



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

March 7, 2021

Troparion – Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

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!

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.

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."

Service Schedule for the week of March 7 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy. After Divine Liturgy today there will be a Panikhida for the 20th anniversary of the repose of Kyra Shafran Griffiths. ***Masks are required for the Panikhida.***
The Panikhida will be followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

Saturday March 13 – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday March 14 – MASKS REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Weekly Giving

February 28 – 49 adults, 6 youth, \$2,896

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday March 6 – Masks required

Sunday March 7 – Masks not required

Saturday March 13 – Masks not required

Sunday March 14 – Masks required

Saturday March 20 – Masks required

Sunday March 21 – Masks not required

Saturday March 27 – Masks not required

Sunday March 28 – Masks required

Saturday April 3 – Masks required

Sunday April 4 – Masks not required

Saturday April 10 – Masks not required

Sunday April 11 – Masks not required

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 PM in Daria Hall.

Daylight Savings Time starts next Sunday, March 14. Please remember to move your clocks **ahead one hour** next Saturday evening.

Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter Candy from the FOCA Club! The candy is due to be delivered the week of March 22. We will let you know when the candy is available to be picked up at Daria Hall – if you haven't yet paid you may pay at the time of pick up. Checks should be made payable to St. Vladimir R Club.

Church Flowers: If you are interested in donating flowers for a Sunday or Holy Day, please contact Father Volodymyr. Flowers are placed on both sides of the veneration icon. There are vases available to use for cut flowers.

In order to properly social distance, we ask that parishioners **fill the front pews as well as all pews in the church before congregating in the back. Individuals should attempt to sit in a pew (one at each end) with another individual in order to free up pews for families. If your family is in need of a pew, please ask the person at the candle desk for assistance to see if individuals can be moved to open up a pew.** The choir loft is also available for a family. We must be vigilant in trying to prevent the spread of germs, so please do not attend church services if you have a fever, sniffles, cough, cold, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, etc. If individuals who attended church services are diagnosed with Covid, the church may need to shut down for a period of time. Father Volodymyr live streams Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy every weekend, so if you are home you may still participate in the services on line. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being!