

# **Catechetical Homily on the Commencement of Holy and Great Lent**

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BARTHOLOMEW

By God's Mercy

Archbishop of Constantinople the New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church

Grace and Peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Together with our Prayer, Blessing, and Forgiveness

Beloved brothers and sisters, children in the Lord,

Tomorrow, we enter the period of Holy and Great Lent. In the Lenten vespers of Forgiveness chanted this evening, we shall hear the sacred hymnographer urging us to “begin the time of fasting with joy, submitting ourselves to spiritual struggle” in preparing to welcome the great Passion and joyful Resurrection of our divine-human Lord. ([περισσότερα...](#))