



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

February 27, 2022

#### **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.

#### **Troparion – Tone 1**

Thy proclamation has gone out through North America, calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church. Hearing thy voice, they respond to thy teaching, and through thy writings thou didst instruct them in piety. Now guided by thine example, O Father Raphael, we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God: “Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown!// Glory to Him Who, through thee, grants healing to all!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 8**

Thou wast a guardian and a defender of the Church’s teaching, thou didst protect thy flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in the true faith! O holy Father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America, // always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

#### **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!*

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 1**

My mouth shall speak wisdom; / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

#### **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: 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.

### **Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21**

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **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."

### **Gospel: John 10:9-16**

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

### **Service Schedule for the week of February 27**

**Sunday February 27** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy. There will be a 40-day Panikhida for Father John Bohush and Olga Olhovsky after Divine Liturgy, followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

**Saturday March 5** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday March 6** – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness. Coffee Hour will be held in Daria Hall after the Forgiveness prayers.

### **Weekly Giving**

February 20 – 67 adults, 19 youth, \$5,011

### **Parish Announcements**

There will be a brief Ladies Altar Society meeting today during Coffee Hour.

The FOCA Club will host a beadmaking class, taught by Anne Cheslock on Sunday March 13 during Coffee Hour. All attendees will learn to assemble a faux pearl bracelet. Cost is \$10 per person with a maximum of 10 people in the class. Children must be accompanied by an adult. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church.

**Easter candy sale:** Brochures and order forms are available in Daria Hall – please see a member of the FOCA Club. **All orders and payments are due by March 13.** The candy will be delivered the week of April 3 and available for pick-up in Daria Hall on April 10. Thank you for your support of the FOCA Club!

Youth and adults of the parish are invited to Bible Study classes starting today during Coffee Hour. The classes will be taught by Alan Berck.

If you have not yet turned in your 2022 Pledge Card, please do so as soon as possible. The Parish Council uses the information for financial planning throughout the year. Thank you!

### **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

Svetlana Sosedov – February 27

Bill DiCicco – February 28

Betty Kavchok – February 29

Matushka Mary Shafran – March 3

Vera Pschenychny – March 3

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

### **COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE – Coffee Hour Preparation Instructions are available in the Daria Hall kitchen**

Feb. 27 Valeria & Timothy Srock

Mar. 6 College Students

Mar. 13 **FAST DAY** Betty Kavchok

Mar. 20 **FAST DAY** Awet Tesfa & Nebiat Tesfa

Mar. 27 **FAST DAY** Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt

April 3 **FAST DAY** John Cassar

April 10 **FAST DAY** Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss

April 17 **FAST DAY** Fiyori Habatesilasse

April 24 **PASCHA** – No coffee hour

May 1 Anne Cheslock

May 8 Nina Schmidt

May 15 Tiberiu & Mihaela Milosav

May 22 Nina Laushell

May 29 Mimi & Alan Berck

June 5 Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa

June 12 Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky

June 19 Christina DiDonato

June 26 Nancy Mitsos