



December 3, 2017 :: Fourteenth Sunday of Luke

Commemorations: Saints and Feasts: The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah); Our Righteous Father John, Bishop and Hesychast; Holy Martyrs Agapius and Seleucius; Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria; Angelis the New Martyr, Karpos the Hieromartyr

Fast Day (Fish Allowed) 🐟

First Tone :: Fourth Orthros Gospel

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19

Reader: *Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we hope in You.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Reader: *Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright.*

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: *The reading is from the letter of holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Resurrection Hymn (First Tone)

When the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life unto the world. For which cause the powers of heaven cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Hymn for the Transfiguration (Grave Tone)

You were transfigured upon the mountain O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we be, shine Your everlasting Light. At the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You.

Kontakion of the Forefeast of Our Lord's Nativity (Third Tone)

On this day the Virgin cometh to a cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

PARISH NOTICES

We warmly welcome our guests this morning. Please join us downstairs after Liturgy for a time of fellowship and refreshment hosted today by the Pappas family, in memory of ever-memorable Presvytera Maria at the ninth month since her repose. May her soul dwell with the Saints in Light, and may you be granted long life, a good repentance, the remission of your sins, and the heavenly Kingdom!

A host is needed for next Sunday.

Congratulations to our dear sister, Olga Fitts, who became a United States citizen last Friday afternoon.



Trifon

Our beloved brother in Christ, Trifon Theodosopoulos, fell asleep in the Lord early Wednesday morning after a long illness.

Visitation will be from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. today at Rude's Funeral Home, Brookings, SD, with Trisagion Prayers at 3:30 P.M. The funeral service will be on Monday, 1:30 P.M. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 1700 8th St. S., Brookings.



A New American

The Holy Nativity Fast continues through December 24th.

Philoptochos will be purchasing and putting together household items for the 110 Sioux Falls families that are part of the Bright Start program. Bright Start is a resource and support program that offers nurse home visitation services to at-risk families during pregnancy and after delivery. Philoptochos will offer the opportunity for anyone in the parish to donate money to this project. Please make your check out to Philoptochos and write "Bright Start" in the memo line. You can give your donation to any of the Philoptochos officers: Patty Carey, Presvytera Mary, Aphrodite Sengos or Betty Peterson.

THIS WEEK AT TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH

- Monday **Great Martyr Barbara** :: Liturgy (20/40) at 9 A.M.
Funeral for Trifon Theodosopoulos, 1:30 P.M. at Saint Thomas More Catholic Church, Brookings.
- Tuesday **Savvas the Sanctified** :: Liturgy (21/40) at 9 A.M.
- Wednesday **Nicholas the Wonderworker** :: Liturgy (22/40) at 9 A.M.
Vespers at 6:30 P.M. *Knowing our Faith* class following the service.
- Thursday **Ambrose of Milan** :: Liturgy (23/40) at 9 A.M.
- Friday **Forefeast of the Conception** :: Liturgy (24/40) at 9 A.M.
- Saturday **The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos**
Liturgy (25/40) at 9 A.M.
Great Vespers at 5 P.M. :: Confessions following
- Next Sunday **December 10th — The Tenth Sunday of Luke**
Orthros at 9:00 A.M. :: Divine Liturgy (26/40) at 10:00 A.M. :: Sunday School
Liturgical readings: Ephesians 6:10-17 Luke 13:10-17
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION AFTER LITURGY

LOOKING AHEAD

- Nov. 15 - Dec. 24 **Fast of the Nativity**
- December 12 **Saint Spyridon the Wonder-Worker**
- December 17 **Saint Dionysios of Zakynthos**
- December 22 **Paramon of the Nativity of our Lord IC XC**
- December 24 **Sunday before the Nativity**
- December 25 **Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord IC XC**

WORDS OF LIFE

The Lord is always waiting for us to unite ourselves with Him in love; but instead, we drift further and further away from Him. We know that there can be no life without love. This means that there is no life without God, for God is Love. But His love is not according to the understanding of the world. The love that the world gives us consists of suffering and enslavement, because the spirits of evil interfere with it. There is a little bit of love, but mostly it is just enslavement.

