



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church*

“Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!”

“Glory to Him Forever! Slava Naviki Bohu!”

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, our potluck luncheon is open to everyone, especially our guests. Come join us for fellowship.

During the Great Lent, Christians prepare themselves through fasting, confession, prayer, almsgiving, frequent services, and all spiritual struggles, to be resurrected from their passions and sins.

Need to request an appointment with Father?

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

Prayers for the sick or other intentions:

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text or call Father at 216-532-6364.

Opportunities to Help with Fundraising...we are called into service

At this time, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling.** Cleaning the work areas and equipment are also welcomed opportunities to serve (can be an evening after work). **You are always needed, even if it is for a couple of hours.**

Please contact John Danovich, (317) 538-7444, to schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Saturday) for you and/or your family.

Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius

- Sellers are needed for the Saturday Carmel market to free up those who are baking all week.
- Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tues through Friday).
- **The packaging and mailing of off-site orders for Pascha bread and other baked goods, particularly between now and Pascha, needs to be managed. Without this help we will not be able to accommodate orders and will lose that income. Please check out the specifics on what is needed and make time in your schedule to fill this need.**
- Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.
- Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized, including bathrooms.
- Items for the food pantry are always needed; (food, toiletries, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, hand warmers during the winter).
- Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS MONDAY FEB12 AND CONTINUES TO PASCHA.

These directives are from <https://parma.org/news/directives-for-lent>
 Canon 880: 2. *Strict abstinence* is to be observed on the **first day of the Great Fast and on Great Friday**. *Simple abstinence* is to be observed on **Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast**.

Strict abstinence forbids the use of meat and dairy products, including eggs. *Simple abstinence* forbids the use of meat and meat products. The laws of strict and simple abstinence bind all the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma.

Expectant and nursing mothers, infants, those with serious health conditions, and those under physician’s orders are exempt from the laws of strict abstinence. **Food served at the Sunday luncheons during Lent will be meatless.**

THIRD ANNUAL MEN’S RETREAT March 15-17, 2024

From Fallen Passions to Apatheia: Pursuing the Virtuous Life
 Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, Ohio Retreat Master: Father Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA. Contact Karl Busam for further information 419-626-6811 or e-mail karl.busam.77@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Please consider making a sacrificial gift to this year’s Appeal that reflects the importance of the Church in your life and in the lives of those close to you. The Eparchy needs your support for Development of Parishes, Vocations, etc.

2024 ByzanTEEN Rally

The Rally will take place in San Diego on **June 27-30, 2024**. Registration for the event will be open on Jan 20th, and we are thrilled to invite all teens in your parish ages 13-17. The price for the event weekend is \$380.

The food pantry is almost bare. Especially needed are ready to eat items that do not require cooking or a can opener. There are requests for cereal, peanut butter and crackers, soup, tuna, etc.

Thanks to all who serve the parish. Everyone is encouraged to help. Thank you to all who helped with Bishop Robert’s visit last Sunday.

Cheese-Fare Sunday is also called Forgiveness Sunday. The gospel reading (Matthew 6: 14-21) includes the message of forgiveness, fasting, and building up our treasures in heaven. How appropriate a reading for the day before the beginning of Lent! Cheese-fare is also the last day to eat dairy products before Great Lent.

Services for the Week of February 11 – February 18, 2024				
Day		Time	Service	Readings
Sunday	February 11 Sunday of Cheese-Fare	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Forgiveness Vespers	Rom 13:11-14:4 Mt 6:14-21
Monday	February 12 1 st Week of the Great Fast	6:00 PM	Katisma 1	Gen 1:1-13 Prov 1:1-20
Tuesday	February 13 Martinian Venerable	6:00 PM	Jesus Prayer	Gen 1:14-23 Prov 1:20-33
Wednesday	February 14 Auxentius Venerable	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy	Gen 1:24-2:3 Prov 2:1-21
Thursday	February 15 Onesimus-Apostle	6:00 PM	9 th Hour	Gen 2:4-19 Prov 3:1-18
Friday	February 16 Pamphilus and Others - Martyrs	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy	Gen 2:20-3:20 Prov 3:19-34
Saturday	February 17 Commemoration of the Miracle of the Great Martyr Theodore	5:00 PM	Vespers Confessions	Heb 1:1-12 Mk 2:23-3:5
Sunday	February 18 1 st Sunday of the Great Fast	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon ECF	Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Jn 1:43-51

Financial Report 2/4/24

Date	Bakery Sales	Building Fund	Candle	Holy Day	Sunday Tithes	Weekly Total
2/4	\$1,005.18		\$182.00		\$1,585.28	\$2772.46

Sunday of Forgiveness or Cheese-Fare

Romans 13:11-14:4

The Day Is Near

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.^[a]

The Weak and the Strong

¹⁴ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Matthew 6:14-21

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Fasting

¹⁶ "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday illustrates our ideal Lenten journey, which begins with forgiveness. In order to restore our communion with God, we need forgiveness for the multitude of our sins. This passage reminds us that if we want forgiveness from God, we need to also forgive others. If we treasure God's forgiveness, then our heart will be full of forgiveness for our brothers and sisters. During Great Lent, the Church offers us the opportunity to serve others willingly. We can more effectively serve if we are forgiving, not holding grudges. Forgiving others and serving them restores our relationship with them and opens our hearts to receive forgiveness from God through the Mystery of Confession. The reading continues by telling us how to fast: not by showing off, but simply and quietly, in a genuine way. If we treasure a relationship with God, our heart will be full of joyful and non-pretentious fasting. During Lent we are invited to eat less and pray more, giving God our attention instead of seeking the attention of others or looking to food for satisfaction. Working to control our physical body's desires and spending more time and energy in prayer restores our relationship to God.

THE RITE OF FORGIVENESS: You might ask why you should ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to you, some of whom you might barely know. In Her wisdom, the Church shows us there are so many subtle ways of offending Divine Love. Indifference, selfishness, lack of interest/concern for others—in short, that wall we erect around ourselves, thinking that by being "polite" and "friendly" we fulfill God's commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize our entire relationship to other humans is deeply fallen. It allows us to encounter one another as children of God, so we can feel that mutual "recognition" which is lacking in our cold and dehumanized world.

WHY BEGIN GREAT LENT THIS WAY?: For too many people, Lent means a simple change of diet, a way to fulfill requirements for what the Church doesn't want you to eat for some reason. They see fasting as an end in itself, as a "good deed" required by God and carrying in itself its merit and reward. But, the Eastern Orthodox Church makes clear that fasting is a means toward a higher goal: our spiritual renewal, our return to God through true repentance and reconciliation. If we turn fasting into a legalistic obligation, we endanger our very souls. Moreover, forgiveness rests at the very center of the Christian faith and life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us. So that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for, the Lenten season.

The Sunday of Forgiveness helps to put us in the right frame of mind for the start of the Great Fast. Let us take some time to meditate on these teachings from Our Lord, so we may fast in a genuine, joyful manner and forgive others as God forgives us.

<https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/sunday-of-forgiveness-cheesefare/>



Pastor: Rev. Mykhaylo Shkyndya

Cantors: Brian Goshorn, John
Danovich, Suzanne Goshorn

Business Manager: John
Danovich 317-538-7444

Phones: Office: 317-632-4157;

Cell Phone (Fr. Mykhaylo):
216-532-6364

Weekend Divine Services

Saturday: 5 PM Vespers

Sunday: 8:15 AM Matins
10 AM Divine Liturgy

1117 South Blaine Avenue,
Indianapolis, IN 46221

Website: www.saindy.com

Email: sabcc@indy.rr.com