



San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community

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

February 19, 2017

Meat Fare Sunday

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

Welcome 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. Visit 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.

*Read Kaiserswests meditation on Lent and the prevalence of sin in our culture today.
<https://kaiserswest.wordpress.com/author/kaiserswest/>*

Read Bishop Williams exhortation on the coming Great Lent <http://www.archpitt.org/spiritual-growth-season-lent/>

*Watch a short video of Pope Francis's visit to the country of Georgia last October.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmvqgb6Di3U>*

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.

2-12-17

Attendance 37
Collection \$508

Expenditures for the last two weeks

None			
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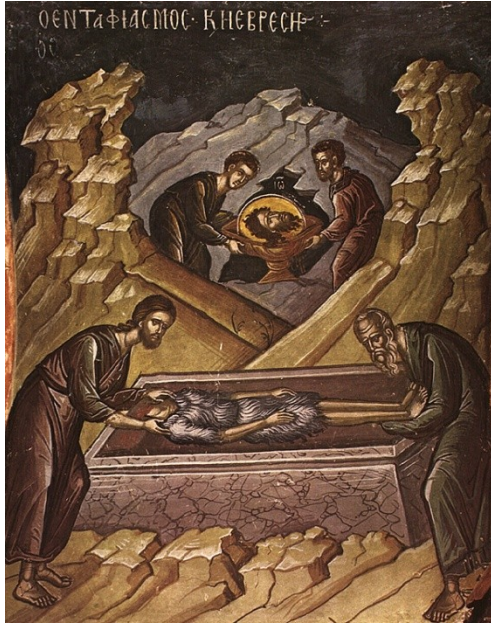
Readings for the Meat-Fare Week

2/20	3 John 1:1-15	Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39
2/21	Jude 1:1-10	Luke 22:39-42, 45-23:1
2/22	Joel 2:12-26 Joel 3:12-21	
2/23	Jude 1:11-25	Luke 23:2-34, 44-56
2/24	Zechariah 8:7-17 Zechariah 8:19-23	
2/25	Romans 14:19-23, 16:25-27	Matthew 6:1-13

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 and second finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord, John

Celebrated on February 23



After the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (August 29), his body was buried by disciples in the Samaritan city of Sebaste, and his venerable head was hidden by Herodias in an unclean place. Saint Joanna (June 27), the wife of King Herod's steward Chuza (Luke 8:3), secretly took the holy head and placed it into a vessel and buried it on the Mount of Olives in one of Herod's properties.

After many years, this property passed into the possession of a government official who became a monk with the name of Innocent. He built a church and a cell there. When they started to dig the foundation, the vessel with the venerable head of John the Baptist was uncovered. Innocent recognized its great holiness from the signs of grace emanating from it. Thus occurred the First Finding of the Head. Innocent preserved it with great piety, but fearful that the holy relic might be abused by unbelievers, before his own death he again hid it in that same place, where it was found. Upon his death the church fell into ruin and was destroyed.

During the days of Saint Constantine the Great (May 21), when Christianity began to flourish, the holy Forerunner appeared twice to two monks journeying to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and he revealed the location of his venerable head.

The monks uncovered the holy relic and, placing it into a sack of camel-hair, they proceeded homewards. Along the way they encountered an unnamed potter and gave him the precious burden to carry. Not knowing what he was carrying, the potter continued on his way. But the holy Forerunner appeared to him and ordered him to flee from the careless and lazy monks, with what he held in his hands. The potter concealed himself from the monks and at home he preserved the venerable head with reverence. Before his death he placed it in a water jug and gave it to his sister.

From that time the venerable head was successively preserved by devout Christians, until the priest Eustathius (infected with the Arian heresy) came into possession of it. He beguiled a multitude of the infirm who had been healed by the holy head, ascribing their cures to the fact that it was in the possession of an Arian. When his blasphemy was uncovered, he was compelled to flee. After he buried the holy relic in a cave, near Emesa, the heretic intended to return later and use it for disseminating falsehood. God, however, did not permit this. Pious monks settled in the cave, and then a monastery arose at this place. In the year 452 Saint John the Baptist appeared to Archimandrite Marcellus of this monastery, and indicated where his head was hidden. This became celebrated as the Second Finding. The holy relic was transferred to Emesa, and later to Constantinople.