

## *March 5, 2017: The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 worshiping 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**

## **Sunday Fellowship**

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

**Sasu Liviu & Corina  
Bob Marian & Maria  
Pâslaru Ciprian & Gabriela**

**Thank you all very much!**

**Altar boys for this Sunday:**

**Peter Stoleru  
Radu Nicholas Almășanu**

**SPECIAL SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT:**

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

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

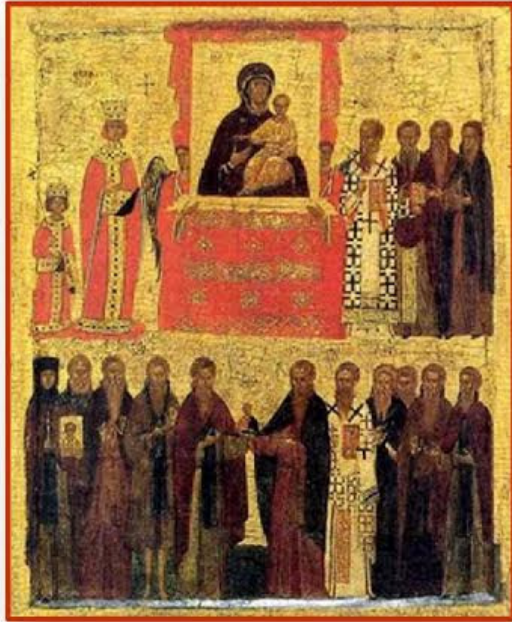
**CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.**

**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.