

			Divine Liturgy of the Lord's Supper +Margaret Mihalo By Mary & Tom Wells
		8:00pm(Melkite)	Service of the Passion and the Washing of Feet
Friday	Apr 14	12:00pm(Ruthenian)	Great and Holy Friday Service of the 12 Passion Gospels
		6:00pm(Ruthenian)	Burial Vespers & Procession of Shroud
		8:00pm(Melkite)	Vespers & Burial Service
Saturday	Apr 15	12:00pm(Ruthenian)	Great and Holy Saturday Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil +Margaret Mihalo By Winnie Pizzitola
		8:00pm(Melkite)	Triumphal Procession and Resurrection Matins and Liturgy
Sunday	Apr 16	9:00am(Ruthenian)	Holy Pascha-The Resurrection Resurrection Matins
		10:00am(Ruthenian)	Divine Liturgy-For our parish family Followed by Easter Basket blessing

WELCOME...to all our visitors worshiping with us at this Divine Liturgy!
Please be sure to fill out a Visitor's Card and drop it in the collection basket (or give it to the usher). And we would like you to be our guest in the Social Hall for coffee and refreshments after the Liturgy is over this morning. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Saint John Chrysostom's Church.

We are glad you're here!

Sunday Collection 10am Liturgy: God bless you for your generosity!

Feb 5-\$1,306.00

Feb 12-\$1,660.00

Feb 19-\$1,190.00

Please remember in your prayers the sick and homebound in our parish :

Peter Mytchak, Michael Streitman, Marianne Oprisko, Susan Parada, Harry & Virginia Franko, Fred Wey, Malak Bakkal, Nancy Sandrock, Martha Kaye, Sr. Sandy Atha, Fr. Charlie Brown, Leslie Bohannon, Cynthia Hirsch, Dick Burnette & Ted Bojczuk.

Calendar of Events

Feb 26-Ecclesiology Discussion Group-after 10am Liturgy in Social Hall

Feb 26 Austin Byzantine Community-Divine Liturgy at 5pm

Mar 9, 16, 23, 30 & Apr 6-Lenten Evening Iconography Workshop 6-10pm

Mar 3, 7 & 31- Open Studios for Iconography 9:30am-6:30pm

Mar 5 Austin Byzantine Community-Divine Liturgy at 5pm

Mar 13 Bible Study with David Dominguez at 6:30 pm

Mar 16-19 St. John's Lenten Icon Workshop

Mar 19-Theosis Group will meet in school building at 12:15pm

Mar 21-John Michael Talbot Lenten Retreat on Practical Monasticism at 7pm

Mar 26 Austin Byzantine Community-Divine Liturgy at 5pm

Apr 1 Brunch with St. Mary of Egypt (more information to come)

Apr 10 Bible Study with Deacon Andrew and David Dominguez at 6:30 pm

Apr 30 Barbara & Deacon Andrew Veres celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary at 10am

Liturgy followed by luncheon reception in Social Hall

The Theosis Group will next meet on Sunday, March 19th at approximately 12:15 pm. We will continue our discussion of Unseen Warfare, focusing on key teachings from Chapters 9-18 of Part Two.

Bible Study will take place of Monday, March 13th beginning with a potluck dinner at 6:30pm followed by the study of the Acts of the Apostles Ch. 22-24 from 7-8:30pm. All are welcome. Special facilitator this month is David Dominguez.

The Great Fast begin on Feb. 27, Clean Monday, which is a day of Strict Fast (no animal products, dairy or eggs). During this holy season of preparation for Pascha-Easter, we serve the ancient Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on every Tuesday and Friday evening at 7pm. After the Liturgy a light Lenten meal will be shared.

The Great Fast at St. John's

-Every Tuesday and Friday of the Great Fast, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be served at 7pm followed by a Lenten meal.

