

# The Gospel's Voice



## **Orthodox Parish of the Holy Transfiguration**

**Number 27, February 2018**

### **Lent**

Here comes the time of Lent, the time of fasting and recollection. This will put us face to face with God who comes in the flesh to save us. His coming is also a judgment, because it is not possible to meet God without being confronted with judgment.

Is there anything in common between us and the Son of God, something that is like sacrificial love, crucified, abandoned, in our hands?

Lent does not mean that we are incited to multiply our requests to God, or to present ourselves to communion more frequently than usual. Lent is the time when we must stand before the judgment of God, listen to the voice of our conscience and refrain from communion if we cannot do it worthily. Communion worthily means that before approaching the chalice we must reconcile

ourselves with our adversaries in our quarrels; we must make an examination of the thoughts of our mind and of our heart, which convict us of the betrayal of God and of perfection with men, and act accordingly; we must make peace with the living God, so that it does not appear that he died for us in vain. Our first task, therefore, is, after having passed through the confession, repentance, scrupulous examination of our life, to probe our conduct, to lay ourselves open without indulgence and without pity. We will depart from all that could condemn us, and we will not negligently approach the Holy Table.

Let us enter Lent, let us prepare ourselves to discipline our minds with rigor, to scrutinize carefully the movements of our heart. Let's ask ourselves about our behavior towards others, ourselves, God. Do we do in church, as we are invited, learning prayer, worship and obedience to the divine commandments?

Let us pay more attention than usual to the physical rules of fasting. They are calculated to help us shake off our lack of dynamism and our complacency towards our weaknesses, to awaken our sensitivity and vigor, to prevent us from numbing ourselves in our attachment to the earth, which hinders all elevation to God.

Follow these rules, observe with rigor the necessary dispositions during all the duration of Lent, be in expectation of the coming of the Lord, dismiss any passivity, keep you in a state of watch like that of a sentinel on the watch waiting for the arrival of his King. Let us remember that to find oneself in the presence of God is the greatest and most holy honor that can befall us; we have in this no "right," it is an honor, the most sublime, that God makes us, let's have a behavior worthy of him!

According to Antoine Bloom, *the sacrament of healing*,  
Cerf, pp 79-82

*Among all the hymns and prayers of Lent is a short prayer that may be called the Lent Prayer. Tradition attributes it to St. Ephrem the Syrian. Here is the text:*

Lord and master of my life,  
do not abandon me to the spirit of laziness,  
discouragement, domination  
and vain chatter!

But give grace to me your servant,  
of the spirit of chastity,  
of humility, patience and charity.

Yes, Lord King, grant me to see my faults  
and not to condemn my brother,  
O You who is blessed forever and ever.  
Amen

# Divine Liturgy

*Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.*

**Friday 2nd** : Presentation of our Lord at the Temple

**Sunday 4th** : Prodigal Son

**11th** : Last judgment (Meat Fare)

**18th** : Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)

**Monday 19th** : begining of the Great Lent

**25th** : Triumph of Orthodoxy

*Matins at 9.30 a.m. every week day.*

## The Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration

Grande-Rivière N-O  
Mauritius  
(behind Garage BALA)

**Divine Liturgy every  
Sunday  
at 9.30 a.m.**

Web site:

<http://orthodoxchurchmauritius.org>

*Matins at 9.30 a.m. every  
week day.*



- Father **Athanasios**: 57 33 32 53

E-mail: [p.athanasios@myt.mu](mailto:p.athanasios@myt.mu)

- Father **IAN**: 52 57 90 53

E-mail: [fr.ian@antiochian.org.nz](mailto:fr.ian@antiochian.org.nz)

- Father **Jean**: 59 05 70 23

E-mail: [klepperbali@gmail.com](mailto:klepperbali@gmail.com)