

February 12, 2023
Meatfare Sunday, of the Last Judgment



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! - Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!

Proprs for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 3: pg. 135 and for Meatfare: Pg. 217 - 218

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., FEB. 12 **MEATFARE SUNDAY, SUNDAY of LAST JUDGMENT**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Mark Wooddell, 7th year after passing, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh

SUN., FEB. 19 **CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Clara Duganich, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

MON., FEB. 20 **CLEAN MONDAY, GREAT FAST BEGINS**

The Cross brings Life

The Lord does not say that the coming kingdom is compared to this or that, as He has been speaking previously, but now openly shows Himself to be the Son of man, who “shall come in his glory.” If He has up to now appeared in a condition of dishonor, now he appears in a different role. He reproaches. He confronts. He sits upon his throne of glory. And he continually mentions glory. For his cross was drawing near, a thing that seemed to be a matter of reproach. So he lifts his hearers up and brings before their sight the judgment seat, with all the world gathered around him.

(St. John Chrysostom)

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

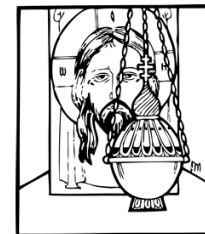
Epistle Readers – Feb 12: Louisa Hersh – Feb. 19: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Feb. 12: M. Bobanic – Feb. 19: R. Mudron

If you would like to be a Trioca Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.

We could always use the help!



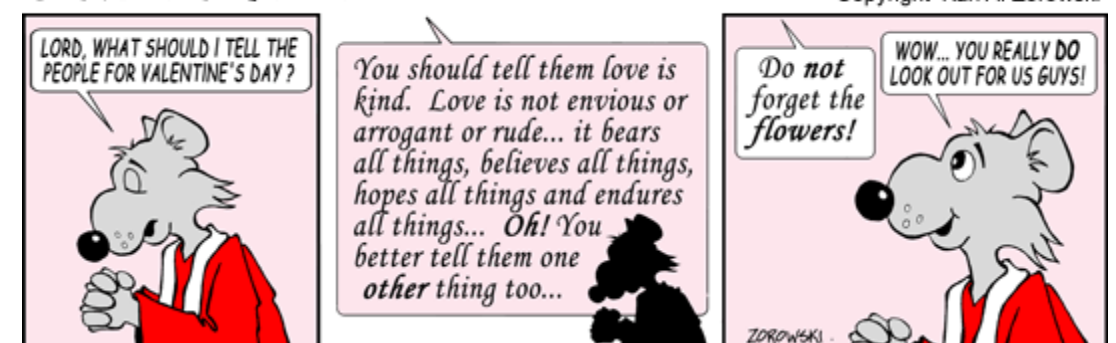
THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

February 12 - 18, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

**Our Parishioners,
Living and Deceased**

Church Mice



In Preparation for the Great Fast 2023

Regulations for the Season

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church sui iuris of Pittsburgh.

In the Great Fast, abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil was prescribed for ALL days except days of mitigation. All Saturdays and Sundays, February 24, March 9, Wednesday to Friday of the Fifth Week, and the Prefestive Day and Otdaniye (Post Feast) of the Annunciation were all mitigations for wine and oil. The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday were general mitigations.

The Ruthenian Metropolia prescribes strict abstinence (from meat and dairy products) on the First Monday of the Great Fast (Clean Monday, February 20) and on Good Friday (April 7), and abstinence from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.

Liturgical Services

- The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

Free Adult Formation Opportunity:

Live Webinar from www.godwithusonline.org detailed below:

ORTHODOXY & LIFE

A Patristic Approach to Life Issues

Continues Thursday, February 16th 8:00 – 9:00 PM

Christians are unequivocally called to be champions of life. We often become mired in political discussions about what it means to be “pro-life” but this distracts from the profound Christian understanding of the value of life, which transcends any lines made by society. In this study, the Church Fathers will guide us into a deeper understanding of what it means to champion life, and why it is an essential, non-negotiable, part of the Christian life. Presented by Archpriest Josiah Trenham, PhD.

Fellowship Hour

Parishioners, visitors, and friends, we are thankful that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our Divine Liturgy will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served in our Church Center. *Stay and join us!*



A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are now just over a week away from the Great Fast, as we observe **Meatfare Sunday**. By tradition, this is the day when Byzantine Christians say "farewell" to meat until the joyful celebration of Pascha. Today, the canons regarding our fasting rules are not so strict, but our Epistle today (like that of last week) mentions food.

