

Sunday School

EXCITING NEWS: We are offering IN PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL for our Toddler 2's - 6th Grade. These classes will be conducted right AFTER Holy Communion, every Sunday, for the remainder of the School Year!! Of course we understand that you may not be ready to return to church quite yet. For that reason we will continue to send out our VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL lessons every week.

We will not have classes for our 7th - High School students, but we do expect them to attend church in person or virtually, complete the weekly lesson on the Gospel Reading provided by Fr. Stavros, and attend GOYA meetings.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH:

SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH: FORGIVENESS SUNDAY - PREPARING FOR LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH: BEING A GOOD FRIEND - SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC



St. John's Greek Orthodox



SUNDAY SCHOOL

FORGIVENESS *Sunday*

We are rapidly approaching Great Lent, and it is time for us to begin to prepare our hearts! We begin Great Lent with Forgiveness Sunday because we need to remember how far we have strayed from the way God intended us to be, and how much we each need His forgiveness. We begin Great Lent with Forgiveness Vespers so that we can begin the lenten fast as forgiven people. Our Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses."

On the last Sunday before Great Lent begins, we remember the expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise. Adam was banished from Paradise through disobedience / and cast out from delight, / beguiled by the words of a woman. / Naked he sat outside the garden, lamenting 'Woe is me!' / Therefore let us all make haste to accept the season of the Fast / and hearken to the teaching of the Gospel, / that we may gain Christ's mercy // and receive once more a dwelling-place in Paradise. (Sticheron from Lord I have cried, 6th tone, Forgiveness Sunday)

Ask God and each other for forgiveness.

Let us begin the fast with joy!

Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts!

Let us cleanse our soul and cleanse our flesh!

Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food!

Let us rejoice in virtues of the Spirit and fulfill them in love,

that we all may see the Passion of Christ our God,

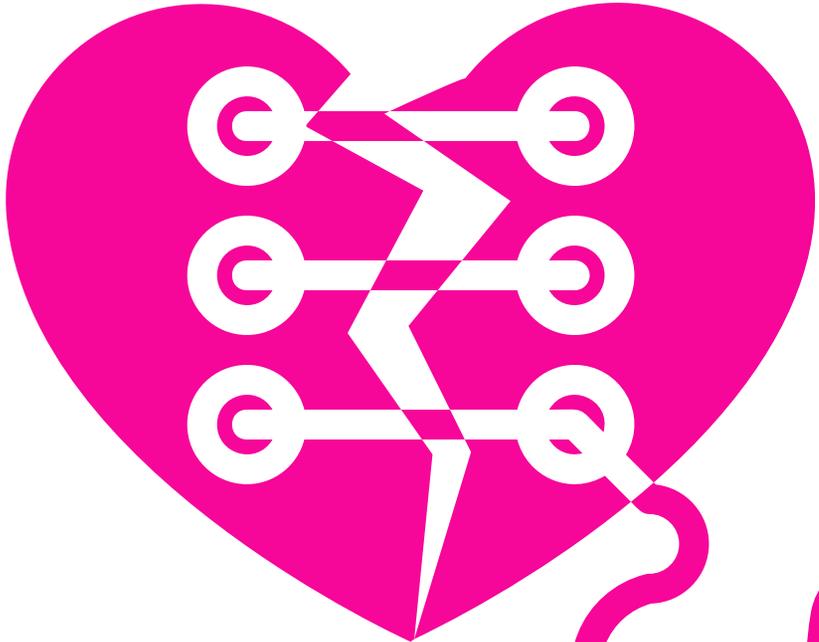
and rejoice in spirit at the holy Pascha!

WRITE DOWN 3 THINGS YOU ARE ASKING FORGIVENESS FOR AND 3 PEOPLE YOU FORGIVE. GO INTO LENT WITH A LIGHT AND LOVING HEART.

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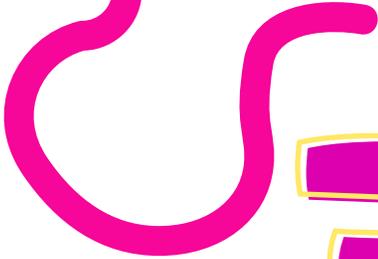
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