

***March 1, 2015: The 1st Sunday of Great Lent
(The Sunday of Orthodoxy)***

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40:



By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains

and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel: John 1:43-51:

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered

and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

According to the tradition of the Orthodox Church, the first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy or the Triumph of Orthodoxy over the iconoclastic heresy. To better understand, we must go back in the history of the Church (the 8th century), when certain Emperors of the Byzantine empire, out of excessive zeal or just being misguided, launched a devastating persecution against the holy icons, claiming that the veneration of the icons was worshipping idols, which contravened the first two of the Ten Commandments. Although the controversy had been resolved at the 7th. Ecumenical Council in Nicaea (787), the iconoclasts continued their campaign for another half century, mainly in 843, when a local Synod was called in Constantinople, which re-affirmed the decision of the Nicaean Council: the icons are not worshipped, but venerated and the honor is not given to the material of the icon but to the person depicted in the icon, the prototype.

On March 11, 843, during the reign of Empress Theodora and her son Michael III, Patriarch Methodios, and monks and clergy came in procession and restored the icons in their rightful place. The day was called "Triumph of Orthodoxy." Since that time, this event is commemorated yearly with a special service on the first Sunday of Lent, the "Sunday of Orthodoxy."

As we continue to observe this tradition as Orthodox believers, we are reminded that the icons that adorn our churches and homes are a source of inspiration in our daily effort to follow in the footsteps of the saints and become ourselves living icons to the world.

Fr. George Bazgan

**CHURCH SERVICES DURING THE 1ST WEEK
OF GREAT LENT:**

**Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 7:00 PM: THE GREAT
CANON OF ST. ANDREW.**

Friday at 7:00: THE PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY.

Saturday at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.

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

Sunday Fellowship

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

Ionitescu Robert & Daniela
Pirvu Lucian & Mirela
Sterea Stelian & Elena

Thank you all very much!

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS



A Pan-Orthodox Vespers Service, with the participation of Orthodox clergy and faithful from Edmonton, will take place on Sunday, March 1, at St. Herman's Orthodox Church, 9930 - 167 St.

The service will start at 6:00 pm.

A Lenten supper will be offered by the host parish.

ALL ARE INVITED.