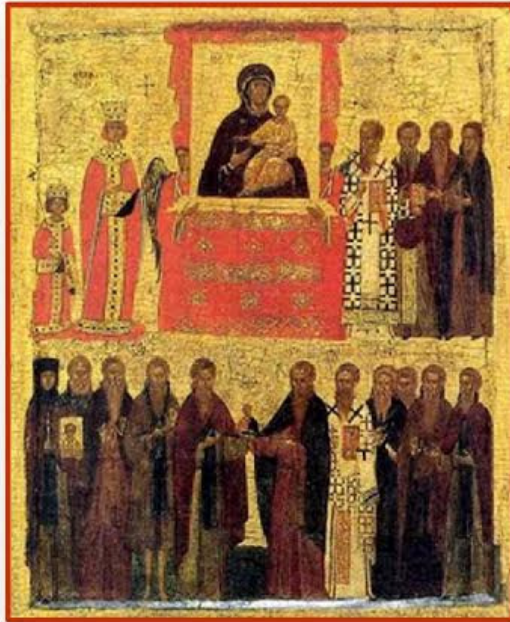
**CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.**

### **Project for Sunday School Students**

The Sunday School teachers are organizing a project of Easter  
egg decorating (Pisanka) and icon painting on glass.

The program will run from 9-11 AM on the following Saturdays:  
**March 4 and 11 and April 1 and 8.** The minimum age of the children is 7-8.

For further details, **call Veronica Ciocan at 780-964-7427.**



**The Edmonton Orthodox Clergy  
Brotherhood  
invites you & your family to celebrate...**

## **THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY**

**Sunday, 05 March 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
at St. Barbara the Great Martyr  
Russian Orthodox Cathedral  
(10105 - 96 Street)**

**We encourage all Orthodox faithful of Edmonton & surrounding communities to  
participate in the annual pan-Orthodox Vespers celebrating the restoration of the  
veneration of icons in the Holy Church of Christ!**

**Come & worship with our hierarchs, clergy & faithful of the  
Orthodox Christian communities of Edmonton!**

**PARTICIPATE IN THE PAN-ORTHODOX CHOIR!**  
(Speak to your Priest or Music Director for details)

**YOUTH & CHILDREN!** Bring your favourite icon & participate in the triumphal procession  
of icons during Vespers!

(Speak to your Youth / Church School Director or priest for details)

Following Vespers, stay & enjoy **Christian hospitality & fellowship!**  
Begin the fast in the joyous company of our clergy & brethren-in-the-Faith!

***Bring a friend*** – share this evening of declaration of the truths of  
the Orthodox Christian Faith with those who are searching for them!

For further details about the evening or for directions, speak with your priest OR  
Telephone: 780.422.0277 OR E-mail: fr.sergey@mail.ru OR  
Visit the **Edmonton Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Facebook Page**



Episcopia Ortodoxă Română a Canadei, Protopopiatul de Vest  
Asociația Femeilor Ortodoxe Române din cele două Americi (A R O L A)

## Tabără duhovnicească, 17-19 Martie 2017

destinată exclusiv doamnelor și domnișoarelor  
Biserica "Sfinții Împărați Constantin și Elena" - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

### "Icoana ortodoxă - fereastră către Cer"

Conferențiar: dna **Gabriela Luca-Damian**, specialist în Teologie Ortodoxă -  
Patrimoniu Cultural, Edmonton, AB

Această întâlnire duhovnicească, în perioada Postului Mare,  
se dorește a fi un prilej de a ne cunoaște, de a ne împărtăși reciproc experiențe  
și de a ne întări duhovnicește în urcușul spre asemănarea noastră cu  
Icoana cea nemuritoare a lui Dumnezeu - Iisus Hristos.

Vă așteptăm să vă anunțați participarea până la data de 12 Martie a.c.,  
prin înscrierile pe website-ul [www.arola.us](http://www.arola.us).

#### Cazarea la Rosslyn Inn & Suites Hotels

13620 - 97 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5E 4E2 (foarte aproape de Biserică)  
camere cu 2 paturi queen la \$115 și/ sau cu 1 pat queen la \$119

Pentru rezervări sunați la 780-476-6241 și prezentați parola "Romanian Church",  
până pe 12 Martie 2017.

Informații suplimentare la **Veronica Ciocan**, vice-președintă AROLA,  
tel.: 780-964-7427, email: [ciocan.veronica.2013@gmail.com](mailto:ciocan.veronica.2013@gmail.com).

O contribuție benevolă de \$50 va fi bineprimită ca ajutor pentru proiectele AROLA.