

February 22nd, 2026
First Sunday of the Great Lent

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

MONDAY, 2/23 7:30 am Typika Service

TUESDAY, 2/24 No Service

WEDNESDAY, 2/25 6:15 pm Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts

THURSDAY, 2/26 No Service

FRIDAY, 2/27 7:15 am Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts and Sorokousty

SATURDAY, 2/28 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy for special intention

SUNDAY, 3/1 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (English) for + Gloria Lachman
 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.

2 - Nighttime Prayers

Join us for Nighttime Prayers on March 6th, from 9:30 PM to Midnight, in our church. These prayers are a powerful offering to the Lord, as we set aside time normally reserved for rest to unite in sacrifice and devotion. Let us come together in prayer, seeking God's grace and blessings.

First Sunday of Great Lent – The Sunday of Orthodoxy

The First Sunday of Great Lent is celebrated in the Eastern Church as the Sunday of Orthodoxy, commemorating the restoration of the holy icons in the year 843. After a long period of controversy and persecution, the Church solemnly affirmed that the veneration of icons is rooted in the truth of the Incarnation: the Son of God truly became man. Because Christ took on real human flesh, He can be depicted. What was once invisible became visible; what was distant became near.

The triumph of icons was not merely a political or cultural victory. It was a defense of the very heart of our faith. If Christ is truly God and truly man, then He has sanctified the material world. Matter is no longer something separate from salvation; it becomes a vessel of grace. The icon, therefore, is not simply religious artwork. It is a proclamation in color and form that God entered human history, that He can be encountered, and that His glory shines through humanity.

*Upcoming Events
in Parish & Eparchy
March. 6h – First Friday Vigil*

Yet this Sunday is not only about right doctrine—it is also about personal renewal. We are created in the image and likeness of God. Through sin, that image can become obscured, distorted, or darkened. Great Lent is the time when Christ restores His image within us. Just as the holy icons were restored to the churches, we pray that the image of Christ may be restored in our hearts.

The Church teaches us that true Orthodoxy is not only correct belief, but a life transformed by repentance, humility, and love. It is possible to defend the faith outwardly while neglecting inner conversion. The Sunday of Orthodoxy calls us to unite faith and life, doctrine and holiness. We are invited not only to honor the icons on the walls of the church, but to become living icons of Christ in the world.

As we continue our Lenten journey, may this feast strengthen us to stand firm in the truth of our faith and to deepen our relationship with the Lord. May Christ, whose image we venerate, renew His likeness within us, so that our thoughts, words, and actions reflect His light.

Reflection on the Prayer of St. Ephrem

During Great Lent, the Church frequently prays the beautiful and profound Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian. This short prayer captures the very heart of the Lenten journey and guides us toward true repentance.

O Lord and Master of my life,
take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.
But grant rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Your servant.
Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother,
for You are blessed forever. Amen.

This prayer teaches us that repentance is not merely about avoiding wrongdoing, but about transforming the inner disposition of the heart. St. Ephrem names the spiritual illnesses that quietly damage our lives—laziness, hopelessness, pride, and careless speech. These attitudes weaken our relationship with God and with one another.

But the prayer does not stop with what we must remove; it asks God to plant virtues in their place: purity of heart, humility, patience, and love. Lent is not a season of negativity or self-condemnation, but a time of renewal and growth.

Perhaps the most powerful line is the final petition: “Grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother.” True spiritual progress begins when we look honestly at ourselves rather than comparing ourselves to others. Humility opens the door to mercy.

As we pray this prayer throughout Lent, accompanied by prostrations, we allow its words to shape our hearts. May the Prayer of St. Ephrem guide us toward sincere repentance, deeper humility, and a more loving spirit as we journey toward the joy of Pascha.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Sunday collections for the weekend of 2/15/26, including envelope offerings - **\$580**,
donations -**\$356**, candles -**\$109**, online-**\$40**
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$1085

Support Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church



**Protection of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Byzantine Rite**
2880 Highway 138 NE
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci

Parish office phone 770-760-1111
Emergency phone 224-400-0558
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.*