

****IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION****

Until further notice, we will continue celebrating the Divine Services up to no more 33 parishioners in attendance. With this in mind, if single parish members or parish member households - UP TO 33 PEOPLE IN CHURCH AT EACH DIVINE LITURGY - would like to attend the Divine Liturgy on a Sunday please refer to the following signup link <https://signup.com/go/AqSQSmX> ** (Slots 1-33 in the Church and 34-50 in the Parish Fellowship Hall)! **PLEASE SIGN-UP BY 6:00 PM ON SATURDAY NIGHT AS WELL AS ANSWER THE COVID QUESTIONNAIRE!!

Regarding Holy Communion:

- If anyone would like to come and receive Holy Communion or if you would like Fr. Jason to come and bring Holy Communion to your home, please contact him to make arrangements: jvansuch@hotmail.com/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

Regarding Holy Confession:

Taking into consideration the spiritual and mental healing that comes through the Sacrament of Confession, His Eminence blesses, for all priests and communities in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, that for this period:

- Confession may continue to be held over the telephone or by live video communication; it may also be done in person with social distancing kept between the priest and the penitent (6 feet), and with face masks worn by both. The Prayer of Absolution can be given by video or phone and especially in person.
- When Confession is heard over the telephone or by live video, the priest must read the Prayer of Absolution before ending the phone call or video communication, in the hearing of the penitent.
 - If anyone would like to have Confession, please contact Fr. Jason to make arrangements: jvansuch@hotmail.com/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

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Please look up the below weblink for the Digital Edition of The Jacobs Well:
<https://issuu.com/jacobswell/docs/jacobs-well-fall-2019-nk>

Please look up the below weblink for the website of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey:

<https://www.nynjoca.org>

Please look up the below weblink for the newly-updated Diocesan Directives of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey for the Gradual Approach of Re-Opening of our Parishes:

<https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/covid-19/Diocesan-Directives-on-the-Gradual-Re-Opening-of-Diocesan-Churches-2020-05-08-For-Distribution.pdf>



St. George Orthodox Church
2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216
(716) 875-4222

www.stgeorgebuffalo.com

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends
of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY
a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey
and The Orthodox Church in America

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

2 Nottingham Terrace Buffalo, NY 14216

V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest

2 Nottingham Terrace 716-875-4222 Buffalo, NY 14216

Cell Phone: 609-851-3811 Email: jvansuch@hotmail.com

Presbyter Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached

Reader John Kirwan, Choir Director

Mr. Paul Shosho, Parish Council President

Home: 716-544-7358 Email: pshosho@me.com

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 6. Sunday of the Last Judgment. The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus (4th c.). Ven. Paul the Simple, disciple of Ven. Anthony the Great (4th c.). St. Paul the Confessor, Bishop of Plousias in Bithynia (9th c.). St. Emilian of Rome. Icon of the Mother of God, "SURETY OF SINNERS" in Odrina (Orlovsk—1843) and Moscow (1848).

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 **The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** **Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-36

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!

****FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK****

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos,
and on the Center Icon Table are donated by Patricia Fiden

Altar Vigil Candles are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory
of Thy Servants of God – Marion Rose, William, and George. May their memory be eternal.

TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT/MEATFARE SUNDAY

The Hours – 9:10 AM Divine Liturgy– 9:30 AM

Social Distant Meatfare Sunday Luncheon Fellowship in Pariah Fellowship Hall Following Divine Liturgy

Q&A with Fr. Jay via Google Classroom - 12:30 to 1:15 PM

MONDAY MARCH 8, 2021

St. George Bible Study Class via Zoom –6:30 to 8:00 PM

TUESDAY MARCH 9, 2021

Daily Matins – 9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2021

Little Compline – 6:00 PM Adult Education Class – 6:30 to 8:00 PM (via Zoom)

TOPIC – The Cycles of Life for an Orthodox Christian

THURSDAY MARCH 11, 2021

Akathist Service to Our Lord – 9:00 AM

SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2021

Great Vespers– 4:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 14, 2021

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY/FORGIVENESS SUNDAY EXPULSION OF ADAM FROM PARADISE

The Hours – 9:10 AM

Divine Liturgy followed by Forgiveness Sunday Vespers – 9:30 AM

Social Distant Cheesefare Sunday Luncheon Fellowship in Pariah Fellowship Hall Following Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Church School Class via Google Classroom - 12:30 to 1:15 PM

for remembrance during the Divine Liturgy, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

*** * * * * PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE * * * * ***
PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS
FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:

HIERARCHS

Metropolitan HERMAN Bishop DANIEL Archbishop ALEJO

CLERGY

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George *{Schick}* Archpriest James and Mat. Patricia *{Mason}*
Archpriest Alexey and his family *{Karlcut}* Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne
Archpriest Timothy/Mat. Michelle Archpriest Michael and Mat. Valerie *{Hatrak}*
Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie *{Starevsky}* Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather *{McNulty}*
Archpriest Gregory and Mat. Diane *{Winsky}* Priest Peter and Mat. Mary *{Irfan}*
Archpriest Leonid Archpriest David *{Mezinski}* Presbyter John and Presbyter Nancy

MATUSHKI

Mat. Katia Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Popadia Vicki Mat. Christine Mat. Patricia *{Severeno}*
Mat. Gloria *{Martin}*

Stanley Mandy Annette Anna *{Massey}*

Family/Friends/Parishioners of St. George Orthodox Church

William Natalie Natasha Richie

Catherine Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie *{Dan}* Coard Karen Aliscia *{Nick Rostko}* Walter, Paul
Edwina Irene Luba Silvu Dan, Jr. Jim, Darren, Marsha *{Relatives of Elaine M.}*
Serena Lillian Reader Victor Nicholas, Andrew *{Wityk}* Frank *{Barb. K brother-in-law}*
Sarah Oscar Albert *{Fadell}* Frank Boris *{Kuvshinoff}* Marilyn *{Linda cousin}*
Xenia, Justin, Danielle *{Friends of Fr. Jason}* Larry Joseph *{Rocco Father in Law}* Ronald, Candice *{Masset}*
Victor *{Tita Nephew}* Catherine *{Tony}* Susan *{Kirwan}* June *{Pavlov}*
Evelyn *{Friend of Julie}* Billy *{William – Mat. Christine’s cousin}* Clyde Allison *{school}*
Robert *{Phillips}* Rebecca *{Relative of Mat. Christine}* Svetlana *{Family friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia}*
Jeanne *{Mat. Christine’s Friend}* Angela, Jason, Michelle *{Relatives of Dn. Mark}* Linda Justin *{Slaiman}*
Carol *{Mailman’s sister-in-law}* Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria *{Ewing}* Ashley *{Friend from Roswell}*
Melody Lee *{Beth’s brother}* Lee, Bridget *{John Kirwan friend}* Paul *{Shosho}* Brain *{Brother of Matthew Just}*
Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas Sada Thislitsnitsa, Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric *{Fr. Peter}* Child Senit
Anne *{Mariami Grandmother}* Jeremy Stewart *{nephew of Bill George}* Susan *{Zumba}* Juliana *{Matusiak}*
Susan *{Deeb}* Justin *{Cmunt}* Louis *{cousin of Barbara}* Yuri/Elena Alex *{Valieff}* John, Kevin Irene Sean
Jaime *{Zumba}* Rosemary Harry *{neighbor of Tom and MaryAnne Slaiman}* Anthony *{DelNuovo}*
Aspasia *{Dean’s Mother}* Charles Seraphim Emma/Alexander *{relatives of Natalie Huett}*
Olga *{Friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia}* Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia Noah *{McEntee}* Elias, John, Joseph
Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber Judithann *{Friend of Barbara}* Steven *{Uncle of Dean}*
Barbara *{Rdr. John’s Sister in Law}* William *{Friend of Judge Family}* John, Helen *{Parents of Tanya Cmunt}*
Brian John, Roberta, Barbara *{Family of Dana and Annette}* John, Michael John Matthew *{Bashira}*
Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga, Clara *{Bethlehem}*
Jeffry, Dominic, Rachel *{Family of Andrea}* Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick *{Relatives of Beth Mellas}*

Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List

Protopresbyter Leonid *{Kishkovsky}* Archpriest Samuel *{Kedela}* Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar
Archpriest George *{Haseneccz}* Archpriest Paul *{Shafran}* Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra *{Kovalek}*
Archpriest Jonathan *{Ivanoff}* Archpriest Paul *{Kucynda}* Archpriest Sergei and Mat. Gerry *{Glagolev}*
Archpriest Terenti *{Wasielowski}*

Expectant Mothers Randy Iris, Pete, Sara Douglas, Chris Costa *{Father of Pete Thanos}*
Rachel and the child to be born of her Jonathan Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo , Dragiza, Karl

Those Serving in The Armed Forces

Kenneth, Nadine, Jason, Robert, Andrew, Justin, Shawn, Austin,
Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie

Catechumens

Juanita Marthia

FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:

All of the clergy and parishioners of This Holy House who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord.

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene Vansuch Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Timko
Ever-Memorable Priest John Bohush Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Aswad
Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko Matushka Dorothy *{Timko}* Met. THEODOSIUS
Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark Ever-Memorable Sbdn. Gregory
Ever-Memorable Pdn. Gregory Akhtar Remyat, and Barkat *{Family of Fr. Peter}*
Newly-Departed Servants of God Tedros *{brother of Sammy Afeworki}* Pdn. John *{Eby}* Proto. Daniel *{Hubiak}*
Archpriest John *{Chupeck}* *If anyone would like to have their loved ones added to the prayer list

HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY
Tropars/Kontakions for Divine Liturgy

TROPAR FOR THE RESURRECTION, 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 FOR THE RESURRECTION, TONE 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

KONTAKION LENTEN TRIODION, 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!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress Tone 6 (Hymn to the Theotokos)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator. Despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in Your Goodness come speedily to help us who call on You

in faith! Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us,
O Theotokos!! For You always protect those who honor You!

PROKEMEINON 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!

ALLELUIA VERSES

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God
our Savior!*

*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a
joyful noise to him with songs of praise.*

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect,
preserve, and save those who hope in thee! In the shadow
and letter of the Law, let us the faithful discern a figure:
every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God.
Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who
has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had
not known man.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

BRETHREN:

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 LESSON FOR TODAY

Matthew 25:31-46 (The Sunday of the Last Judgment)

Let us Attend!

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.

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== = Scriptural Readings for the Week = = =

Monday	3 John 1:1-15	Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39
Tuesday	Jude 1:1-10	Luke 22:39-42, 45-23:1
Wednesday	Joel 2:12-16	Joel 3:12-21
Thursday	Jude 1:11-25	Luke 23:2-34, 44-56
Friday	Zechariah 8:7-17	Zechariah 8:19-23
Saturday	Romans 14:19-23, 16:25-27	Matthew 6:1-13
Sunday	Romans 13:11-14:4	Matthew 6:14-21

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**** NEW PROTOCOLS WHEN ATTENDING THE DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS****

☒ **A Parish Council Member will greet everyone at the Front Entrance Doors to the Church. We will have the Sign-Up Sheet there to mark off your name if you signed-up to attend. If we did not sign-up, then we will write your name down and kindly remind you to sign-up before next Sunday. We will also take your temperature as well. If someone has a fever or is experiencing symptoms or answers YES to any of the COVID Questions, they will not be permitted to come into the church.**

☒ **EVERYONE attending the Divine Liturgy (those in the Nave and those in The Parish Fellowship Hall – parishioners, choir members, parish council members) NEED to sign-up. Only Those in the Altar do not need to sign-up as they are not taking space in The Nave. Once we reach our capacity of 33 people in The Church, everyone else will be seated in The Parish Fellowship Hall. We must also remember to wear a mask in Church and in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on Church Property at all times and maintain social distancing. If we forget one, we will have them available at the Candle Desk as well as in the Parish Fellowship Hall. Also, when we enter the Church and say our prayers, we must use the hand sanitizer that is located at the Candle Desk as well as review the posted Diocesan Guidelines. These (masks, prayers, hand sanitizer) are also located in the Parish Fellowship Hall These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.**

☒ **When receiving Holy Communion, a Parish Council Member will call everyone up – pew by pew – to allow for social distancing (the children and Altar Servers will come first, then the first pews up front all the way to the back of the Church with the Choir being the last ones to receive Holy Communion). If any faithful are in The Parish Fellowship Hall, Fr Jason, Fr. Andreja, or Fr. Peter will bring Holy Communion to those in the Hall.**

****If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless and guide all of you!****

LIVE-STREAMING OF DIVINE SERVICES

As a friendly reminder, ALL DIVINE SERVICES, WILL ALSO BE LIVE-STREAMED from Fr. Jason's Facebook page and our Parish Youtube Page so that we can still be together and pray together. So please continue to join us in prayer!! There are three ways you can join us in prayer via Live-Stream even if we do not have a FaceBook account:

- 1) Go directly to our Parish Website (www.stgeorgebuffalo.com) and on our homepage you will see a box that says 'Restream: Stream currently offline". When 'live-stream' is active, the live video will automatically appear.
- 2) Go directly to Fr. Jason's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/jason.vansuch> and there you will see the Live-stream video.
- 3) Go directly to our Parish Youtube Page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCft4AWAX2COlZExfMjc5KQ> and there you will see the Live-stream video.

Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for Coffee Hour Readers Bulletin Collection, Communion Cloth, Home Blessing, please see or contact Fr. Jason!



A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

- Matushka Fran for donating Hand Sanitizer
- Dr. Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff for donating the flowers the Feast of The Meeting of Our Lord in The Temple
- Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia/Anna and Alex for donating the flowers the Feast of The Annunciation of The Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
- Paul and Joan Shosho for donating the Vigil Candles near The Gospel Book/Confession, The Icon of The Holy Sepulchre, Icons of All Saints of North America, and The Icons of St. Nektarios and The Holy Relics for the continued good health of their Family.
- Linda and George Mucyn for donating Plastic Bags for Prospora
- Flowers for Sunday February 28, 2021 offered by Patricia Fiden

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website (www.stgeorgebuffalo.com) to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

WELCOME TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH!

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?
Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?
Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?
Do we wonder where to go to find answers?
We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions
in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,
Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord
Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced
in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered
and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty
centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today
her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church
maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to
learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is "The Church" to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How
Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian
confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more.
For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below:
http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=
player_embedded&fs=1" For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox
Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?', "Who we Are?", and "How we Live?",
please view the PDF link below:

http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf
or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:
http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith
or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below:
http://journeytoorthodoxy.com

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA
has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as
(handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please
view the PDF link below:
http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith, please
contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or
716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

IMPORTANT DATES WITHIN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH

Parish Announcements:

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission,
Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace as well as Kevin Guest
House and our other outreach ministry projects.
WE CONTINUE TO CONTACT ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS ON A REGULAR
BASIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS OKAY, SAFE AND HEALTHY.

**Please be on the lookout for emails this week with the following items:

- 1) Reader Vespers for Saturday Evening (March 13)
2) Reader Typika Service for Sunday Morning (March 14)
3) Information for St. George Book Class - Monday (March 8)
4) Information for Special Inquirer Class - Wednesday (March 9)

EACH WEEK WE WILL BE RECORDING
THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS OFFERING THE
MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH!

INCOME FOR SUNDAY February 28, 2020 - \$ 500.00
& \$500 for Capital Improvement Fund
DONATIONS FOR THE NEW BOILER (Capital Improvement Fund) -
Total Donations so far for the New Boiler: \$19,130.00

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!

Please refer to the Weekly Bulletin and Church Website for any changes to the calendar!

DAILY FAMILY PRAYER RULE WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER AT HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES

A Prayer Rule must be done in front of the icons and the Gospel in our Icon Corners
with a lit candle.. It is important to remember that we must make time for God, for
the "Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force"(Matt.
11:12).The best time to pray is in the morning or in the evening when we as a family
can come together in prayer. Also, when using a Rule of Prayer, we must be flexible
and do what we can and do it attentively and consistently. Our goal is to maintain the
connection with God and cultivate a real relationship with Him.

With that in mind, please fine below The Rule of Prayer offered by our Diocese for us
to use at home especially during this most difficult time when we are not able to be
in church together as a parish family.

https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/praying-at-home/A-FAMILY-PRAYER-RULE.pdf

May God bless you and keep you always in His Loving Care!

ST. ANDREW'S CAMP

** Saint Andrew's Camp has released a new promotional video for prospective campers!

The video can be found here on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/>

**Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)

For more than sixty years, St. Andrew's Camp has offered the young people of our parishes an incredible summer camping experience. Children and teens have been instructed in prayer and the divine services, the reading of Scripture and the teachings of our Orthodox Church. They have been nourished with the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. They have had fun swimming, horseback riding, playing sports, singing and learning musical instruments, creating in the visual arts, learning to safeguard the planet, and exploring the stars. And they have established friendships that last a lifetime, met their future spouses, and nurtured their vocations to serve the Lord in ministry.

