

***March 24, 3013: 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 GREAT LENT:

Fridays at 7:00 PM: AKATHIST TO THE HOLY VIRGIN.

Saturdays at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.

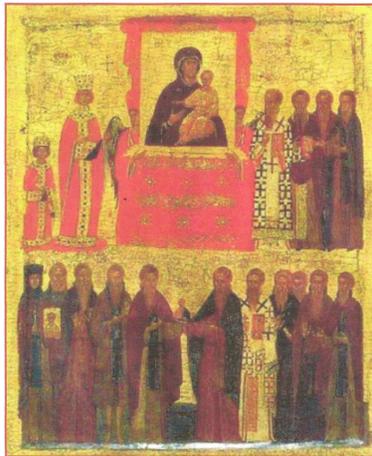
CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.

Sundays at 10:00 AM: DIVINE LITURGY.

LADIES' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary
of our parish will be held on
March the 31st, 2013,
following the Divine Liturgy.**

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED!



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!