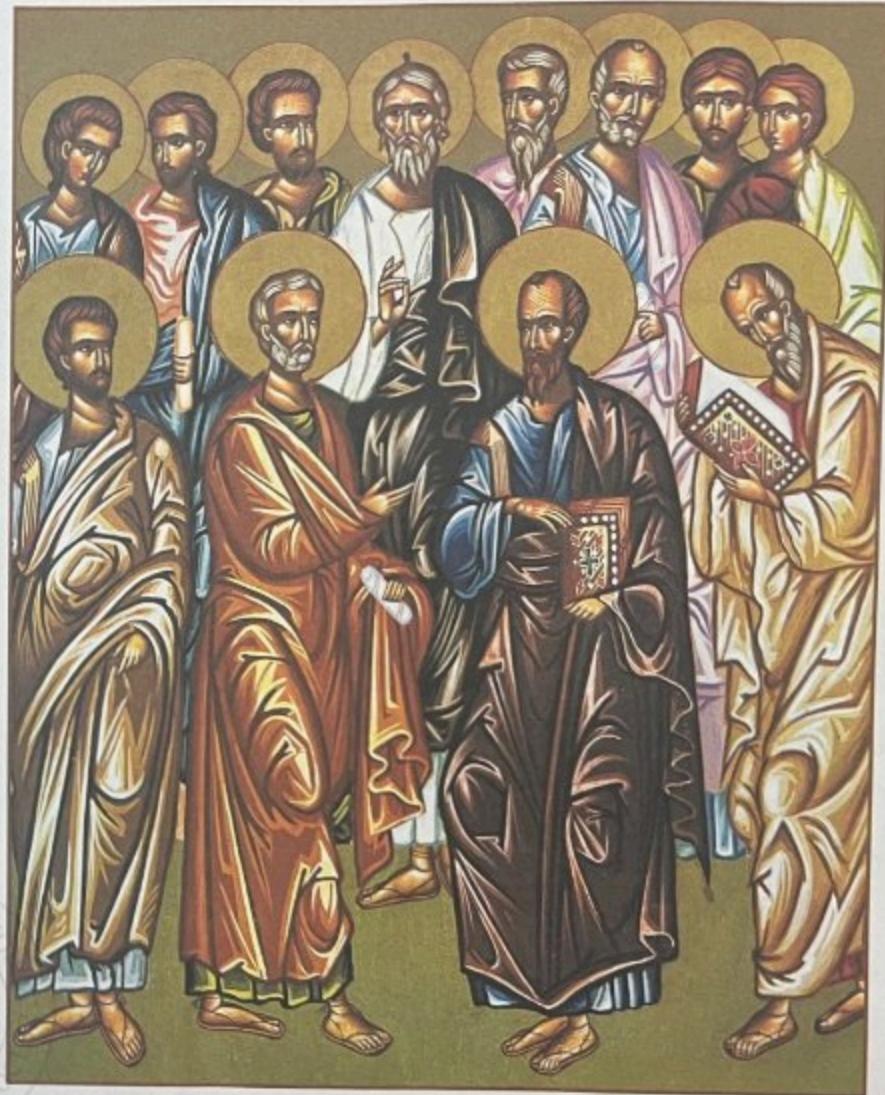
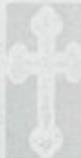


REPRESENTING THE DIFFICULTY OF BEING CHRISTIAN

The 1st Sunday of the Great Fast is commonly referred to as "Orthodoxy Sunday." It commemorates the Church's victory over the iconoclasts, who wanted to forbid the use and veneration of holy icons. But why did this great controversy develop anyway, and why did it cause division among believers for so long -- over 100 years?

It all began with the Byzantine Emperor Leo III, who ruled from 717 AD to 741 AD. Early in his reign, Leo proved to be a marvelous military strategist, defending Constantinople from a Muslim siege that threatened to crumble the government. Soon, however, the Emperor attempted to impose his will upon the Church as well. Under the guise of "religious reform," Leo issued a series of edicts forbidding the use of icons in worship. In reality, it appears that the Emperor and his followers were bothered by the lifestyle represented by those depicted in sacred images. It was a difficult existence for our Lord, His Blessed Mother and His saints. Removing icons would, in effect, remove the reminders of the sacrifices required of those who professed to be Christians. The Emperor's edicts were met with much opposition, and the defenders of the Faith were subjected to severe persecution. Upon his death, Leo's successors carried on his heretical policies. The controversy was temporarily resolved at the 7th Ecumenical Council in Nicea in 787 AD. The Holy Fathers declared that the veneration of icons was not "idol worship" as some maintained, pointing out that glory was given to who was represented on an icon, not on the object itself. Iconoclasm, however, would not die quietly. It was not until the 1st Sunday of Lent in 842 AD that the "orthodox" position on icons finally triumphed.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

2709 Washington St. Vicksburg, MS 39180

Parish Office: 601-636-2483

Fr. Gabriel's cell: 713-357-8871

Email: stgeorge2709@gmail.com

web page: www.stgeorgevicksburg.org



Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 5:30 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 01, 2026

TONE 5/ EOTHINON 5

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)



RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliverer of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

We Celebrate Today

On March 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the **Venerable-martyr Eudokia** of Heliopolis; **Venerable Domnina** of Syria; and **Martyrs Markellos and Anthony** of Pamphylia.

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

Verses

I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence

The icons formerly unfittingly banished.

This restoration was accomplished in the year 843. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be

representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo. Deacon Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Sue Thomas. Dolores Nosser. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Timmie Fedell. Alan Evans. Janice Strickland. Drew Anderson. Jackson ballinger. Carla Leese. Rhonda Wright. Paula Shaw.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries, Mar: Robert Hardy (3), Cathi Verhine (7), Carla Leese (8). Will Mackay (23), Paula Shaw (25), Tea & Scott Blackburn (26). Peggy Thomas (27), Jeff West, Chris Maxwell (28)

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+House Blessing. Make your arrangement with Fr. Gabriel to bless your home.

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour 2026 If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please call Mrs. Paula Shaw 601-218- 9448

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour offered today by Gary & Dani Kay Thomas & their family.

+Save the Date. Thursday March 26. A Family Night will be hosted at the house of Buddy and Janice Stricklan, @ 6pm.

+Great Holy Lent The traditional fasting discipline (no poultry, meat, eggs, dairy, fish, wine) is observed Monday through Friday with katalysis for wine on Saturday and Sunday (on March 25th [Annunciation] and April 5 [Palm Sunday] there is also katalysis for fish.)

No eating from Midnight till noon every day except on the weekend.

+Next Week's Prayers @ 5:30pm. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday **Great Compline.**

Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy & Potluck. Friday Akathist Service for the

Theotokos.

The Church Fathers Teach

The strictness of the forty-day fast puts to death the passions, extinguishes anger and rage, cools and calms every agitation springing up from gluttony. And just as, in the summer, when the burning heat of the sun spreads over the earth, the northern wind gives a welcome blessing to those who are scorched, by dispersing the heat with a tender coolness, so fasting also provides the same by driving out of bodies the burning which is the result of overeating.

Saint Asterius of Amasia

DIVINE LITURGY MARCH 01, 2026

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT****

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided 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." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."