

THE DOMESTIC CHURCH PRAYS

Week of February 24-March 1, 2025

The following prayers and Scripture Readings are meant to accompany the daily prayers of the family, which is called the “Domestic Church.” It is recommended that the *Horologion* (available from: melkite.org) be used in part, or the small green *A Book of Hours* published by Bishop Nicholas. If these are not available; in the evening say Psalm 141 (140) *Lord to You I call...*; and in the morning say Psalms 148-150. To these add the troparia of the day, (and the Scripture Readings, if desired), and your petitions to God.

Readings of the Week – *CHEESE-FARE WEEK*,

MONDAY – *See February 24*

TUESDAY - Jude 1:1-10; Luke 22:39-23:1

WEDNESDAY - Sixth Hour Reading: Joel 2:12-26

THURSDAY – Vespers’ Reading – Joel 3:12-21; Jude 1:11-25; Luke 23:57-75

FRIDAY - Sixth Hour Reading: Zechariah 8:7-17

SATURDAY – *See below*

MONDAY, 2/24 – FINDING THE HEAD OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST – 3rd Class

Troparion Of John (*Tone 4*)

The head of the Forerunner arose from the earth like a star, sending out rays of healing and immortality. In heaven, it gathers together the choirs of Angels, while on earth it assembles the human race in a single voice to sing the glory of Christ God.

Theotokion of the Resurrection (*Tone 4*)

The mystery which was hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels has been revealed through you O Theotokos to those on earth, for God took flesh in a union without commixture, and willingly took up the cross by which He elevated the first man, and saved our souls from death

Kontakion Of John (*Tone 2*)

O Prophet of God and Forerunner of grace: within the earth we have discovered your head, a rose of great holiness whence healing always comes to us. As you did of old, now also do you preach repentance to the world.

Apostichon Psalm: Psalm 115

1. O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

2. The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar.
3. Glory to the Father... Now and always...

Vespers’ Readings: (*Optional*) Isaiah 40:1-5, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1; Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 19, 17, 22-24; Wisdom 4:7, 16-17, 19-20; 5:1

Orthros Gospel: Luke 7:17-30

2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 11:2-15

TUESDAY, 2/25 – SAINT TARASIOS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Troparion of Saint Tarasios (*Tone 4*)

O Father and Pontiff Tarasios, the holiness of your life was set before your flock as a rule of faith, and an example meekness. You acquired greatness through humility and spiritual wealth through poverty. Pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

Weekday Theotokion for Tuesday (*Tone 4*)

Let us poor sinners hasten with fervor to the Mother of God; let us humbly kneel before her and say from the depth of our hearts: “O Lady, be kind to us and help us. Hasten, for we are perishing under a multitude of sins. Do not turn away your servants empty-handed, for you are their only hope and protection.

WEDNESDAY, 2/26 – SAINT PORPHYRIUS OF GAZA

Troparion of Saint Porphyrius (*Tone 4*)

O Father and Pontiff Porphyrius, the holiness of your life was set before your flock as a rule of faith, and an example meekness. You acquired greatness through humility and spiritual wealth through poverty. Pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

Troparia for the end of Lenten Vespers (*Tone 5*) *Used Wednesday and Friday of this week*

-Hail, O Mother of God, Virgin Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to the Savior of our souls.

-O you Baptizer of Christ, remember us all, that we may be forgiven, for you have been favored with the grace of interceding in our behalf.

-Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

-O holy apostles and all you saints, intercede for us, that we may be protected against danger and distress, for we have obtained you as our eager intercessors before the Savior.

-Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

-O Mother of God, we have sought refuge in your tenderness: do not turn away from our supplications while we are being tempted. Protect us instead against danger, O you who alone are Virgin and blessed.

Prayer of Saint Ephrem *Used Wednesday and Friday of this week*

-O Lord and Master of my Life, grant that I may not be infected with the spirit of slothfulness and inquisitiveness, with the spirit of ambition and vain talking.

-Grant instead to me your servant the spirit of purity and humility, the spirit of patience and neighborly love.

-O Lord and King, bestow upon me the grace of being aware of my sins and of not thinking evil of those of my brethren.

-For You are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

Troparion for the end of Lenten Orthros *Used on Wednesday and Friday of this week*

As we stand within the nave of your glory, we feel as if we were in heaven, O Mother of God, O Heavenly Door! Open to us the portals of your mercy. *Then the Prayer of Saint Ephrem is said.*

THURSDAY, 2/27 – SAINT PROCOPIUS, CONFESSOR

Troparion of Saint Procopius (Tone 8)

Your abundant tears made the wilderness sprout and bloom, and your deep sighings made your labors fruitful a hundred-fold. You became a star shining over the world with miracles. Holy Father Procopius pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

Weekday Theotokion for Thursday (Tone 8)

O Pure Theotokos, Gate of Spiritual Life, save from dangers those who run to you with confidence to glorify your holy birth-giving for the salvation of our souls.

FRIDAY, 2/28 – SAINT BASIL, CONFESSOR AND COMPANION OF SAINT PROCOPIOS

Troparion of Basil (Tone 1)

You made the wilderness your dwelling place, O our Father Basil, the Bearer of God; you became an angel in the flesh and a wonderworker. Through fast, vigils, and prayers, you obtained from God special graces to heal the sick and sanctify the souls of those who come to you with trust. Glory to the One who gave you strength! Glory to the One who crowned you! Glory to the One who, through your intercession, grants healing to all!

Use the Lenten offices and prayers as on Wednesday.

March 1 - SATURDAY OF THE ASCETICS (Monks & Nuns) (Saturday before Lent starts)

Troparion of the Ascetics (Tone 4)

O God of our Fathers who always deal with us according to your everlasting compassion, so not take away your mercy from us, but through the prayers of our Fathers, guide our lives along the ways of peace.

Theotokion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)

The Mystery which was hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, has been revealed through you O Theotokos to those on earth, for God took flesh in a union without commixture and willingly took up the cross by which He elevated the First Man, and saved our souls from death.

Kontakion of the Ascetics (Tone 8)

O Lord, all those who followed the ways of God, the Light of the Universe, were filled with joy, for they have preached and practiced piety and prevented evil deeds. Through their intercession, preserve in perfect peace those who praise You and glorify your name that they may sing to You: "Alleluia!"

Vesper's Reading: Zechariah 8:19-23

Epistle for the time: Romans 14:19-23 & 16:25-27

Epistle for the Ascetics: Galatians 5:22-6:2

Gospel for the time: Matthew 6:1-13

Gospel for the Ascetics: Matthew 11:17-30

