

THE SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

From oca.org...

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

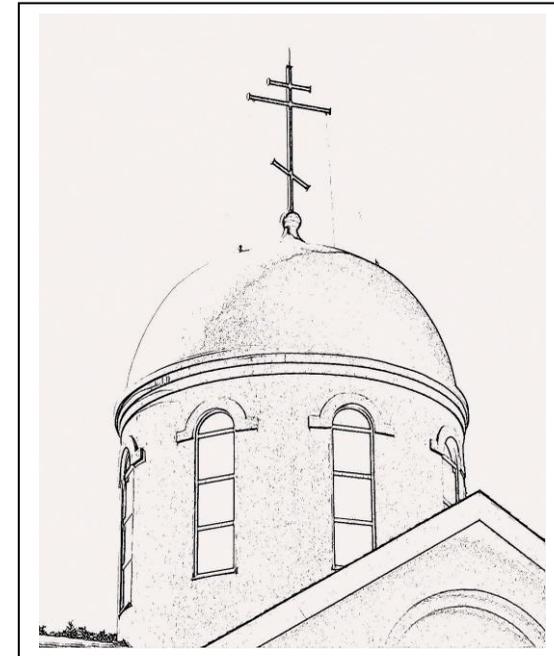
Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

From St. Symeon, the New Theologian...

A man is not saved by having once shown mercy to someone . . . for "I was hungry" and "I was thirsty" is said not of one occasion, not of one day, but of the whole of life. In the same way, "you gave me food," "you gave me drink," "you clothed me," and so on, does not merely indicate one incident or action, but a constant attitude to everyone always. Our Lord Jesus Christ said that He Himself accepts such mercy . . . in the persons of the needy.

Our Lord was pleased to assume the kindness of every poor man . . . in order that no one who believes in Him should exalt himself over his brother, but seeing his Lord in his brother, should consider himself beneath him . . . and honor him, and be ready to exhaust all his means in helping him, just as our Lord exhausted His blood for our salvation.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

March 3, 2019
SUNDAY OF MEATFARE
Sunday of the Last Judgment

Tone 7. Martyr Eutropius of Amasea, and with him Martyrs Cleonicus and Basiliscus (ca. 308). St. Piama, Virgin (337). Ss. Zeno and Zoilus.

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday - 7:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday – 10:30am Vespers of Forgiveness

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21



*The Sunday of the
Last Judgment*

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM A (Pasick, Stavrou)

Next Sunday – TEAM B (Nilsen, Christos)

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Olga Kornafel, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Cathy Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Ron Madensky, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

TODAY – The **Church School** will meet after the Divine Liturgy.

TODAY – After the announcements following the Divine Liturgy, we ask that the church school children, their teachers, and their parents, all come forward for the veneration of the Cross **BEFORE** all others. This will allow all of them to get their Coffee Hour refreshments early and be ready for tinging of the food and the opening prayer for class as soon as Father Gary is available. Thank you for your cooperation.

TODAY is **Meatfare Sunday**. A **potluck luncheon** will be held in the parish hall after the Divine Liturgy. **All are welcome** to participate. **Many thanks** to those who have brought food items to share.

TUESDAY, March 5 – **Discussions with Fr. Alexander** will take place in the parish rectory beginning at 7:00pm.

SATURDAY, March 9 – A **Choir rehearsal** will take place at 6:00pm. All choir members should plan to attend to rehearse music for the services of Great Lent and the Feast of the Annunciation.

Sunday, March 17 – On this first Sunday of Great Lent, we will begin holding an **Adult Education session** in the parish hall. This will take place immediately after Coffee Hour, so everyone is invited to attend. The topic of the one-hour sessions will be: **Psalms – the Prayers of the Church.**

Sunday, March 17 – Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers will be served at **Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Jersey City** for **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers**. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to attend. Please speak with Father Gary for possible transportation arrangements.

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding of our diocesan activities and programs. Please consider participating in the program. Brochures are located by the bulletin board in the parish hall or at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Today – Luke Pasick

Tuesday – Matushka Faith Kuharsky

Tuesday - Alina Graff

Wednesday – Helen Ciurczak

OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are *always* accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.