

### *Readiness to Forgive*

Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer. For it is God who has made “the sun to shine on the evil and on the good.”

For this same reason again in every one of the clauses Jesus commands us to make our prayers together in one voice, saying, “Our Father,” and “thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven,” and “give us the bread, and forgive us our debts,” and “lead us not into temptation,” and “deliver us.” So everywhere he is teaching us to use this plural word that we may not retain so much as a vestige of resentment against our neighbor.

How great a reproof then must they de-

serve, who, after all this, still do not forgive and even ask God’s vengeance on their enemies. In doing so, they diametrically transgress this command. Meanwhile Christ is seeking in every way possible to hinder our conflicts with one another. For since love is the root of all that is good, by removing from all quarters whatever mars it he brings us together and cements us to each other. For there is not one, not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us.

*St. John Chrysostom*

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)**

## SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS



*Icon of the the Ladder of Divine Ascent*

# **ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL**

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44<sup>TH</sup> St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: <https://www.stgeorgeoh.org/>

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

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**Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355**

**Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413**

**Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355**

**Deacon Viorel Badiceanu – 330-493-9355**

**Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation:** Vigil Vespers: 6:00 p.m.

**Day of Feast:** 10:00am and 6:00 p.m.

**Confessions:** See calendar or at any time by request.

**Ann Fosnaught, Secretary** 330-492-8413 or [annf@rcdcanton.org](mailto:annf@rcdcanton.org)

## **February 19, 2023**

# **Cheesefare Sunday – Forgiveness Sunday**

**This Sunday: Epistle Romans 13:11-14 – 14:1-4**

**Gospel Matt 6:14-21**

Next Sunday: Epistle Hebrews 11:24-26

Gospel John 1:43-51

### **Weekly Liturgy Schedule**

Sunday 2/19

*Parastas*: +Frank and +Mary Getz by Family

Monday 2/20

6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy – Clean Monday

Tuesday 2/21

No Liturgy

Wednesday 2/22

6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday 2/23

No Liturgy

Friday 2/24

12:00pm Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday 2/25

No Liturgy

**Sunday 2/26**

**10:00am Divine Liturgy: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent –  
Orthodoxy Sunday**

*Parastas*: +In loving memory of the Popa and  
Alecusan Family by Denny and Carol Popa

**Church Bulletin donated in February by Mircea Cristea in loving memory of  
parents, +Metodia and +Mary Cristea along with +John and +Stella Lazar.**

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner.

All are invited to coffee hour in the Large Hall donated Bob and Lisa Camel in loving memory of +Frank and +Mary Getz. Thank you!

**Sunday Collection: February 12, 2023**

Loose	\$5.00
Sunday envelopes	\$1,065.00
Candles	<u>\$162.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,232.00</b>

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+All family members	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
In loving memory of daughter +Trisha Schock	Del and Sandy
In memory of loved ones	Doru Jacobs and Ann Fosnaught
+Gerald Donahue	Doru Jacobs and Ann Fosnaught
For a holy Lent for all of St. George	Doru Jacobs and Ann Fosnaught
+Gerald Donahue	Dave and Debbie Murari
+Russell Onak	Mark Botean
+Ed Reichard	Mark Botean
+Gerald Donahue and All Family Members	Chuck Roska Family
H/S Donahue-Roska Family, Aunt Alice Loop, Sheila Diotale, John Puia, Mary Cornea, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian	Chuck Roska Family
Special Intention	Anonymous
Special Intention	Anonymous
H/S Mary	Walsh Family
H/S Kathy and Hannah	Walsh Family
H/S Thomas McAnney	Walsh Family
+John Dragos, husband	Suzie Dragos

+Deceased Family  
H/S all Family  
H/S Rita Rae Henry Beck, mother

Suzie Dragos  
Suzie Dragos  
Nancy Maciag

+++

**Special Announcement:**

**Prayer requests:** Mary Franchini, Joe Oprean, Vicky Dash (Doug Babb's sister), Tim Shocksneider, Timothy John, Troy Kilpatrick, Sadie Dexter, Neil Weakland, Edward Sutek, Lanette Fliger, Friedrich Neading, Clore Family, Rodriguez Family, Patron Family, Seesan Family, Suzie Dragos, Bob and Barbara Greavu, Virginia Rogers and all who need our prayers.

