



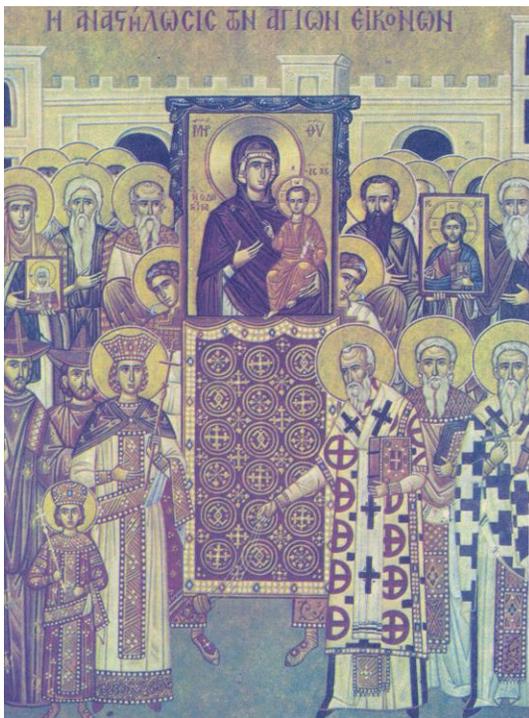
Catechist Connection

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Catechists:

Welcome to the March edition of the Catechist Connection and to the Great Fast. Monday, March 3 is the beginning of the Great Fast. Alexander Schmemmann in his book Great Lent: Journey to Pascha writes "the purpose of Lent is not to force on us a few formal obligations but to 'soften' our heart so that it may open itself to the realities of the spirit, to experience the hidden 'thirst and hunger' for communion with God" (p.31).

Sunday, March 2 is Forgiveness Sunday or CheeseFare Sunday. It is customary on this Sunday to ask for forgiveness from each other in because we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others." Then, the Great Fast begins. As Catechists, this is a wonderful opportunity for teaching about the love of our Lord and the heroes and heroines of our Church.



In the 8th and 9th Centuries there was a huge debate as to whether Icons should be allowed in the Church. It ended in the mid-830's with Empress Theodora declaring that Icons were to be venerated. On the first Sunday of the Great Fast the icons were brought back to the churches in solemn procession. This Icon shows the procession of the icons with Empress Theodora in the bottom left hand corner. That day was made into a perpetual memory of the triumph of Orthodoxy at the end of the Iconoclast persecution. We continue this tradition today.

WHAT CAN I DO IN MY CLASSROOM OR AT HOME?

1. **Have a procession with an icon of Christ or of several icons to the icon corner. Sing an appropriate hymn. Venerate the icon(s)**
2. **Learn to sing the Tropar and Kondak for the Sunday of Orthodoxy.**
3. **Prepare for the Sunday liturgy by studying the readings**
4. **Find out about my patron saint and pray especially through his/her intercession during this Lenten season.**
5. **Place a picture of each person in the icon corner. We are each an icon of Christ so we are to respect each other.**

Information for all the Sundays of the Great Fast and their Icons are on the Eparchy of Saskatoon Website under the sidebar heading 'Faith learning Material'. The Eparchy website is: www.skeparchy.org

Catechist Workshop in **Regina** is on Saturday, **March 15**, 2014 at **St. Athanasius Parish**. The day begins with Sorokousty Liturgy at St. Athanasius at 9:00 a.m. followed by Registration and Coffee. The actual Workshop will begin about 10:30 a.m. We plan to finish around 4:00 p.m. so that people may attend Vespers at 4:30 if they choose. To register email: rel.ed@sasktel.net
Registration of \$10.00 will be collected at the door.

Catechist Workshop in **Saskatoon** is on Saturday, **May 24**, 2014. Location and times TBA. Watch for further information in upcoming issues of Catechist Connection.

Have a Blessed Great Fast.

Blessings and prayers,
Sr. Bonnie
Sr. Marijka