

St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

The V. Rev. Fr. Jon Braun, President

Please remember our Prisoner-Students

March 2019

Dear Friend of St. Athanasius Academy,

- GREAT LENT -

GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH JESUS, THE PROMISED CHRIST

Entering Great Lent – lead by His Spirit of Grace and Truth – one attains a better insight into this season of fasting. How it is far more about our sustaining a constant remembrance of our loving Father and His eternal love for us. How Jesus – the Word Who became Incarnate – sustains our life in this mortal world, through His Creation. How learning to better love our neighbor, as He first loves us, is paramount to holding true to His Words. Such is especially significant when considering the all-trusting child being held in its own Mother’s womb. Herein, let His compassion and loving kindness enlighten our hearts.

Here are a few Scriptures from the **OSB - Old and New Testament**. In **1 Cor. 8: 8-9**: "*Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.*" **Act 11: 6-10** speaks to foods once forbidden by law. Here our Father instructs Peter to kill and eat any four-footed animal, for as the Giver of all life, all things are good in Him. Alms giving and kindness, not food, is the issue.

Then, as we mature in faith, there are the instructive words of Jesus in **Matthew 25:31-46**: *34: ... I was hungry and you gave Me food, thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, naked and you clothed Me, sick and you visited Me. I was in prison and you came to Me. 40: 'Assuredly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

For those who turn away from Him, give heed to Matt. 25: 41 – 45 – ***“Depart from me.***

OSB-Isaiah 58: 3 – 10, deepens one’s appreciation of the intense words of Jesus in Matthew. Here the Jews use “their rules of fasting” to tempt their God and His righteous judgement. Yes, harsh in chastisement, yet most hopeful in the promise of His love. Read with care. Listen closely. Repent.

May we remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus, our Christ, and the good fruits of His Tree of Life.

Sincerely,



Paul -SAAOT

Let us rejoice in the One Who Is, becoming wise in His Wisdom and Way. For as He offers (2Cor 6:18), I will be Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters.