

**Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church**

A parish of the New England Diocese ✚ Orthodox Church in America  
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Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018 *The Sunday of the Last Judgment – fourth pre-lenten Sunday*  
*Today is Meat-fare Sunday and Monday begins Cheese-fare Week.*

**Today’s readings are:**

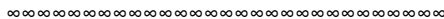
I Corinthians 8:8-9:2 and Saint Matthew 25:31-46

**Weekly calendar:**

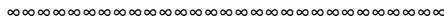
Today church school and coffee hour  
Feb. 12 Mon 5:30pm Daily Vespers  
Feb. 13 Tue 5:30pm Daily Vespers  
6:30pm parish council meeting  
Feb. 14 Wed 5:30pm Daily Vespers  
Feb. 15 Thu 5:00pm OCF at Yale – Vespers in the Lovett Room of Battell Chapel  
Feb. 16 Fri 5:30pm Daily Vespers  
Feb. 17 Sat 4:30pm choir rehearsal  
**5:00pm Great Vespers and Confessions**  
Feb. 18 Sun **9:00am Divine Liturgy- The Expulsion of Adam & Eve from Paradise / Forgiveness Sunday / Cheese-fare / fifth (last) pre-lenten Sunday**  
[Romans 13:11-14:4 and Saint Matthew 6:14-21]  
church school and coffee hour

**Noon Forgiveness Vespers and the beginning of Great Lent**

Today, *Meatfare Sunday*, is the last day for eating meat until Pascha. And, next Sunday, *Cheese-fare Sunday*, is the last day for eating dairy products.



**ALWAYS REMEMBER:** You have to know and always remember that you’re a fallen person. And since you fell through your reason and your free will, you have to rise from your fall through the same weapons, illumined by the light of the Word of God and strengthened with the Grace of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus.  
Saint John of Kronstadt



“When you, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble and the river of fire shall flow before your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire and make me worthy to stand at your right hand, O Righteous Judge.”  
*(Kontakion of the Last Judgment)*

**This coming Sunday is FORGIVENESS SUNDAY.**

It is the teaching of the Orthodox Church that every Orthodox Christian needs to participate in Forgiveness Vespers and the ‘Rite of Forgiveness’ that initiates Great Lent. We know the date weeks in advance and we simply have no excuse for scheduling any conflict with this very important beginning of Great Lent. Only serious illness that keeps us homebound should keep us from Forgiveness Vespers. There is no other reconciliation and union with Christ except in reconciliation with each other. If we, through laziness, indifference, neglect, frivolous social activities, etc. absent ourselves from this service we declare our intention not to seek reconciliation with Christ.

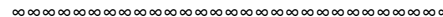
And if we are absent because we refuse to forgive or to be reconciled with either many people or with only one person, we reject Christ entirely– his life, crucifixion, death, resurrection, his sending of the Holy Spirit, and the salvation that comes from being alive in him. With few exceptions, Christ does not come to us in thunderbolts, clouds or visions, earthquakes or blinding lights. Rather, Christ comes to us in the ‘other,’ the brother or sister who has irritating habits, or who sings off key, or who wounds our pride, or who ‘drives us nuts.’ It is for this reason that we have the ancient saying, “You see your brother–you see your God.” We are reminded by the words of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian– “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love the brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen?” (I John 4:20)

If there is one person with whom we *will* not be reconciled, Christ is the one with whom we *cannot* be reconciled.

The Church enters Great Lent with Forgiveness Vespers. We can compare it to a train leaving the station: the train makes the journey, but unless we ‘get on board’ we miss the trip. The Church takes us on that journey, that return to our homeland – the house of the Father, the very Kingdom of God, but unless we, ourselves, get on board, the Church makes the journey without us and we fail to reach our destination. The conductor has announced our train. The engines are warming up. Our bags are packed for us (the instruction of the pre-lenten Sundays.) Now it is up to us to step on board through Forgiveness Vespers and the Rite of Forgiveness.

Likewise, the special services of the first week of Great Lent, specifically the Great Canon of Repentance, provide the first essential points on this journey. Everyone needs to participate in at least one evening’s Canon of Repentance.

*Fr. Michael*



“Егда приидеши Боже на землю со славою, и трепещут всяческая: река же огненная пред судищем влечет, книги разгибаются и тайная являются: егда избави мя от огня неугасимаго, и сподоби мя одесную Тебе стати Судие Праведнейший.”  
*(Кондак о Страшном Суде)*

Сегодня- Сегодня- Неделя о Страшном Суде / Мясопустная (Слово “мясопуст” – означает – мяса отпущ. В это воскресенье – последний день вкушения мяса до св. Пасхи.)  
[Первое Послание к Коринфянам 8:8-9:2 и от Матфея 25:31-46]

Субб. 5:00чд Великая Вечерня и Исповедь

Воск. 9:00чу Литургия- Прощеным Воскресением / “Изгнание Адама из рая” / Неделя Сыропустная  
[Послание к Римлянам 13:11-14:4 и от Матфея 6:14-21]  
12:00чд Прощеная Вечерня и начало Великого Поста