

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise



As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam’s expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: “Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...”

SCRIPTURE READING: Epistle *Romans -13:11-14:4*

Gospel- *Matthew 6:14-2*

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VISITS: *Wednesday*, February 22nd: Milka Vucetic – Sewickley Slavka Nikolic - St Joseph Al Abramovich – Beaver Medical Center
Friday: February 24th Helen Belich, Ann Belich Sarah Jerich Robin Lapceovich (all at Friendship Ridge - AKA Brighton Rehab)
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FROM FR. BRANISLAV... Pre-Sanctified Liturgies will be served every **Wednesday at 6pm (in the afternoon)** Abstinance for Holy Communion at Pre-sanctified Liturgy begins at the noon hour, for clergy and laity alike.

Confessions during the Great Lent will preferably be heard on Saturdays, by appointment.

Next to the bulletin you will find the **2017 Schedule of Lenten Vesper Services**. We will host ours on **SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH AT 5:00 P.M.** Lenten Dinner to follow with a lecture to be given by Fr. Dejan Barac his topic “The Role of Today’s Technology on Mission Work” . Please attend!

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR CHOIR YESTERDAY for our 15TH Annual Bowling “Ball” your support is greatly appreciated. **SARRIS CANDY ORDERS** may be placed downstairs following Divine Liturgy.
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This week chairs were delivered to our Church Center and placed in the Library to enhance our room .



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HOME BLESSINGS: Father Branislav is still blessing homes.
He will always call you the day before he is to arrive and bless your home!