



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

### **The Three Orders of the Divine Liturgy**

In order to sustain the faithful in the spiritual effort of fasting during Lent, the Church celebrates the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. At this Liturgy, the faithful partake of the Holy Gifts that were consecrated the previous Sunday. No Divine liturgy is celebrated on the Wednesday and Friday of Cheesefare Week, Monday and Tuesday of the first week of Lent, or on Good Friday, which is why according to tradition these are *non-liturgical* days. It is customary to celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on the Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent, which is why they call all the Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays of Lent non-liturgical. The Church maintains the practice of non-liturgical days in order to remind us that we are only approaching the fullness of the kingdom of God, and in order that the Eucharist not become for us just a habit, but that it may always be a dynamic event. (#394)