"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," St. Paul writes. The controversy he is addressing in this part of the letter is not a controversy over fasting, but whether or not it was acceptable for Christians in Corinth to eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols. (See 1 Cor. 8.1-13)

What St. Paul writes is that one Christian may understand that an idol is no god at all, but literally *nothing*, and so he may eat such meat in good conscience. But if another Christian does not have such an understanding of idols, he may become scandalized by the first Christian's diet.

In our modern world, we don't have this same problem; the meat we buy in our markets was not part of any pagan rituals before it got there. But the principle remains the same: What we do with our freedom in Christ, we must do for the sake of love.

As we near the Great Fast it may be helpful for us to look at the many common things we take for granted in our day to day lives: what we eat, what we do with our time, what we read or watch, how we interact with coworkers. It may be time for a reevaluation of what we do in light of the Love of God.

As we enter the Fast, we understand that controlling our appetites is important. *"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 let us all the more exercise an active love for our brothers and sisters, and in this way show ourselves to be children of our heavenly Father, who showers his love on the whole world.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Geoff

Sunday of the Last Judgment

More than once does the Gospel give us a warning on the way in which we shall be judged and on the way in which we can save ourselves from condemnation. There is a passage of the Gospel in which the Lord says: *“It is not everyone who will have called Me ‘Lord’ who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. There will be such who will come to Me and say, Have we not broken bread in the precincts of Thy Temple? Have we not prayed, have we not sung Thy glory? And I shall say to them: Go away from me doers of iniquity.”*

So, it is not by outward signs of piety that we shall find salvation. The Gospel which we read on the Day of the Publican and the Pharisee already tells us something about this. The Pharisee had been faithful in everything outwardly, but inwardly he had remained cold and dead to the only thing that matters - loving.

Today we are confronted with something else. It is not strict adherence to forms of life; it is not piety, the kind of piety which one can put in inverted commas; it is not praying if we pray unworthily, that saves us. The Lord at the Last Judgment, as it appears clearly from this passage of the Gospel, will ask us nothing about the tenets of our faith, or about the way in which we have tried outwardly to please Him. He will ask us: Have you been human, or inhuman? When you saw someone who was hungry did your heart turn to him in compassion and did you give him food? When you saw someone homeless, did you think of a way of providing a roof and a little warmth and safety for him? When we were told that someone, perhaps someone we knew, had disgraced himself and been put into prison, did we overcome the shame of being his or her friend, and go to visit him? When we saw someone to whom we could give the surplus of what we have, the unnecessary coat, the unnecessary object which we possessed - did we turn and do that? That is all the Lord is asking concerning the Last Judgment. As we meditate today upon the Last Judgment, Our Lord’s only question is: have you been human in the simplest way in which any pagan can be human? Anyone can be human who has a heart that can respond. If you have, then the doors are open for you to enter into the Kingdom and to become by communion with God, not sacramental communion, but a deeper communion even than the Sacrament, become one with Him and grow into being the Temple of the Spirit, the Body of Christ, a place of His incarnate presence. Amen.



“If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you”

Pre-Lenten Sundays

The Sunday of the Last Judgment gives the third piece of important information to us in our preparation for the Great Fast-Lent. We have learned that to be saved one must not judge others, and feel the weight of personal sins and ask God for mercy. We have seen the process of repentance, from the onset of sin, its destructive affects, self-realization of sin, and the importance process to “arise and go” to our Father, and the critical detail, without which we would never complete our repentance and be saved – our Father will go to us, as we are trying to change, and comfort us and empower us to complete the good work we have started. Today's Gospel about the last judgment shows the end result of true repentance, and also the “flip side”– the outcome for those who do not repent. It is a frightening spectacle, and not a pleasant one to meditate upon, but absolute necessary for us to remember. Let us talk about how Jesus Christ came the first time, how His second coming will be, and what we must do to hear the blessed words: “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”.

Our Church Library Lenten Resources

The first day of the Great Fast “Pure Monday” is fast approaching (February 20). It is extremely important to get off to a good start. Let us ask the Lord to fill us with his love as we enhance our spiritual growth through commitment to prayer, reading Scripture, Reconciliation, receiving the Eucharist and trying to stay close to the Lord in our everyday lives. Our Library has free Lenten resources to take and Lenten books for you to borrow that will help make it a truly Holy and beautiful Lenten season. Visit the Library before or after Church services or on Saturday mornings.

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).

* Available from our Church Library

The value of fasting consists not only of avoiding certain foods, but in giving up sinful practices. The one who limits his fast only to abstaining meat mocks it! ... For a true fast, you cannot fast only with your mouth. You must fast with your eyes, your ears, your feet, your hands, and all parts of your body... For what good is it if you don't eat meat or poultry, and yet you bite and devour the flesh of your neighbor?

(St John Chrysostom)

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."
-John 13:34