



## The Journey to Pascha

Often times we are asked to think of the image of standing at a door wondering what is "inside." If we are willing, we can open the door, step "inside" and discover just what's in there. At the end of this month we will stand at a door, but this door, however, does not lead "in" to anything. Instead, it leads out. It leads out of the warmth and comfort of the lives that we've built for ourselves. It leads out to the journey of Great Lent towards Holy Pascha.

As we stand at this door we must choose what we are going to do. Will we ignore it and remain within our everyday lives? Will we open the door and watch others on the journey of Lent, but simply stand there, not daring to step out? Or, will we choose to open the door, step through it, and begin our own Lenten journey toward the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

If we choose to travel on the journey of Lent, as with any other journey that we go on, we must take some time to prepare ourselves. Repentance, forgiveness, and prayer are the necessities that will allow us to endure the road that lies ahead of us.

In order for us to travel through the Great Lent we must first get ready by asking God to forgive us. Repenting allows us to get rid of sins that stand between God and us. By asking for His forgiveness and participating in the sacrament of Confession we repair our relationship with God and are better prepared for the Lenten journey.

Additionally, we must repair our relationships with the people around us. By asking friends and relatives to forgive us for things we've done, and forgiving them for ways that they've mistreated us, we are more prepared. Not having to concern ourselves with such problems, we can focus more strongly on our journey.

Finally, to be prepared for the Great Lent we must pray. Through our prayers we can express to Christ our desire to become closer to Him. We can let Him know what is in our hearts and minds, and we can ask for his guidance and protection.

Through these ways of preparing ourselves we can be equipped to deal with the difficulties and struggles that can be found during Great Lent. We must be ready to defend ourselves against the attempts of Satan that draw us away from God. We must do our very best to learn and grow toward Christ so that when we reach Holy Pascha we can truly rejoice in His Resurrection.