

## Schedule for the Lenten reading program

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### Explanations:

1. The sources we still need to locate and scan are underlined. If those cannot be found, we will use alternative sources, as noted.
2. The only book which you will have to purchase if you wish to read it with us is Makarios of Simonopetra, *Synaxarion*, vol. 3 & 4 (January-February & March-April). You can purchase volume 4 here: <https://svspress.com/the-synaxarion-the-lives-of-the-saints-of-the-orthodox-church-volume-iv-march-april/>. This is the only volume of the seven volume set which is an assigned reading.
3. For the scriptural readings of all these days, please go to <https://www.oca.org/readings> . Some are given below.

### PREPARATORY WEEKS

#### Sunday of Publican and Pharisee (gospel - Luke 18:10-14):

1. John Chrysostom, *Sermon on Publican and Pharisee* (PG 59:595.) or another homily on the pericope (use St. Cyril of Alexandria, *homily on the publican and Pharisee*)
2. Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* 103

#### Sunday of the Prodigal Son (gospel - Luke 15:11-32):

1. John Chrysostom, *Sermon on the Prodigal Son* (PG 59:515.) OR *Commentary of Our Father* (PG 59:627) OR another sermon on the prodigal son (can read St. Ephrem, *To the indolent soul* and St. Romanos, *Kontakion on the prodigal son*).

#### Friday of meatfare:

1. Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* 49

#### Saturday of meatfare and of the fallen asleep:

1. John of Damascus, *On the fallen asleep* (PG 95:248), we will read St. Gregory of Nyssa, *Concerning those who have died*.

#### Sunday of the last judgment OR "meatfare Sunday"(gospel – Matthew 25:31- 46)

1. Gregory of Nazianz, *Oration* 14 (PG 35:857)
2. Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* 50

#### Monday of cheesefare

1. Basil, *Homily on attention to one's self* (PG 31:197.)

#### Tuesday of cheesefare

1. Basil, *Homily on thanksgiving* (PG 31:2172.)

### **Wednesday of cheesefare**

1. Gregory of Nazianz, *Oration 16*
2. Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* 51

### **Thursday of cheesefare:**

1. Anastasios of Sinai, *Homily on Psalm 6* (PG 89: 1077), or Basil, *First homily on fasting*,<sup>1</sup>
2. Basil, *Second homily on fasting*

### **Friday of cheesefare:**

1. Dorotheos of Gaza's *Discourse 15 on fasting*
2. Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* 52

### **Saturday of cheesefare and of the ascetics:**

1. Ephrem's *On the Fathers who are fallen asleep*, or Andrew of Crete, *Oration 21 on human life and those fallen asleep* (PG97:1268ff.), or Anastasios of Sinai, *On those fallen asleep in Christ* (PG 89:1192ff.)
2. Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* 40

### **Sunday of Forgiveness/Expulsion from Paradise (gospel - Matthew 6:14-21):**

1. John Chrysostom's *Homilies on Genesis* 1
2. Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* 53.

## **THROUGHOUT LENT**

### **(Monday of first week to Friday before Lazarus Saturday)**

The readings here<sup>2</sup> are split between weekdays (fasting/non-eucharistic days) and weekends (non-fasting/eucharistic days):

### **Monday-Friday:**

- LH = Palladius' *Lausiatic History* (referenced by pages)

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<sup>1</sup> Saint Basil the Great, *On Fasting and Feasts*, SVS Press.

<sup>2</sup> The schedule by service is:

- Matins: Palladius' *Lausiatic History*, *Synaxarion* (The Synaxarion of the entire week is read on Saturday and Sunday, the weekdays are dedicated to the Lausiatic History)
- Firth Hour: Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* (in many monasteries read year round);
- Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours: John of Sinai's *The Ladder* (read only on weekdays, not on Saturdays and Sundays)
- Meals: *Paterikon* (either alphabetic or systematic). We will read the alphabetic.

To these are added the following special readings:

- Thursday of fifth week: Sophonios, *Life of Mary of Egypt*
- Saturday of fifth week: *Discourse on the Akathist*

- TL = John of Sinai's *The Ladder* (referenced by chapter and section)
- SC = Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* (referenced by catechesis number)
- HG = John Chrysostom's *Homilies on Genesis* (referenced by homily number).

