

My Beloved,

Our journey through one of the most blessed times of our Ecclesiastical year continues. With the grace of our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, we have just passed the mid-point of Great Lent. The six-week period of Lent is a time of **introspection, prayer, repentance, fasting** and **almsgiving**. Each one of these tasks is not an end in itself, but together are tools to prepare us for what is about to come – the Passion of our Lord, His death on the Cross and His glorious and life-giving Holy Resurrection. Like the Jews walked in the desert for 40 years before they reached the Promised Land, we also go through this 40-day period before we can experience the Lord up-close in the final act of His salvific mission. God required these 40 years, so the Jews who worshiped the golden calf would perish and not get to see the Promised Land. Our Church's Holy Tradition requires these 40 days, so our human passions would also perish and cleansed we can start a bright new life with the resurrected Lord.

I wish you strength for the remaining part of our Lenten journey and pray we will all have together a glorious Pascha. Below, I include a guide which should enhance your Holy Week and Easter experience. Blessed Holy Resurrection! – ΚΑΛΗ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΗ!

With Love in Christ, Your Parish Priest,  
Fr. Gregory