



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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SUNDAY OF MEATFARE OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

February 19, 2023

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Kontakion – Tone 1

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

Great is our Lord and abundant in power, / His understanding is beyond measure

V. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

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.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of February 19

Sunday February 19 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday February 25 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday February 26 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Forgiveness Sunday prayers, then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Monday February 27 – Beginning of Great Lent

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

February 12 – 68 adults, 16 youth, \$2,083

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for House Blessing. If you would like Father to bless your home, please sign up and Father will contact you to schedule an appointment. House Blessings must be done prior to the start of Lent, which is next Monday, February 27.

The FOCA Club will have a meeting today during Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

Donations for the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska: During the four Sundays in February, a collection basket will be behind the pews to collect donations for the struggling Alaska Diocese. Cash or checks (payable to St Vladimir Orthodox Church) will be accumulated, and one check for all donations collected will be sent to the Diocese at the end of the month from the parishioners of our church. **Envelopes for your donation will be available at the candle desk.** After February,

parishioners may donate directly to the Diocese. Any questions please see Father Volodymyr or a member of the Parish Council.

The Ladies Altar Society will be creating and publishing our first Parish Cookbook – with your help! We are interested in your favorite recipes, ethnic recipes, recipes from your grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends, and Lenten recipes. They can include Appetizers, Main Meals, Side Dishes, Soup, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. In addition to recipes, the Cookbook will include a Helpful Hints section. In order for the Cookbook to be a success, we will need many recipes! Each recipe should include your name, who you may have received the recipe from, and your phone number (phone number is only if we have questions and will not be published in the Cookbook). Please give your recipes to Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Nancy Mitsos. Thank you!

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! A camera will be set up in Daria Hall, and when you are in attendance with your family members please make a point to get your picture taken. John Cassar and Awet Tesfa are leading this project.

Gallons of spring water are needed for Coffee Hour. Please bring your donation of water to Daria Hall. The water is used for tea and coffee. Thank you!

Catechism classes are being held every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM in the church basement through March 16. Classes will be taught on a rotating schedule by Father Volodymyr, John Cassar, Herman Meyer, and Alan Berck. Everyone is invited to attend, but classes are mandatory for those wishing to convert to Orthodoxy. Classes will be finished before Pascha, at which time the Catechumens will schedule services to become Orthodox.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Mimi Berck – February 20

Aurora Dorvil – February 20

Valeria Srock – February 20

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

If you do not see your birthday listed above during your birthday week, please let Darice know and she will add it to the schedule!

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not normally bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. The host/hostess is responsible for bringing whatever refreshments they wish to serve – if desserts are needed please let the Helper know ahead of time as there are desserts in the freezer that may be used. Host/Hostess is responsible for setting up in the morning starting at 9:00 AM, with guidance from the Helper, and for cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing and drying dishes, and taking out the trash. If you have any questions please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your Coffee Hour date. Thank you!

Feb. 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Darice Keyes
Feb. 26 NO MEAT Sami Bachir, Nancy Mitsos
Mar. 5 FAST Matthew & Nana Barrett, Darice Keyes
Mar. 12 FAST Awet Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
Mar. 19 FAST Alan & Mimi Berck, Francine & Herman
Mar. 26 FAST John Cassar, Nina Laushell
April 2 FAST Anne Cheslock, Nancy Mitsos
April 9 FAST Francine Brady, Herman Meyer, Alla Strauss
April 16 PASCHA – No Coffee Hour
April 23 Madeleine Sekulich, Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos
April 30 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Awet Tesfa
May 7 Betty Kavchok, Nancy Mitsos
May 14 Nina Schmidt, Alla Strauss
May 21 Aftan Chowansky, Nina Laushell
May 28 Christina DiDonato, Francine Brady & Herman Meyer

June 4 Darice Keyes, Nancy Mitsos
June 11 Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
June 18 FAST Timothy & Valeria Srock, Awet Tesfa
June 25 FAST Alla & Perry Strauss, Christine Waite
July 2 Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Melody Stavisky
July 9 Jessica & Blake Kilgore, Darice Keyes
July 16 ST. VLADIMIR FEAST DAY BANQUET
July 23 Boryana Dorvil, Nina Laushell
July 30 Tyler Burger, Francine & Herman
Aug. 6 FAST Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Alla Strauss
Aug. 13 FAST Herman Meyer, Francine Brady
Aug. 20 Alex & Rebeca Medina, Awet Tesfa
Aug. 27 Olga & James Bates, Darice Keyes
Sept. 3 Tahara & Germain Ortiz, Alla Strauss
Sept. 10 Monia & James Pitra, Darice Keyes
Sept. 17 Gabriela & Virgiliu Plesa, Nina Laushell
Sept. 24 ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
Oct. 1 Guy Radcliffe, Francine & Herman
Oct. 8 Mary Reiling, Alla Strauss
Oct. 15 Lynne Sheedy, Nancy Mitsos
Oct. 22 Ramazi Shubitize, Awet Tesfa
Oct. 29 Nina Laushell, Darice Keyes
Nov. 5 Walter & Tanya Tribbey, Francine & Herman
Nov. 12 Vera Pchenyczny, Alla Strauss
Nov. 19 FAST Nancy Mitsos, Darice Keyes
Nov. 26 FAST Gebrekvistos Amleset, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 3 FAST Ilonica & Corneliu Balasa, Nina Laushell
Dec. 10 FAST Victoria Baranava, Nancy Mitsos
Dec. 17 FAST Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Darice Keyes
Dec. 24 FAST Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Alla Strauss
Dec. 31 Paul & Patti Denko, Francine & Herman
Jan. 7 '24 Alex Godun, Nina Laushell