

March 17, 2013: 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 heed 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;

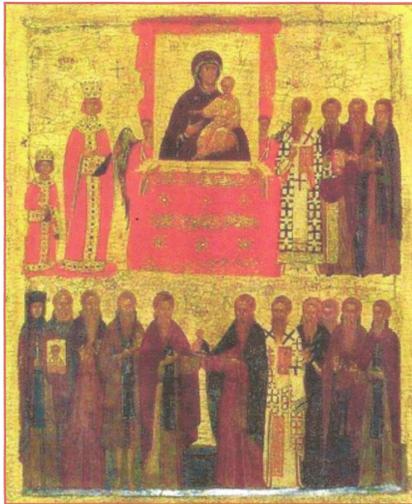
First, we have to be at peace with our fellow human beings, forgiving their wrong doings against us in order to receive forgiveness from God: *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father 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



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

THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

Sunday, 24 March 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at
the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of
St. Anthony of the Caves
(6103 - 172 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 congregations of Edmonton!

**Participate in the pan-Orthodox choir!
(Speak to your priest or music director for more 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: 780.487.2167 OR E-mail: office@st-anthonys.ca**

MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting, held on February 24, 2013, the decision was made to keep the membership unchanged, at \$100/person (\$200/couple). We encourage all our members and supporters to pay their membership in the first trimester (by the end of March) so we can complete our projects during the warm season and also to be able to assist the Archdiocese with the annual dues.

Keep in mind that \$25 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

KITCHEN RENOVATION

Our kitchen is in dire need for expansion and renovation.

In the fall of 2012 we launched a campaign to fundraise for this important project.

The last estimate for the project came at around \$80,000.

We appeal to all of our members, supporters and friends to give generously towards this major project and support our fundraising events!

All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt and our heartfelt appreciation.

THANK YOU AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU!