

Variations in the Divine Liturgy

Before/After the Little Entrance we sing:

The Resurrection from the Octoechos (Nassar, 178; Kazan Sun. Mat., 24) Tone 6

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Holy Cross (Nassar, 298; Kazan Triod. Vol. 2, 81) Tone 1

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, granting our believing kings victory over the Barbarians, and by the power of thy Cross preserving thy commonwealth.

Troparion of the Holy Forty Great Martyrs of Sebaste

Those noble soldiers of the Master of all let us honor, for they were united by their faith as they passed through fire and water, and being enlisted by Christ they entered to divine refreshment. Now those pious warriors stand and intercede with Christ God for those who cry out. Glory to Him that hath given you strength, Glory to him that hath crowned you, Glory to Him that made you wondrous, Holy Forty Martyrs.

Kontakion of the Annunciation (Nassar, 524; or Liturgicon) Tone 8

To thee the champion leader, I thy servant offer thanks for victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror. As thou hast power invincible, free me from every danger that I may cry unto thee: Rejoice, O bride without bridegroom.

The Trisagion is replaced with "Before thy Cross...". (Kazan Triod. Vol. 2, 102)

The Epistle

Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Third Sunday of Great Lent)
Save, O Lord, thy people, and bless thine inheritance.
Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord, O my God.

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset

with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Holy Gospel

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Third Sunday of Great Lent)

The Lord saith: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

Announcements

The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste Feast Day: We will celebrate the feast day of The Forty Holy Martyrs on Tuesday the 9th of March with a presanctified liturgy at 6:30 p.m., followed by Agape meal in the hall.

Other priests from neighboring churches will be coming to serve or to participate in this event and they will be inviting people from their congregations to attend.

Anyone would like to donate anything for the Agape meal, such as soft drinks, or food (Lenten), etc., please contact Mrs. Sahar Steadman.

Service on Sunday 21st March will start early, at 9:30 a.m. Saidna Bishop Basil will be ordaining Deacon Anthony at Saint George and we will start early so anyone who wishes to attend the ordination will have time to travel there after our service.

Great and Holy Lent: Strict fasting: No meat, fish or dairy products allowed except for special days. Please see the bulletin cover for any exceptions this week.

Great and Holy Lent Service Schedule:

Services will be served every night @ 6:30 pm
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: Great Compline
Wednesday: Presanctified Liturgy
Friday: Akasis Service

Saturday as usual: Vespers @ 5:00 pm

Catechumen Classes: Classes will start soon. If you would like to join, or know of anyone who may like to attend, please let father know soonest.

Choir Rehearsal and Liturgical Guidance: Tuesday evening after service. All are invited to learn our Liturgical music and join the choir.

Bible Bowl: If you would like to participate in this year's bible bowl, please see Ghassan Mobayed for details.

Arabic Liturgy: There will be no Arabic Liturgy until after Great Lent.

2010 Fundraising: Volunteers wishing to participate in 2010 festival should see Raed Salti or John Steadman.

Office Hours: As Father may have to leave the office during normal hours, please call either the office (281-240-4845), or Father's cell phone (713-357-8871) to arrange an appointment.

Confessions: Father is available on Saturday, or at any time by prior appointment. Confessions will not be heard on Sundays.

Visitors and Guests: We welcome you to The Forty Holy Martyrs Mission; a growing pan-Orthodox community in Sugar Land. At the end of the Divine Liturgy you are invited to venerate the Holy Cross and to receive the andidoron (blessed bread). You are also invited to our coffee hour immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Hall. Please remember that Orthodox Christians practice a closed communion, which means that only baptized or chrismated Orthodox faithful, who have properly prepared themselves, may approach the chalice to receive the Holy Eucharist.

THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE ORTHODOX MISSION

340 Eldridge Rd. Sugar Land, TX
77478

Father Gabriel Karam

Office Tel: 281-240-4845

Cell: 713-357-8871

Email: fr_karam@40martyrs.org

www.fortymartyrs.org

REGULAR SERVICES

Great Vespers: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Matins/Orthros: Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Please see the website for other services

7th March 2010

**Third Sunday of Great Lent and the
Adoration of the Holy Cross**

Celebrated today:

The Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Kapiton, Elpidios, Agathodoros and Aetherios; Venerable Laurence; Venerable Paul the Simple, disciple of Venerable Anthony the Great.

Fasting guidelines for this week:

Oil and wine allowed Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday. All other days: strict fast.

*A Mission of the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and
The Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America*

