



# San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community

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

March 19, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
Veneration of the Holy Cross

*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](http://www.stanastasiasa.org). Also please leave your email in the guest book so you can be added to the mailing list.*

**REMEMBER LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS  
FRIDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE CHURCH**

*This Sunday, the Feast of the Veneration of the Holy Cross, is the sixth anniversary of the first Divine Liturgy for St. Anastasia Byzantine Catholic Community. This week would be a good time to reflect on the Statement of Purpose we created in 2011.*

The San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community is a group of believing people who have come together to pursue the organization of a mission parish of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America in San Antonio, Texas. This mission parish will be under the aegis of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Houston, Texas, and the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The mission will serve regular Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Feast days of the Church and will serve other Liturgies as appropriate for the day and season. It will meet the spiritual needs of Eastern Rite Catholics of several jurisdictions who reside in the San Antonio, Texas area and will provide a spiritual home to all who find the Eastern Christian traditions reinforce their personal spiritual journey.

*How well have we fulfilled that Statement in the last six years? .*

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.*

3-12--17

Attendance	23
Collection	\$0

Expenditures for the last two weeks

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Fr. Ramon J. Gonzalez, O.P.  
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church  
2004 Chihuahua St,  
San Antonio, TX 78207  
Phone: [\(210\) 433-9365](tel:2104339365)  
[framon@icloud.com](mailto:framon@icloud.com)

Bulletin announcements, Jim Groff 210-269-5610 or [sabcc324@gmail.com](mailto:sabcc324@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stanastasiasa.org](http://www.stanastasiasa.org)

Readings for the fourth week of the Great Fast

3/20	Isaiah 14:24-32	Genesis 8:21-9:7	Proverbs 11:19-12:6
3/21	Isaiah 25:1-9	Genesis 9:8-17	Proverbs 12:8-22
3/22	Isaiah 26:21-27:9	Genesis 9:18-10:1	Proverbs 12:23-13:9
3/23	Isaiah 28:14-22	Genesis 10:32-11:9	Proverbs 13:19-14:6
3/24	Isaiah 29:13-23	Genesis 12:1-7	Proverbs 14:15-26
3/25		Hebrews 6:9-12	Mark 7:31-37

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.

# Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.



The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful

manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

[http://lent.goarch.org/sunday\\_of\\_the\\_cross/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/sunday_of_the_cross/learn/)