



February 25, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
ST. GREGORY OF THESSALONICA

Liturgical Schedule

Feb. 24 (Sat)	Divine Liturgy <i>+Fr. Edward Lucas req by Parish Family</i>	5:00pm
Feb. 25 (Sun)	Second Sunday of the Great Fast	
	ECF Classes	9:00am
	Divine Liturgy	10:30am
Feb. 27 (Tue)	Third Lenten Hour	9:00am
	Enrichment Session	
	Enrichment Session	7:00pm
Feb 28 (Wed)	Presanctified Liturgy	7:00pm
Mar 2 (Fri)	Presanctified Liturgy Hramoty—Remembrance of the Departed	7:00pm
Mar 3 (Sat)	Divine Liturgy <i>+Alfred and Mary Crocker req by Steve & Judi Muchoney</i>	5:00pm
Mar 4 (Sun)	Third Sunday of the Great Fast	
	Veneration of the Cross	
	ECF Classes	9:00am
	Divine Liturgy <i>Intention of our Parish Family</i>	10:30am



The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Feb.25 thru March 3 for the health and well-being of John & Audry Churma.

February 18, 2018
Our Tithe to our Parish—\$1,736.00



Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

Prayer of St. Ephrem

*Lord and Master of my life,
 Spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,
 Lust for power, and idle chatter.*

Prostration

*Instead, bestow on me, your servant,
 The spirit of integrity humility, patience and love.*

Prostration

*Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins
 And not judge my brothers and sisters,
 For you are blessed forever and ever. Amen*

Prostration



Dear Lord

During the season of Lent, we pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world. May all Christians who are suffering on account of their faith experience the spiritual and material support of the whole church.

Pope Francis

LOOKING AHEAD

As you may recall, we have had a wonderful and prayerful experience the last several years on Good Friday for the Burial Service of our Lord, especially due to the moving singing of a small group who have added their voices to the Service. Once again they will be participating in the Service and will begin practicing on Sunday, 25 February after the morning Divine Liturgy.



They would like to add a few more voices to this group. If you are willing to join them it would be wonderful. Please be free to come to the Educational wing at noon on Sundays and add your voice to the singing group

.LOOKING AHEAD ... SOME MORE

Yes, it's time for the next Pirohy Project. Here is our schedule.

Thursday	1 March	Making cabbage balls
Saturday	3 March	Making potato balls
Mon-Wed	5-7 March	Making Pirohy
Friday	9 March	Pirohy sale

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

We are already well into the season of the Great Fast ... the time of repentance and renewal of our lives.

The various themes of conversion ... humility ... judgment ... prayer ... fasting ... almsgiving ... have already been announced to us early in the Pre-Lenten season.

There are no new themes to attract our attention now ... rather, it is the time of *deepening* ... the time to let these themes take root in our lives.



Much like the soil in our gardens which is first turned over ... then it is nourished and fertilized ... then the seeds are carefully placed in the ground ... then we must *wait* ... wait for the germination to take place so that growth can begin.

This is the time of waiting ... and deepening ... so that the Lenten themes can germinate within us and growth can begin to take place. There is not a lot new for us to do. Rather, our call is to be *faithful* ... faithful to our Lenten style of life. We must continue to pray and fast ... to attend Church Services and read the Scriptures.

What we begin to experience is a gradual *freedom* ... a being set free from the bonds that have held us fast. Our Lenten discipline begins to set us free from former ways of life that have had a hold on us.

This freedom is also a prelude to our *transformation* ... gradually ... imperceptibly ... we are being transformed and transfigured ... made more God-like. Of course, we do not even see this in the beginning ... at times, we are not even able to see it at all ourselves. But if we are faithful to our Lenten discipline, you can be sure that a transformation will take place.

Once again, like the plant that emerges from beneath the ground ... it is gently but gradually drawn towards the light of the sun. The growth is such that we do not see it happen ... but if we wait a few days or a week, we see the results of this growth.

So too, we trust, is this growth and transformation taking place in us.