**Always in our prayers:** Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian(6573 Walnut Crt; Hudson, OH 44236), Mary Cornea (Cleveland), Esther Dershaw (Sprenger Health Care Rose Lane Nursing and Rehabilitation), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Sr. Agnes Scalero (St. Joseph Center), Ann Stimer (Home), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home), Doris Rotar (home in Florida)

**Altar Candelabrum** for February 2023 is donated **by Denny and Carol Popa** in memory of **+George Alecusan, 20 years and +Eugene Popa, 1 year.**

**Left Iconostasis Candelabrum** for February 2023 is donated **by Mircea Cristea.**

**Right Iconostasis Candelabrum** for February 2023 is donated **by Mitch and Sue Barnes** in memory of **Beverly Barnes.**

**Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum** for February 2023 is donated **by Dr. and Mrs. Romeo Craciun** for the health and salvation of **Georgeta Barcutian.**

**Prescura for 2023:** Annie Collins, Esther Dershaw, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Mariana Greavu, Ana Heim, Grete Heatherly, Ileana Hotiu, Nancy Maciag, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Virginia Rogers, Kathy Walsh, P-sa. Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and P-sa. Gabriela Marginean

**Announcements:**

**Operation Rice Bowl:** LENT IS COMING! Join our faith community—and nearly 13,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS

Rice Bowl from the Narthex Table today. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the impact of global hunger and climate change on vulnerable communities around the world, and we will pray, fast and give alms to help our sisters and brothers in need. Visit [www.csricebowl.org](http://www.csricebowl.org) to learn more. See the enclosed letter from Bishop John Michael for more information.

**Most Holy Trinity Church in Chesterland, Ohio (Fr. George Wendt) rectory** is in need of the following items: queen mattress set, queen mattress pad, queen blanket, vacuum, Swiffer for wood floors, canisters, spices, kitchen timer, wine opener, area rug for bedroom, step stool, desk, desk chair, bookcase, den clock. If you can help, please contact P-sa. Patricia Wendt at 740-856-9134. Thank you for your kind consideration!

**Magnificat of Stark County** will host a breakfast on Saturday, March 11 at Walsh University Barrette Center. Emily Whiting of Wadsworth is the guest speaker. Contact Sally Kohring at 330-484-1623. RSVP before February 25. Open seating. Doors open at 8:30am with breakfast at 9:00am. Fliers are on the bulletin board for more information.

You are invited to **Saint Joseph Federal Credit Union annual dinner meeting** on Saturday, March 18 at Tozzi's on 12<sup>th</sup> St in Canton. Tickets will be \$15 for STJ members and \$30.00 for nonmembers. Tickets need to be purchased in advance at the main office or the Louisville branch by March 11.

Let Ann know if you would be interested in participating **an adult religious education class** led by Fr. Ovi, along with best day and time.

### **Parish events:**

**At Fish Fries, we** will serve take-out and sit down on Fridays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 4:30 to 7:00pm. Invite everyone! See the Atrium door for the list to see how you can help! Fliers are on the Narthex table to share.

