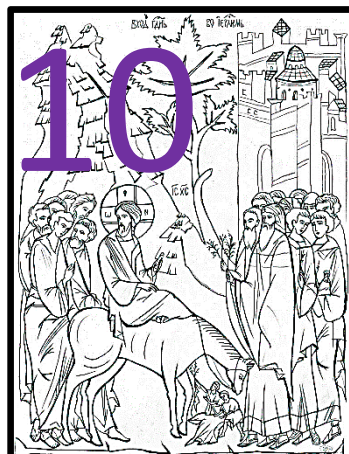
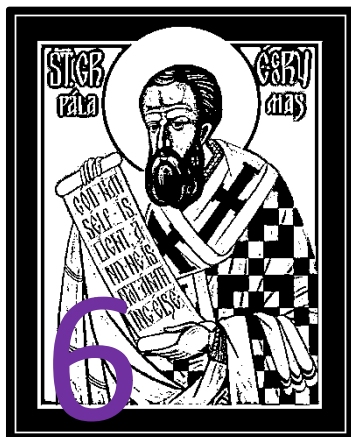
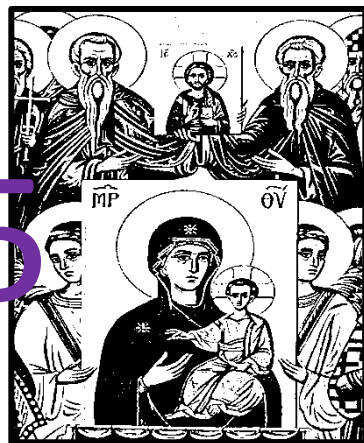
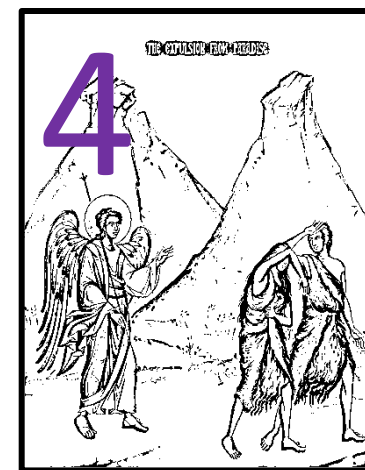
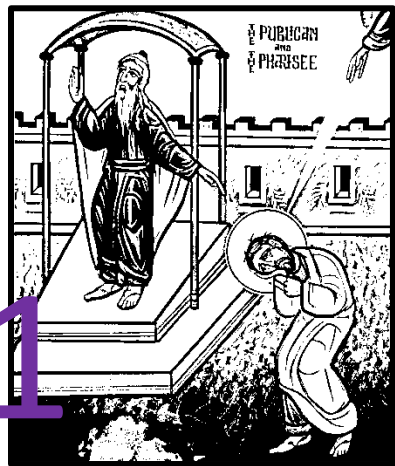


# Preparing for Pascha:

LEARN ABOUT GREAT LENT AS YOU COLOR THROUGH THE WEEKS

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Icon Number:	Sunday of/before Great Lent:	Date in 2026:	The Significance (in short):
1.	The Publican and The Pharisee	Feb. 1	The Publican and the Pharisee both went to the temple to pray. The Pharisee was very proud of himself while the Publican was humble and sorry. Christ reminds us to have humility like the Publican.
2.	The Prodigal Son	Feb. 8	The prodigal son chose to take his portion of money from his father and to live far away. After spending all the money on bad choices, he wanted to go back to his father. He was scared his father would not take him back as a son, so he planned to ask to be a servant. His father was so glad to see him though! He ran to hug his son. Just like the father in this parable, God is always happy when we return to him...even if we sometimes make bad choices.
3.	The Last Judgement	Feb. 15	On this Sunday we remember that one day, we will see Christ come down from heaven again to this world. He will not come as a baby in a manger but as a glorious King and Judge. We need to prepare ourselves by doing good deeds and loving all.
4.	Forgiveness Sunday	Feb. 22	This is the last Sunday before Great Lent officially begins. We forgive our friends, families, and all! We remember that Adam and Eve were told to avoid the forbidden fruit (to “fast”) and that they were expelled from Paradise when they chose to eat it.
5.	The Sunday of Orthodoxy	March 1	This is the first Sunday of Great Lent. We celebrate the triumphant return of the Holy Icons to the church after the iconoclasm controversy. The first procession of icons celebrating this took place on March 11, 843 (which, in that year, was the first Sunday of Great Lent).
6.	Saint Gregory Palamas	March 8	This is the second Sunday of Great Lent. We commemorate Saint Gregory Palamas, who reminds us of the importance of prayer and that we should be still and quiet when we pray.
7.	The Sunday of the Cross	March 15	This is the third Sunday of Great Lent. The church dedicates this Sunday to the Holy Cross. Remembering and venerating the power of the cross gives us strength to continue on through the second half of Great Lent.
8.	Saint John Climacus	March 22	This is the fourth Sunday of Great Lent. It is dedicated to Saint John Climacus (Saint John “of the Ladder”), the author of <i>The Ladder of Divine Ascent</i> . We are reminded that our spiritual struggle is “not against flesh and blood but against...the rulers of present darkness...”.
9.	Saint Mary of Egypt	March 29	This is the fifth Sunday of Great Lent. It is dedicated to Saint Mary of Egypt because she is a model of repentance. When reading Saint Mary’s life, we learn that because of her bad choices a force prevented Saint Mary from entering the church of Jerusalem. This made her realize that she needed to repent. She lived the rest of her life (47 years!) in the desert praying for God to forgive her. The icon shows Saint Zosimas administering Holy Communion to Saint Mary before she reposed.
10.	Palm Sunday	Apr. 5	On Palm Sunday we celebrate the entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem, shortly after he raised Lazarus from death. People welcomed him with palm branches saying “Hosana! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!”. We remember to welcome Christ into our hearts.
11.	Holy Week	Apr. 6 - Apr. 10	Holy Week is a solemn time. We remember all of the events of Christ’s crucifixion. We remember His great love for us and how He chose to suffer for us and to die for us. The people crucified Him because they did not want to understand what He was teaching them about God and Heaven.
12.	PASCHA: CHRIST IS RISEN!	Apr. 12	Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! We celebrate the Feast of Feasts on this day: The Glorious Resurrection! Christ has risen from the dead. He has opened up the gates of Heaven to us!