-March 21 at 7pm, an evening retreat led by renown Roman Catholic musician and evangelist John Michael Talbot

-April 1, a 'brunch' with St. Mary of Egypt, through her life story, as shared by Leslie Bohannon

-Confession

-Other services such as the Great Canon or the Akathist or Bible Study

Pilgrimages (more information to follow-mark your calendars!)

April 22 Bright Saturday in San Antonio, TX. The Vespereal Divine Liturgy will be served in one of the historic Missions together with the San Antonio and Austin Byzantine Communities followed by a shared meal

June 29 and **July 2** Divine Liturgies will be served in Mogollon, NM in the heart of the Gila National Forest in the over 100 year old historic mining-town Church

Lent As a Doorway to Deeper Discernment

Deepening one's relationship with Christ is one of the most important steps of discernment. With this truth in mind, it is clear that Lent is a great season to discern God's call to each one of us.

The purpose of Lent is to prepare for Easter. We prepare for this great celebration of Christ's Resurrection by striving to position ourselves to enter completely into His fullness of life. This season is given as an opportunity to take account of our relationship with the Lord and to become very intentional about rooting out the ways that we hold back from Christ and building up the ways that we open our hearts to Him.

When we do this work of tearing down the barriers that we have accumulated, to remove the distractions, and to center our life on Christ, we become more open to receiving His call and able to respond with our whole heart.

This is wonderful, but the trick is to translate these wonderful *ideas* into tangible actions and commitments. The traditional categories of penance – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving - are helpful ways to structure a plan for making the most of this coming Lenten season.

Prayer is about spending time with Christ. So it is easy to see how working on one's prayer life is a clear way to working on one's relationship with the Lord. We tend to grow in relationships the more we spend time with one another. So any good preparation for Lent should include a plan for how to deepen one's prayer life. This can mean adding extra time in prayer, integrating more time with scripture, finding time in the week for adoration, or making a greater commitment to daily Mass. When the possibility of adding more is not really an option, working on going deeper or being more intentional with the time that you already have can

also work. Take a look at your routine of prayer right now and consider how you might be able to dial it up a notch during Lent.

Fasting is a traditional way of recognizing that there are many distractions or false gods in our lives. To look to sacrifice a few things that we hold dear or that might be distractions is to open up space for recognizing our great dependence on Christ. The goal here is not to see how great a burden one can take on. The goal is to remove a few things that are regular parts of our life such that we can see how we try to fill our hunger for Christ with so many other things that really do not satisfy. What are the foods that are not needed for our health that we use so often to bring joy into our life – do they ever truly satisfy? What are the things that we use to fill our empty time – do they ever truly bring us rest and peace? What are the things that distract us from God or from others? Remove a few and strive to fill that space with Christ.

Almsgiving is the wonderful way to both detach ourselves from the many things that we cling to as well as turn our attention out to the needs of our neighbor. Christ made it abundantly clear that, if we do not love our neighbor, our love for Him is impeded. Lent offers us a time to push ourselves to be more attentive to our neighbor, to seek out ways to serve others or give of our resources to those in need. This often pinches. Our time and resources are precious to us. This is often the problem. We see all that we have as ours, not as gifts from God. We idolize the things and forget the giver. Offering what we have to others helps us to attend to the giver, to recognize our connection with His other beloved children, and to open ourselves to greater dependence on His great grace. Seek out ways to give for the good of others. Strive to give of what is precious, that you may become open to Him who is most precious.

One of the great challenges with Lent is that, like many other periods that start with a resolution, we start with great intentions that fade in a couple of weeks as we are worn down or distracted. A way to counteract this is to try not to start too strong. Start small, with a little in each category. Then after the first week add a little more, then a little more. Build steam as you progress through Lent. This helps with staying intentional about your practice and it works you into greater effort in your practice.

The key to it all is to recognize that the point of any practice it is not the practice itself, it is to grow in your relationship with the Lord. In growing in that relationship, you will grow in your own potential to hear and answer His call.