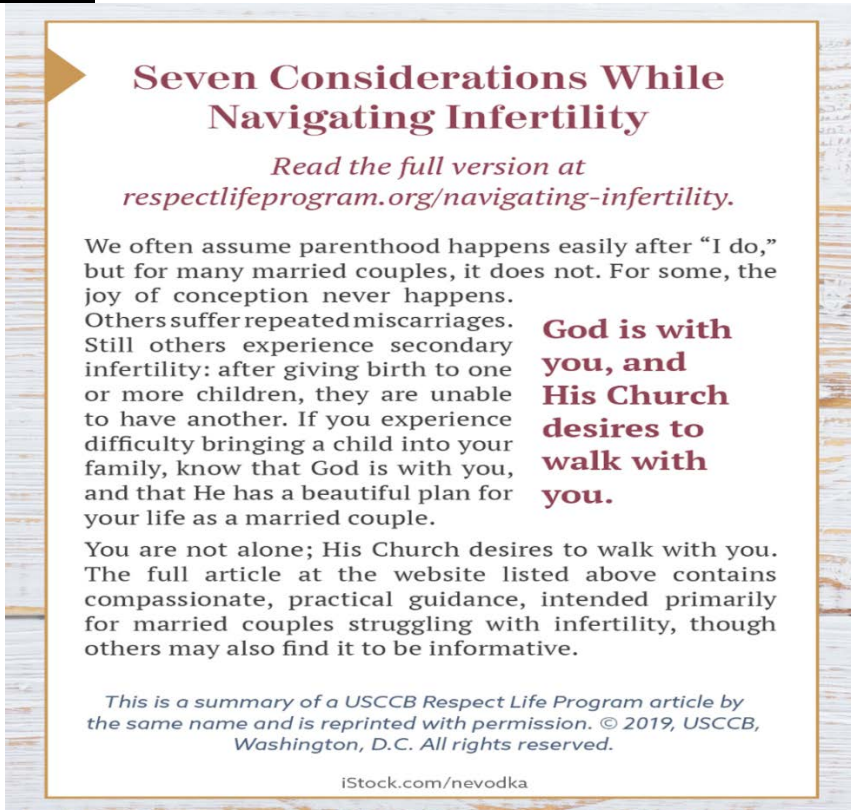
There will be a short **cash register training** for all who work the cash registers today. If you need another time, see Fr. Ovi or Ann.

**Romanasul Dancers** will **practice** the Sundays of February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 16. Contact Kathy Walsh for details.



The Ladies Auxiliary will be selling **Lilies** to decorate the church. The cost is \$10. Envelopes are available on the narthex table. Return your envelope to Kathy Walsh. Thank you!

## Word of Life



**Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility**

*Read the full version at [respectlifeprogram.org/navigating-infertility](http://respectlifeprogram.org/navigating-infertility).*

We often assume parenthood happens easily after “I do,” but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility: after giving birth to one or more children, they are unable to have another. If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that God is with you, and that He has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple.

**God is with you, and His Church desires to walk with you.**

You are not alone; His Church desires to walk with you. The full article at the website listed above contains compassionate, practical guidance, intended primarily for married couples struggling with infertility, though others may also find it to be informative.

*This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2019, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.*

iStock.com/nevodka

## To Tickle Your Funny Bone 😊

Mr. Johnson, a businessman from Wisconsin, went on a business trip to Louisiana. He immediately sent an email back to his wife Jean. Unfortunately, he mistyped a letter and the email ended up going to a Mrs. Joan Johnson, the wife of a preacher who had passed away recently.

The preacher's widow took one look at the email and promptly fainted. When she was revived, she nervously pointed to the message, which read, "Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here!"

### **Wisdom of the Saints by Matthew Kelly**

Crosses release us from this world, and by doing so, bind us to God.  
*St. Charles de Foucauld*

### **Happy Birthday! La multi ani!!**

Chandler Crown – February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Maximus Murari – February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Serena Dumea – February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Stephen Fodor – February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Amy Crown – February 24<sup>th</sup>  
Lisa Cammel – February 24<sup>th</sup>  
David Gallagher – February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Cyndi Ardelean – February 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Advertising Opportunity – business card size:**

outside businesses - \$50 per month or \$450 per year  
cathedral businesses - \$20 per month or \$150 per year

This is a good opportunity to know the talent in our parish and to grow your business!

