

*The order of the Readings for this week is as follows:*

**TODAY:** **Is 33:2-22; Rom 12:1-13:10; Mt 5:17-48**  
**Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-23; Prv 1:1-33; Jer 1:1-10  
**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:23-2:26; Prv 2:1-3:10; Jer 1:11-2:3  
**Wednesday:** Ex 2:11-22; Jl 2:1-11; Mi 4:1-7  
**Thursday:** 1 Sm 3:21-4:18; Prv 3:11-4:14; Jer 2:31-3:16  
**Friday:** Dt 7:11-8:1; Jb 9:1-10:2; Is 40:9-17  
**Saturday:** Prv 11:2-11; Is 61:3-7; 2 Tm 4:1-8; Jn 10:11-16

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**LENTEN LECTURE SERIES**

The Lenten Lecture Program Series, "The Foundations of our Faith" is presented by our Christian Education Committee (CEC). Lenten Services will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a light dinner then the lecture. Please join us and be a part of this exciting experience. See Flyer or visit [www.armenianchurchofwhit.org](http://www.armenianchurchofwhit.org)

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**Altar Flowers**

Those who would like to donate flowers for the altar on Palm Sunday, for the Tomb of Our Lord on Good Friday and Lillie's for the altar and window sills for Easter Sunday either in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, Please see or call Lusiya at 508-476-2920

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**PEACE OF BREAD 2017 SCHEDULE**

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and December 13<sup>th</sup>.

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***We Welcome Visitors and Hope You Enjoy Worshipping With Us.***

Please sign the *Guest Book* in the foyer. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know or fill out the welcoming cards that are in the pew racks and leave it with a trustee at the end of Badarak. Thank you!

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Do you want to have God pleasing faith? You cannot unless you give time to read the Bible, because ".... **FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD OF CHRIST.**" Romans 10:17

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**Fellowship Hour**

**If you and your family would like to host the Sunday Fellowship** following Church Services, please call the Church Office at [508-234-3677](tel:508-234-3677) or sign up on the board downstairs to reserve a specific Sunday in 2017, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion or Just Because.....

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**Prayer of the Week: Prayer while Leaving Church**

Heavenly King, preserve Your Church unshaken and keep the worshippers of Your name in peace.

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## SUNDAY BULLETIN



### SUNDAY OF THE EXPULSION

**March 5, 2017**

*Celebrant, Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian*

**EPISTLE: Romans 12:1 -13:10**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

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**SUNDAY OF THE EXPULSION**

The Lenten services are one of the most meaningful and important services of the church. Lent is a time when we go back and reflect on the source of sin, the punishment and the consequences of it and the remedy for our sins. The focus of Lent is on us, the human beings, the “Sinners”: on our repentance, on our spiritual cleansing, and hopefully on our eventual salvation. Lent is a time to repent, and turn to God in faith, prayer, fasting, and deeds of love and mercy. Lent is about change, a change in our lives.

Lent is also a time, as the Psalmist says, to re-examine our hearts and to let God search our souls. “*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.*” (Psalm 139:23)

Let’s be honest, who wants to be searched and be unveiled from unpleasant thoughts and deeds? Maybe that’s why so many people stay away, because they don’t want to face those unpleasant thoughts and deeds. The beautiful hymns and prayers of our forefathers that make us realize how much of a “Great sinner” that we are, they also tell us about the infallible love and the grace of God that we don’t deserve. But God lavishly has poured that love and grace upon us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was not easy for God to expel Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, after all they were His creation, in His own image. We were created to live with God forever.

During Lent, we also learn how gracious God is, that by His Fatherly love He prepared a way for us to return to Him. As the prophet, Joel advised us, you must “turn towards the Lord...with all your heart”-with honesty and humility.

During Lent, we learn of the God –man relationship history. After all, someday we all are going to appear in front of the Creator and be accountable to Him for the way we lived our lives.

“*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*” (II Cor.5: 10)

***FROM NERSES THE GRACEFUL – “IN FAITH I CONFESS”***

***“SEARCHER OF SECRETS, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU WILLINIGY AND UNWILLINGLY, KNOWINGLY AND UNKNOWINGLY. GRANT FORGIVNESS TO ME A SINNER, FOR SINCE MY BIRTH AT THE HOLY FONT UNTIL THIS DAY I HAVE SINNED BEFORE YOUR GODHEAD WITH MY SENSES AND WILL ALL THE MEMBERS OF MY BODY. HAVE MERCY UPON YOUR CREATURES, AND UPON ME, GREAT SINNER THAT I AM.”***

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