

**Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese Fare)**  
**March 2, 2025**

Martyr Hesychios the Senator; Theodotos, bishop of Cyrene in Cyprus; Virgin-martyr Euthalia of Sicily

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3)**

Byzantine Tone 3

Basil Kazan  
(1915 - 2001)

Ison

Let the heav - ens re - joice and the earth be glad,  
for the Lord hath done a might - y act with his own arm.  
He hath tram - pled down death by death and be - come the First -  
born from the dead. He hath de - liv - ered us from the  
depths of ha - des, grant - ing the world the great mer - cy.

**Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)**

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

**Kontakion (Tone 1)**

O Thou who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word,

O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

**Prokeimenon**

Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them. God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

**Epistle**

**Romans 13:11-14:4**

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

**Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 6:14-21**

If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who sees in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



**Assisting Priest:** Fr. Michael Kontogiorgis

**Holy Bread:** Kh Meleah Palke/Carol Ofiesh/Pr. Vicki Kontogiorgis

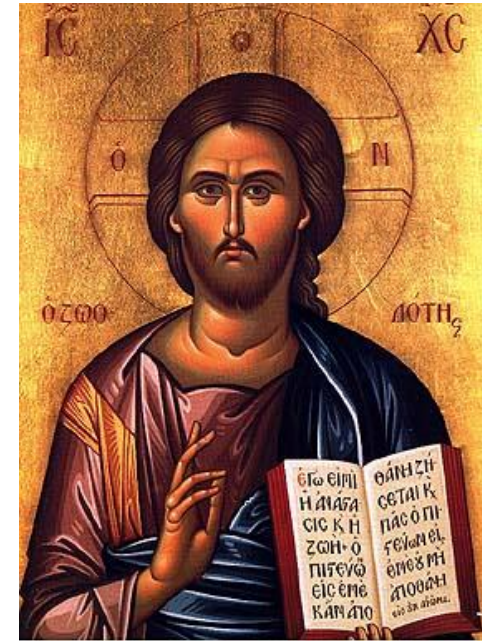
**Commemorations(Living):** Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, George, Joan, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Cassi, Nina, Dominick, Yina, Rashid, Hala, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Gabriela, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, suffering believers throughout the world.

**Zoom Prayer/Bible Study is Wednesday at 8:00 PM.** We are studying the Gospel according to St. John, chapters 7 and 8. We begin with prayer, using the service of Compline.

**Know your faith.** Who was the father of John the Baptist? Zacharias. What was his profession? Priest. “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice” is written in Philippians 4:4 by St. Paul. A list of saints who lived by faith is found in Hebrews, chapter 11. “Beloved, let us love one another” (1 John 4:7). Who said that we should earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints? Jude (he wrote a short book of the NT and was the half-brother of Jesus). The Orthodox Church uses 8 tones in its cycles of worship. The liturgical book used for the Lenten season is called the Lenten Triodion. In the OC Sunday is always dedicated to the resurrection of Christ. Wednesdays and Fridays commemorate Christ’s passion. Monday’s theme honors the bodiless powers. Tuesday is dedicated to the memory of John the Baptist. Thursday is dedicated to the holy apostles. Saturday is dedicated to the Theotokos and all the saints.

**Today is Forgiveness Sunday.** Nothing is more important than that we be reconciled to Christ and to one another. As we share mutual forgiveness from the heart, it is Christ who forgives and brings us together by his love. In this way the “doors of Paradise” are opened to us, and we begin to understand why we will fast and pray, and what we hope to obtain during the Lenten journey. We will share mutual forgiveness today as we ask each other for forgiveness (“forgive me, a sinner”) and respond (“God forgives and I forgive”).

**Next Sunday at 5:00 PM, the annual Pan-Orthodox Vespers** will be held at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church (3149 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church). The homily will be offered by Metropolitan Tikhon (OCA). Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey (GOA) will preside and Bishop Thomas (AOC) will also be present.



## St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Metropolitan Saba, Primate  
Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Meeting at Compton Village  
14401 Compton Village Dr.  
Centreville, Virginia 20121  
Fr. Thomas L. Palke, Pastor  
3041 Donnington Court  
Jeffersonton, VA 22724  
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