**Financial strategies.  
One-on-one advice.**

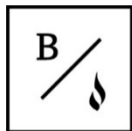
**Jacqueline M Oprean, AAMS<sup>®</sup>**  
Financial Advisor

1840 Town Park Blvd  
Uniontown, OH 44685  
330-899-0721

**Edward Jones**  
SMALLER WORDS OF INSPIRATION  
edwardjones.com



Kate Sima: [kate@brightwisecandles.com](mailto:kate@brightwisecandles.com)



**Brightwise Candles**



	Mon 2/20	Tue 2/21	Wed 2/22	Thu 2/23	Fri 2/24	Sat 2/25	Sun 2/26
	Clean Week (strict abstinence)					Great Lent: common abstinence (except days	
	Presidents' Day	Chandler Crown's	Finding of the relics of	Stephen Edward Fodor's	Amy Crown's birthday	Cyndi Ardelean birthday	Anthony Wolters'
	Clean Monday	Maximus Murari's		Holy Father Polycarp,	Lisa Cammel's birthday	David Gallagher's	1st Sunday in Lent -
	Holy Father Leo, Bishop	Serena Emanuela			+Rev. Fr. John Buga	+Rev. Dr. Gheorghe Rusu	Holy Father Porphyrius
		Ven. Father Timothy of			First and Second	Holy Father Tarasius,	
10am							Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							Parastas
12pm					Presanctified Liturgy 12pm - 1pm		Coffee: Popa Family 11:30am -
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm					Fish Fry 4:30pm - 7pm		
6pm	Presanctified Liturgy - Clean Monday 6pm - 7pm		Presanctified Liturgy 6pm - 7pm				
7pm							





Office of the Bishop

February 7, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

God calls each of us to a loving relationship with him. During Lent, we focus in an intentional way on turning away from sin and toward God to grow in this love. The Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us do this. CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program—invites us to practice these pillars while reflecting on the needs of our sisters and brothers and how we can respond in love to support them.

This year, journey with CRS to Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya to learn about the root causes of hunger and how families—with the support of faith communities like yours—are making sure they have nutritious food to thrive. Through stories, videos and lesson plans, your community will learn about our Gospel call to care for our common home so we can respond to global issues such as hunger and malnutrition and push back on climate change.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities while continuing to connect Catholics in our (arch)diocese with our global human family. I encourage you to order a CRS Rice Bowl poster to display in your communal space and enough Rice Bowls with Lenten calendars for each family in your community. These **free** materials are available in English and Spanish. You may also visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) or [crsplatodearroz.org](http://crsplatodearroz.org) to find additional resources, including:

- Devotions, like the Stations of the Cross, and prayers.
- Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school teachers and religious educators.
- Ideas for in-person or virtual community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events.

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to join us on an enriched season through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we can respond to Christ's call to help those in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given potential.

Sincerely in Christ-God,

(Most Reverend) John Michael Botean, DD  
Bishop of the Eparchy of St. George in Canton

✉jmb/af

# UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT FAST

The Great Fast, or Lent, is the seven week period of preparation before the celebration of Pascha. **IT IS A TURNING BACK TO GOD WHOM WE REALIZE IS THE VERY SOURCE AND GOAL OF OUR LIFE.** He is our life. By repentance we realize we aren't where we should be; we are far from our Father. Our happiness, our wholeness, our sense of identity, well-being and joy flow from being close to God as the very center of our lives.

**SO LENT, THE TIME FOR REPENTANCE, IS THE TIME TO REDISCOVER THIS TRUTH, TO BE CONVINCED OF IT AND MAKE IT MORE OF A CONSCIOUS REALITY IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.** Far from being a time of morose introspection it is, as the liturgy says, the Lenten Springtime. It is liberation from the gloominess of our sins and a rediscovery of the new life given us in Holy Baptism. In the mystery of Pascha, Christ gives us a chance to be "born again" as children of God: as complete men and women possessing the life, grace and joy of God which completes and heals our nature as human beings.

**Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver. For my soul goes early to the temple of your holiness, driving on the temple of my body wholly polluted. But because you are compassionate, purify me by the tenderness of your mercy, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. For I have profaned my soul with shameful sins and consumed my whole life in laziness but my own intercessions purify me from all immorality.**

*Post-Gospel Hymn of Lent*

## WHERE DID LENT COME FROM?

The early Christians kept vigil during the last few days of Holy Week. As time went on, the vigil was extended to approximately forty days. It was a period in which the catechumens (candidates to become Christians) were given a last, intensive preparation for baptism, chrismation and the Eucharist.

It was also the time when the penitents, those who had lapsed in the faith, did penance, relearning the basic and beautiful lesson of the mystery and dignity of being a Christian and our way of life in the Lord. They were reconciled with the rest of the faithful at the end of Lent.

Since the season was a type of "boot-camp in Christianity" for the catechumens and penitents, all the faithful entered into preparation with them. Lent became a type of renewal and "refresher course" for all believers intent on living of the new life in Christ given to us at Pascha.

## WHY 40 DAYS?

The number forty calls up memories from our past as a people of God, of the forty years Israel wandered in the desert. As they were led by God to the Promised Land, they were tested, their faith was strengthened and they learned to know the Lord as the very center of their lives. In the same way, during Lent we are tested, our faith is deepened and we move toward the fulness of the heavenly Kingdom which is our inheritance.

It also speaks to us of the forty days Jesus spent in the desert after His baptism, when He resisted temptation, giving Himself to close communion with His Father, the source of His life. As He embraced His mission as His Father's servant and our redeemer during that time, so we try to take our own mission as Christians more seriously during the season of Great Lent.

Finally, the forty days call to mind Moses and Elijah, who spent that amount of time preparing for important encounters with God. We too will encounter Him in His paschal mysteries where He reveals to us who He is, how He loves us, who we are and the meaning of life.

**Through greed we were once stripped naked, overcome by the bitter taste of the forbidden fruit, and we were exiled from God. Let us turn back in repentance, fasting from the food that gives us pleasure. Let us purify our senses on which our Enemy makes war. Let us strengthen our hearts with the hope of grace, and not with foods which brought no benefits to those who trusted in them. Our food shall be the Lamb of God on the holy and radiant night of His Rising. He is the Victim offered for us, given in communion to the Apostles on the evening of the Mysteries, who scatters the darkness of ignorance by the Light of His Resurrection!**

*From Vespers of Meatfare Sunday*

# SO WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING LENT?

Don't "do": rather "be" a lenten Christian. Live a lenten style of life. Remember the basics: You are trying to turn more fully to God (Repentance) and taste more fully the beauty and dignity that are yours as a child of God. You must think about that – which means eliminating some distractions – and seriously turn to Him. The Church has three traditional helps for this:

## FASTING, PRAYER and ALMSGIVING.

They are recommended by the Scriptures and Tradition. They get to the very root of repentance, which is turning back to God. They help strip away the glitter of a false self, a false view of the world and others and aid in discovering our true identity, our relation to God, others, the world and ourselves. FASTING helps us discover our true hunger for God at the root of our being and our total dependence on Him as the source of our life and strength. PRAYER puts us in communion with Him. ALMSGIVING helps us share God, His gifts and ourselves with others, establishing a true communion with them in the Lord.

## FASTING?

It is not so much giving up something as it is making space for something better to take its place: especially the things of God. We fast so that we may "lay aside all earthly cares, that we may receive the King of all".

Does your life depend on food? You must eat to live, but no matter how much you eat, you are going to die. Life depends, not on food, but on God, the Giver of life. We fast to experience that on a deep level. Fasting has been prescribed by Christ Himself. The Church can and should remove from the realm of obligation this or that exercise of fasting, but the Church cannot dispense us from Christ's command to fast. We must each comply with that command as best we can. Of course, the abstaining from food should lead to an abstaining from sin and evil.

