

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE 5**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## **APOLYTIKION OF FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN 2**

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

## **TROPARIAN OF THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS TONE 1**

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 FOR THE ANNUNCIATION (GREAT LENT) 8**

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.*

*For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets; who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of

whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)**

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

## **We Celebrate Today**

On February 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Tarasios the confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Reginos, bishop of Skopelos; Hieromartyr Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria; Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis.

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence

The icons formerly unfittingly banished.

This restoration was accomplished in the year 842. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

+**Please remember in your prayers**\*The kidnapped Hierarchs, Metropolitan Paul, and Archbishop Yohanna.

\*The servants of God, for their healing: Sonia, Wassim, Mariam, Vanda, Ghalia, Chris, Daniella, Mireille, Salim and Haya.

+ **Daily Prayer:** Monday & Tuesday @ 6pm Great Compline

Wednesday @ 6 pm. Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday @ 6 pm Great Compline (Arabic)

Friday @ 6 pm Akathist service. **المدائح**

+**Sunday of Orthodoxy:** Do not forget to bring your icons with you on Sunday for the procession at the end of the Liturgy. And all Orthodox parishes in the Houston area will come together to serve Vespers for the Triumph of Orthodoxy, on February 25<sup>th</sup>. At 5pm. @ St. Anthony Antiochian Church.

+ **Bookstore Sale . Special discounts on all the Items. Up to 20%**

+**2018 MEMBERSHIP FORMS** is available in the Hall or online. A new form must be on file each year for members to be *in good standing*. The work and ministry of The Forty Holy Martyrs Church is made possible by tithing and pledging members. *May God bless your generosity!*

+ **The Annual Lenten Retreat March 2-3.** Our guest speaker is **Fr. Dr. Paul Tarazi**. Professors of the Old and New Testament in several seminaries. And author of many books.

+**Feast of the Forty Holy Martyrs March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Presanctified Liturgy on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>. @ 6 pm. Followed by Coffee, Tea and snacks.

+**Guests and visitors** are always welcome at Forty Holy Martyrs church, and you are invited to join us after the liturgy for coffee hour.

### **The Church Of Christ**

***We know and are convinced that falling away from the Church, whether into schism, heresy, or sectarianism, is complete perdition and spiritual death. For us there is no Christianity outside of the Church. If Christ established the Church, and the Church is His Body, then to be cut of from His Body is to die.***

(St. Hilarion Troitsky, On Life in the Church)

## **THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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Gabriel Karam*

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**REGULAR SERVICES**

Every Night Service  
@ 6:00 pm

Great Vespers: Saturday  
5:00 PM(English)

Matins/Orthros: Sunday  
8:45 AM(English)

Divine Liturgy: Sunday  
10:00 AM(English)

Please visit our website for  
additional information.

[www.40martyrs.org](http://www.40martyrs.org)

 forty Holy Martyrs Sugar  
Land

340 Eldridge Rd.  
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Divine Liturgy

**FEBRUARY 25 -2018**

**TONE 5/ EOTHINON 5;  
FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT  
LENT**

**(SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)**

TARASIOS THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE; HIEROMARTYR REGINOS, BISHOP  
OF SKOPELOS; HIEROMARTYR MARKELLOS, BISHOP  
OF APAMEA IN SYRIA; MARTYR ALEXANDER OF  
MARKIANOPOLIS



**Great Holy Lent Started.**

**Strict Fast Till Noon  
& Lent.**

