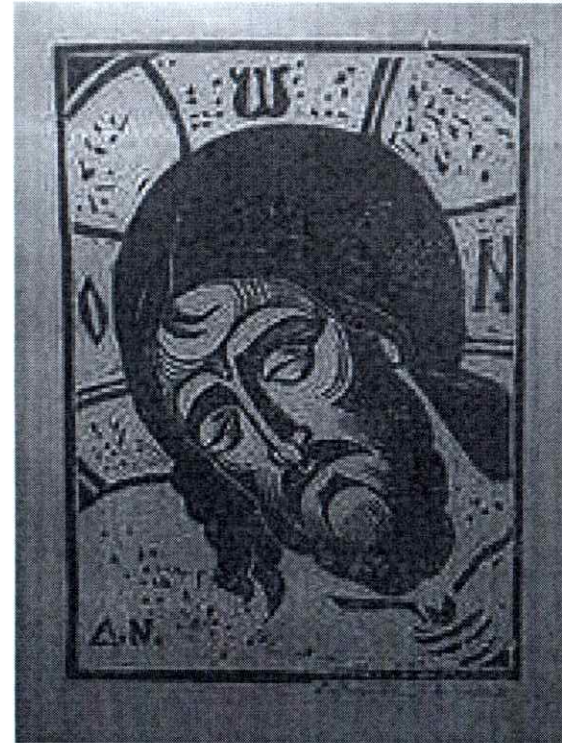


Fr. Alexander Schmemmann of Forgiveness

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season. One may ask, however: Why should I perform this rite when I have no "enemies"? Why should I ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to me, and whom I hardly know? To ask these questions, is to misunderstand the Orthodox teaching concerning forgiveness. It is true, that open enmity, personal hatred, real animosity may be absent from our life, though if we experience them, it may be easier for us to repent, for these feelings openly contradict Divine commandments. But, the Church reveals to us that there are much subtler ways of offending Divine Love. These are indifference, selfishness, lack of interest in other people, of any real concern for them -- in short, that wall which we usually erect around ourselves, thinking that by being "polite" and "friendly" we fulfill God's commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize -- be it only for one minute -- that our entire relationship to other men is wrong, makes us experience that encounter of one child of God with another, of one person created by God with another, makes us feel that mutual "recognition" which is so terribly lacking in our cold and dehumanized world.

"Let us Attend!"



"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us..."

A PARISH BULLETIN OF
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

Rev. Paul J. Witek, Ph.D., Rector

201.315.5722

22 February 2026

**Forgiveness Sunday – Sunday of the Expulsion of Adam
and Eve from Paradise**

Bulletin, Sunday, 22 February 2026

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE — Tone 4. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius at Constantinople (395–423). Martyrs Maurice and his son, Photinus, and Martyrs Theodore, Philip, and 70 soldiers, at Apamea in Syria (ca. 305). Ven. Thalassius, Limnæus and Baradates, Hermits, of Syria (5th c.). St. Athanasius the Confessor, of Constantinople (821).

Epistle: Romans 13:11–14:4 ; **Gospel:** Matthew 6:14–21

Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish's wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA's daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.

Schedule

- ~ **Monday, 23 February 2026: First Day of Great Lent: 9AM Lenten Hours; 6PM Small Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**
- ~ **Monday, 24 February 2026: 6PM Small Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**
- ~ **Wednesday, 25 February 2026: 6PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts followed by parish potluck. Please bring a covered dish.**
- ~ **Thursday, 26 February 2026: 9AM Lenten Hours**

~ *Friday, 27 February 2026: 10:30AM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with the Molimen to St. Theodore at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church.*

~ **Saturday, 28 February 2026. 5–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession; 6PM Great Vespers.**

~ **Sunday, 29 February 2026, 9:30AM, Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy followed by Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship, 4PM Mission Vespers, Holy Trinity Church, Stroudsburg.**

Announcements

~ We welcome all those who join us today. Please come downstairs and enjoy fellowship together. We have place waiting for you.

~ Our thanks to all those who worked to make our Lenten Food Sale a success. By God's grace a profit of \$5,000.00 was realized. May God bless you all.

~ We begin the Great Fast tomorrow and have the opportunity to take part in the services of the First week of Great Lent. Let us join together as much as we can at the beautiful services that begin our Lenten Journey.

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.