— Elder Thaddeus (Strabulovich) of Vitovnica

One who prays is like a bird, soaring high in the air, neither to be captured by the net, nor reached by an arrow. But when noticing some delectable seeds, it flies down from above and starts to peck at them, it can get entangled in a net or easily shot. Thus, the one who prays is difficult for enemies to catch, for the Spirit of prayer lifts him high. But if he, leaving the heights, drops down to what is earthly and begins to be beguiled by this and that — no wonder he will be caught and dragged away to indecent actions. And who is guilty? If he had not left prayer, it would not have allowed him to fall.

— St. Theophan the Recluse, Commentary on Psalm 118:Verse 117

If we look closely, we see that there are more lenten days than non-lenten in the Orthodox Church. Below is an article that explains the importance of fasting and perhaps the reason for so many lenten days in a calendar year.

The Lord says “when you fast” (Matthew 6:16), so it is obvious that His disciples should fast. St Paul only condemns a certain attitude related to fasting, and indeed these passages are read publicly in the divine services when a fasting season starts.

In the Orthodox tradition, fasting is not a rule to be observed, but a tool to be used. We do not fast for the sake of fasting, but for the sake of being able to set aside the material and focus on the spiritual.

The true goal of fasting is not in abstaining from meat and butter, but in abstaining from anger, envy, laziness, and other sins.

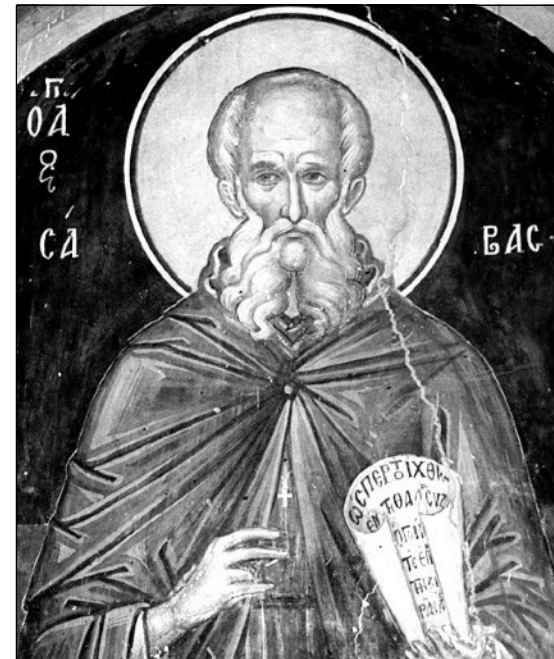
Why do we fast from foods? Because we are wholesome beings. Christ did not come to save our souls only, but all of us: soul, body, mind, spirit, will—and as many “parts” as one would wish to count. He took our entire human being upon Himself, all of our human nature, and “made a man’s whole body well” (John 7:23). In the God-given order, our spirit is to pull us to God, our soul is to find its inspiration in the direction of the spirit, and our body is to be nourished in doing the will of the Father (John 4:34; cf. Matt. 4:4). Sin perverts this divine order, and our flesh feeds on this world and becomes a slave to food, our soul finds inspiration in the things of the flesh, and our spirit no longer hungers for God but finds its direction in the passions of the soul. The Holy Church gives to us times of fasting in order to help heal and restore our corrupted nature.

An athlete does not win a prize before patiently exercising discipline and “self-control in all things” (1 Cor. 9:25). And if we are to receive an “imperishable wreath” (ibid.), we must do the same and begin by taking control of that in us which is most material, restoring the divinely-ordained order and reaching to that which is the most spiritual. If we cannot control our bellies, how can we hope to control our tongues and thoughts, how can we hope to even begin to fight our passions? We must learn to discipline our bodies, because without this foundation we cannot begin to build the walls of the temple of our soul. And just as the purpose of a foundation is not in itself, but in that which can be built upon it, the purpose of taking control of our flesh is in freeing the soul from being controlled by it.

Source: <https://www.orthodoxanswers.org/why-is-there-so-much-fasting-in-the-orthodox-church-is-that-not-condemned-by-saint-paul-as-legalism/>



TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH METROPOLIS OF DENVER GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



*Saint Savas the Sanctified of Palestine
Feast day: December 5th*



1936 S. Summit Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Web: transfigurationoc.org Email: transfigurationsfa@goarch.org
Facebook: Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church of Sioux Falls
(605) 334-5301 (church office) (605) 321-0582 (Fr. Sava's mobile)