*NB.* In the distribution of the readings I have kept the traditional partition of the readings from Genesis, *The Ladder*, *The Catecheses*, and *The Homilies on Genesis*. Yet, the homilies of St. John—which are the longest texts to begin with—uneven the reading load considerably. Therefore, in order to compensate as much as possible, the readings from the *Lausiak History* are not distributed evenly, but they are short until the very last week, when there are no readings from St. John's homilies.

At the end of each week are listed the total number of pages so that you pace yourself as it is best for you. If you wish to skip anything, do not skip Genesis, *The Ladder*, and *The Catecheses*. They are the shortest readings and the most significant.

### **Saturday-Sunday:**

- SY = *Synaxarion* (=SY)<sup>3</sup>
- PA = *Paterikon* (=PA, referenced by pages)
- SC = Theodore the Studite's *Shorter Catecheses* (=SC).

These readings will amount to approximately 100 pages per weekend. If you want to start early on these readings, the best strategy is to read the synaxarion on a daily basis. It makes less sense to read in advance the Apostle or the catecheses of St. Theodore.

### **1st Mon-Friday [≅250 pages]**

1. Genesis 1:1–3:20
2. LH pp. 47–52
3. TL 1.1–4.71
4. SC 54-55
5. HG 2-17

### **1st Sat-Sunday**

1. Hebrews 1:1–12, 11:24–26 and 11:32–12:2
2. SY of March 15-21
3. PA pp. 1-38; SC 56

### **2nd Mon-Friday [≅115 pages]**

1. Genesis 3:21–6:8
2. LH pp. 53–56
3. TL 4.72–7.70
4. SC 57-58 (also SC 64 for the Annunciation, which is this week);
5. HG 18-22

### **2nd Sat-Sunday**

1. Heb 3:12–16, 1:10–2:3;

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<sup>3</sup> As noted above, use Makarios of Simonopetra, *Synaxarion*, vol. 3 & 4 (February-March-April).

2. SY of March 22-28;
3. PA pp. 39-84;
4. SC 59

**3rd Mon-Friday** [≈110 pages]

1. Genesis 6:9–8:21
2. LH pp. 57–65
3. TL 8.1–15.75
4. SC 60-62
5. HG 23-26

**3rd Sat-Sunday:**

1. Heb 10:32–38, 4:14–5:6;
2. SY of March 29-April 4;
3. PA pp. 84-119;
4. SC 63

**4th Mon-Friday** [≈135 pages]

1. Genesis 8:21–12:7
2. LH pp. 66–73
3. TL 15.76–24.34
4. SC 66-67
5. HG 27-32

**4th Sat-Sunday:**

1. Heb 6:9–20;
2. SY of April 5-11;
3. PA pp. 120-157

**5th Mon-Friday** [≈250 pages]

1. Genesis 13:12–22:18
2. LH pp. 73–86
3. TL 25.1–26.189
4. SC 69-70
5. HG 33-45
6. and Sophonios' *Life of Mary of Egypt*<sup>4</sup>

**5th Sat-Sunday:**

1. Heb 9:11–14, 24–28;
2. SY of April 12-18;
3. PA pp. 158-195;
4. SC 68;
5. and *Discourse on the Akathist*<sup>5</sup> (we will read St. Joseph the Hymnographer, *Canon of the Akathist*)

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<sup>4</sup> Read on the Thursday of the fifth week.

<sup>5</sup> Read on the Saturday of the fifth week.

**6th Mon-Friday** [≈120 pages]

1. Genesis 27:1–41, 31:3–16, 43:26–31, 45:1–16, 46:1–7, 49:33–50:26
2. LH pp. 86–180
3. TL 27.1–end

**AFTER LENT**

**Saturday of Lazarus** [≈160 pages]

1. Heb 12:28–13:8;
2. SY of April 19-25;
3. PA pp.195-248;
4. John Chrysostom, *Homilies 62-64 on John*

**Great and Holy Wednesday:** SC 72

**Great and Holy Friday:** SC 73