

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy

Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych
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History of Forgiveness Sunday

The custom began on Mount Athos and has extended to other countries throughout time. Its origins can be traced back to an ancient Egyptian tradition in which monks separated in the desert before the start of Lent, just before Easter, to devote themselves entirely to prayer. Due to the several hazards in the desert, the monks requested forgiveness from one another as if it were their final meeting before death.

Forgiveness Sunday is the last day of Maslyana (an Eastern Slavic religious and folk feast observed during the week preceding Great Lent) and thus the last Sunday before Lent. This day does not have a fixed date because the start of Lent falls on several days in February and March, depending on Easter's date. It is a period of spiritual cleansing and aids believers in preparing for Lent, which begins the following day. The expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden highlights the Sunday of Forgiveness, an event that demonstrates how far we have fallen into sin and isolated ourselves from

Sunday of Cheesefare

(Forgiveness Sunday)

Tone 4

St. Archippus Apostle, he was a co-worker with St. Paul, first bishop of the Colossians. Tradition says he was stoned to death during the reign of Emperor Nero.

Fasts & Feasts

February

19	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-Fare)
20	Beginning of the Holy Forty Days Fast,

March

4	Second All-Souls Saturday
5	Second Sunday of the Great Fast (St. Gregory Palamas)
12	Third All Souls Saturday
13	Third Sunday of the Great Fast

Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday @ 9 am

Divine Liturgy Intention

Living & deceased members of the parish.

**Today We Will Have Our Monthly
Coffee Social**

God. This Sunday, which marks the beginning of Great Lent and a month of extreme fasting, reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and directs our hearts, minds, and spiritual energies toward repentance.

According to tradition, Christians seek one another's forgiveness on this day for all the hardships and transgressions they have created over the years. It is considered that if Lent is reduced to simply abstaining from food without reciprocal forgiveness of crimes, it loses its great value. If someone apologizes to you today, respond by saying, "God forgives, and I forgive you."

On the evening of Forgiveness Sunday, we celebrate Forgiveness Vespers. At the end of this service, the priest stands before the ambon, and the faithful come up one by one and make a prostration before the priest. As we do this, we say, "Forgive me, a sinner," while the priest responds, "God forgives. Forgive me." The person responds, "God forgives," and receives a blessing from the priest. After receiving the priest's blessing, the faithful also ask forgiveness of each other.

Homily 45 by St Theodore the Studite:

Brethren: fasting is the renewal of the soul, for the Apostle says that as the body weakens and withers from the ascetic labor of fasting and then is the soul renewed day by day. It is made beautiful and shines in the beauty which God originally bestowed upon it. And when it is purified and adorned with fasting and repentance, then God loves it and will live in it as the Lord has said: "I and the Father will come and make Our abode with him" (Jn. 14:23). Now at the beginning the Fast seems laborious, but if we shall apply ourselves from day to day with ardor and discipline, then with the help of God it will be made easier. At the same time, if we desire that the Fast be true and acceptable to God, then together with abstaining from food, let us restrain ourselves from every sin of soul and body, as the sticheron instructs us: "Let us keep the Fast not only by refraining from food, but by becoming strangers to all sinful passions"

In preparation for The Great Fast 2023

Regulations for the Season

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church sui iuris of Pittsburgh.

Strict Abstinence

- The law of strict abstinence (fasting) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.
- Strict abstinence (fasting) is to be observed in 2023 on Pure Monday, Feb. 20 (the first day of the Great Fast), and on Great and Holy Friday, April 7.

Dispensations

- Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.
- Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transfers, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.

Liturgical Services

- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

"Nothing makes us so like God, as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer."
(Saint John Chrysostom)