

February 15th, 2026
Sunday of Forgiveness

SUNDAY, 2/15 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

MONDAY, 2/16 **7:30 am** Typika Service

TUESDAY, 2/17 **No** Service

WEDNESDAY, 2/18 **No** Service

THURSDAY, 2/19 **No** Service

FRIDAY, 2/20 **7:15 am** Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts and Sorokousty

SATURDAY, 2/21 **4:00 pm** Divine Liturgy for special intention

SUNDAY, 2/22 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for special intention
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Announcements

1-COMMEMORATION OF THE DECEASED:
SOROKOUSTY

On Fridays during the Great Fast (Lent), we pray for all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. If you would like to request that your departed loved ones be remembered by name during the services, please call to the church office.

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS

On Monday, February 16th we begin the Season of the Great Fast. During each Sunday of the past four weeks, the Church has been preparing us to begin our Lenten journey with a specific Gospel lesson and spiritual food for thought. Let us make every deliberate effort to be more prayerful, humble, merciful and forgiving, abstaining from both food and sin during the next forty days “for now is the season of repentance. Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light” (from Forgiveness Vespers Stichera).

May our journey through the Great Fast be a true experience of spiritual growth and communion with our God who anxiously awaits our response to his love and forgiveness.

Our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of Lent, the following minimal Lenten regulations are in force in our Eparchy:

- 1. Abstinance from meat and all dairy products for the First Day of The Great Fast, February 16th and on Good Friday, April 3rd.**
- 2. Abstinance from meat only on all Fridays of Lent as well as Holy Saturday, April 4th. We also recommend voluntary abstinance from meat on all Wednesdays of Lent.**
- 3. Reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the Pascal season (from the onset of Lent to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday).**

*Upcoming Events
in Parish & Eparchy*
Feb. 15th – Sunday of Forgiveness
Feb. 16th – Great Lent begins

Fasting and Abstinance regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children before the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor.

Prayer and almsgiving oblige all!

Sunday of Forgiveness – The Door to Great Lent

The Sunday of Forgiveness stands at the threshold of Great Lent, inviting us to begin this sacred journey with purified hearts. In the Gospel, Christ teaches us plainly: “If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” Forgiveness is not optional for the Christian—it is the foundation upon which repentance is built.

Before we fast, before we increase our prayers, the Church calls us first to reconciliation. We cannot seek God’s mercy while refusing mercy to others. Just as Christ forgave us from the Cross, we are asked to release resentment, anger, and bitterness. Forgiveness does not deny pain or injustice, but it frees our hearts from the burden of hatred.

On this day, we ask one another for forgiveness—not as a mere custom, but as a sincere act of humility. We acknowledge that we have hurt others knowingly and unknowingly, and we begin Lent not as isolated individuals, but as a reconciled community.

As we enter the holy season, let us forgive from the heart, trusting that in forgiving others, we ourselves are healed. May the Lord grant us the grace to begin Great Lent with peace, humility, and renewed love.

“Forgive me, my brothers and sisters, and may God forgive us all.”

Introduction to the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

During the first week of Great Lent, and again in its fullness on the Fifth Wednesday of Lent, the Eastern Catholic Churches prayerfully chant the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. This profound penitential hymn is one of the most powerful spiritual texts in our liturgical tradition.

The Great Canon is a long meditation on repentance. Through a series of biblical images—from Adam and Eve to David, from the Prodigal Son to the Publican—it invites each of us to examine our lives honestly before God. St. Andrew does not merely recount Scripture; he places himself within it. Each example becomes a mirror for the soul. The repeated refrain, “Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,” echoes like the cry of the Publican, teaching us humility and contrition.

In the first week of Lent, the Canon is divided into four parts, helping us begin the season with seriousness and reflection. On the Fifth Wednesday, it is prayed in its entirety, as if gathering all our repentance into one heartfelt plea for God’s mercy.

The Great Canon reminds us that repentance is not despair, but hope. It is a return to the Father, a movement from darkness toward light. As we listen to its verses, we are called not simply to feel sorrow for sin, but to rise, like the Prodigal Son, and begin again.

May this sacred hymn guide us to deeper humility, sincere repentance, and renewed love for Christ during this holy season of Great Lent.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Sunday collections for the weekend of 2/8/26, including envelope offerings - \$906, donations -\$174, candles -\$74, online-\$30
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$1184

Support Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church



Protection of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Byzantine Rite
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Father Volodymyr Petrytsya
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci

Parish office phone 770-760-1111
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Email: parish@mogchurch.com
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Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

*THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.*