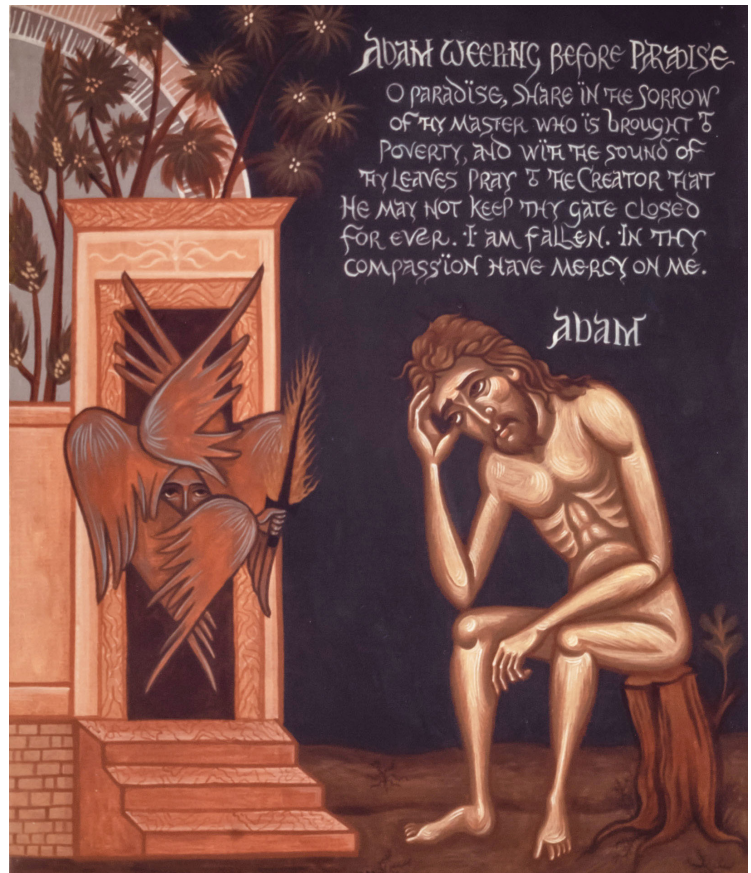
During this time, Eastern Christians regulate both the amount of food they eat and number of times they eat each day. On Saturdays and Sundays during the Great Lent the fast is relaxed in some ways.

## AND ALMSGIVING?

Material gifts were given us by God as gifts over which we are to be responsible stewards. You are to use those gifts – and the gift that you are – sacramentally. All things are potentially sacramental, since they are intended for communion with God and with each other. When we share the goods of the earth in love, we are "in communion", in fellowship in and with the Lord.

How are you handling your material possessions? They are not ends in themselves, but they are meant to produce that communion with God and each other. Are they? Look around you, and the Lord will show you how to give alms, and exactly what you should share. One idea is to save the money gained by fasting and use it for charitable purposes.

We should understand why we fast and why we give alms, pray over it and then decide what is to be done in this regard during the holy season. The effort is a family affair and no one struggles alone. There will be major readjustment to diet, entertainment, and distractions, to mention a few but to struggle for holiness is always a joy; the Lord is never outdone in generosity.



## WHEN DO WE START?

Our preparation has already started: for four Sundays before Lent starts the Church begins to prepare us, by directing us to think about our need for God, about repentance and fasting, God's judgement and our need to forgive one another.

The Great Fast actually begins on Clean Monday, the day after the last of these pre-Lenten Sundays, Cheese-Fare Sunday. Our first lenten service is the beautiful Forgiveness Vespers, at which we are reconciled with each other before beginning the lenten journey and are invited to take part in the mystery of confession.

The Western Church begins the holy season on Ash Wednesday with their proper services. The Eastern Churches start two days earlier because we use different counting systems to arrive at the traditional forty days. The Western lent consists of forty days excluding Sundays – leading up to Easter Sunday. The Eastern Churches keep forty days without interruption leading up to Lazarus Saturday, the first day of Holy Week. This accounts for the different starting dates.