



San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community

Meeting at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
1202 S. Zarzamora St., San Antonio, TX
February 12, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Please join us for hospitality in the classroom in the rear of the church after Divine Liturgy.

We welcome our guests. Please sign the guest book in the back of the church. If you would like to be added to our mailing list leave your email address. Please stay and visit after Liturgy. Our website is www.stanastasiasa.org. Also please leave your email in the guest book so you can be added to the mailing list.

The Great Fast begins on February 27. Pascha is on April 16. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be served every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm. Pascal Matins and Divine Liturgy will be served starting at 10:00 pm on Saturday February 15 at 10:00 pm. Easter baskets will be blessed after the Liturgy and a reception will follow.

We are trying to establish a census for our petition to the Archeparchy for mission status. You will receive an email asking whether we can count you as a member of our community for purposes of this petition. Please respond so we may move ahead with this process.

The Byzantine Community in Austin will have weekly services on Sunday evening at 5:00 pm at Saint Michael's Catholic Academy, 3000 Barton Creek Blvd, Austin TX 78735

Often there are questions about fasting regulations in the Byzantine Catholic Church. The normal fasting time before communion is the same as in the Roman Catholic Church, one hour before receiving communion. A good source for answers to fasting questions and a lot of other things is Byzantine 101 http://www.eparchyofphoenix.org/education_of_the_faithful.html

Remember you are all welcome to stop by the church hall for breakfast after the 11:00 mass at St. Alphonsus.

We always need help. If you are interested in being a reader or altar server or singing in the choir please see Fr. Ramon.

Please put the books on the table by the entrance door. Drop you donation in the basket on the counter.

2-5-17

Attendance	25
Collection	\$533

Expenditures for the last two weeks

2-11-17	St. Alphonsus	Facilities	\$700
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Fr. Ramon J. Gonzalez, O.P.
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Readings for the 39th Week After Pentecost

2/13	1 John 2:18-3:10	Mark 11:1-11
2/14	1 John 3:11-20	Mark 14:10-42
2/15	1 John 3:21-4:6	Mark 14:43-15:1
2/16	1 John 4:20-5:21	Mark 15:1-15
2/17	2 John 1:1-13	Mark 15:22-25, 33-41
2/18	1 Corinthians 10:23-28	Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

In the Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness and He blesses by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.

First All Souls Saturday (February 18)

Next Saturday is the First All Souls Saturday in the Eastern Christian Tradition. Here is a little bit about this observance from Wikipedia.



Saturday of Souls (or **Soul Saturday**) is a day set aside for commemoration of the dead within the [liturgical year](#) of the [Eastern Orthodox](#) and [Greek-Catholic](#) Churches. Saturday is a traditional day for prayer for the dead, because Christ lay dead in the [Tomb](#) on Saturday.

There are several Soul Saturdays throughout the year:

- The Saturday of Meatfare Week (the second Saturday before [Great Lent](#))—the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgement
- The second Saturday of Great Lent
- The third Saturday of Great Lent
- The fourth Saturday of Great Lent
- [Radonitsa](#) (Monday or Tuesday after Thomas Sunday)
- The Saturday before [Pentecost](#)
- [Demetrius](#) Saturday (the Saturday before the feast of Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki—26 October). In the [Bulgarian Orthodox Church](#) there is a commemoration of the dead on the Saturday before the feast of [Saint Michael the Archangel](#)—8 November, instead of the Demetrius Soul Saturday.

These days are devoted to prayer for departed relatives and others among the faithful who might not be commemorated specifically as [Saints](#). The [Divine Services](#) on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is normally a [Panikhida](#) (memorial service) served either after the [Divine Liturgy](#) on Saturday morning, or after [Vespers](#) on Friday evening, for which [Koliva](#) (a dish made of boiled [wheatberries](#) and honey) is prepared and placed in front of the cross or [icon](#) before which the Panikhida is served. After the service, the priest blesses the koliva and it is then eaten as a memorial by all present.

All Orthodox and Byzantine Catholics observe Soul Saturdays on [Meatfare Saturday](#) (i.e., two Saturdays before the beginning of [Great Lent](#)); the second, third, and fourth Saturdays of Great Lent; and the Saturday before [Pentecost](#).

Other Orthodox, such as the [Serbian Orthodox](#), observe commemorations of the dead on the Saturdays before August 8 and before October 24. The [Russians](#) observe memorials on the Saturdays closest to October 26 ([Saint Demetrius](#)), and September 23 (Conception of St. [John the Forerunner](#)).

Another memorial day, [Radonitsa](#), does not fall on a Saturday, but on either Monday or Tuesday of the second week after [Pascha](#) (Easter). Radonitsa does not have special hymns for the dead at the Divine Services, but instead, a Panikhida will follow the Divine Liturgy, and then all will bring paschal foods to the cemeteries to greet the departed with the joy of the Resurrection.