As a token of gratitude for the labors of love extended by the administration and staff, both clergy and laypersons, of St. Andrew's over the past six decades, it is now time for us to help the Camp in an especially needed way.

Please join us in raising funds for the new multi purpose building which will include new kitchen, dining hall and activities center. The cost of this new building is \$300,000. To become a reality, the completion and furnishing of this much-needed center will require great generosity of individuals, organizations and parishes.

You can click on the link below which will take you to the gofundme.com page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-andrew039s-camp-fundraiser-by-ss-peter-and-paul>

As we continue to fulfill the work of Our Lord by living and fulfilling His Gospel Message, let us open our hearts and minds by providing support and assistance to our Diocese, to our children, by taking a moment to reflect upon what God has given us, and to discern how we might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings we have received.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you and your families for your continued prayers, support and generosity.

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**Also, make sure we check out the promotional video for prospective campers!

The video can be found here on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/>

**Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)

Remember our Loved Ones during Our Daily Prayers

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

{Matt. 25:40}

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS (2020)

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser 147 West Hazeltine Avenue Kenmore, NY 14217 716.875.9503	Reader Victor Shanchuk 495 Lafayette Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222 716.881.3096	Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit) 245 Bassett Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)
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Mrs. Catherine Tony 274 Wadsworth Ave. Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.695.3068	Mr. Albert Fadell 317.376.2562
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Andrew Wityk
Ellicott Center
200 Seventh Street
Buffalo, NY 14201

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WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18th All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "**First Fruits**" and "**Beyond the Plateau.**" The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

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"Lessons in Our Faith" Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**

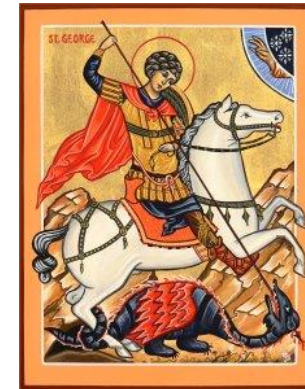
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH MEET n GREET

SUNDAY MARCH 14, 2021

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY



IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL

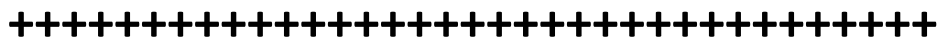
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS

Please join us on Sunday March 14 for a Special Social Distant Lenten Coffee Hour during which we will get to know our parish family a little better as we begin The Great Lenten Season!

Great Food ~~~~ Great Fellowship ~~~~ Great Fun for All

Let us come together as a parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ and enjoy Christian Fellowship as begin The Great Lenten Season!

Please see or contact Fr. Jason, Mat. Katia or Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a Lenten **(dairy but no meat)** covered dish to share with everyone!!



MEATFARE SUNDAY LUNCHEON SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2021

Please see or contact Fr. Jason, Mat. Katia or Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a covered dish to share with everyone!!

IMPORTANT DATES WITHIN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH

March 7: MeatFare Sunday (Sunday of The Last Judgment)

St. George Meatfare Luncheon in the fellowship hall immediately following The Divine Liturgy. **Please Note:** Please see or contact Fr. Jason, Mat. Katia or Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a covered dish to share with everyone!! Please remember that we must maintain social distance as well as were masks and following all proper CDC Protocols and Guidelines to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of everyone.

March 14: Forgiveness Sunday

St. George Meet & Greet in the fellowship hall immediately following forgiveness Sunday Vespers. **Please Note:** Please see or contact Fr. Jason, Mat. Katia or Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a Lenten covered dish to share with everyone!! Dairy is permitted but no meat products! Please remember that we must maintain social distance as well as were masks and following all proper CDC Protocols and Guidelines to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of everyone.

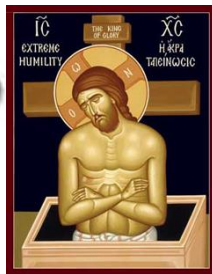
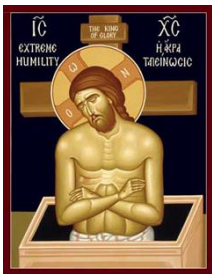
Please join us on Sunday March 1 for a Special Lenten Coffee Hour during which we will get to know our parish family a little better as we begin The Great Lenten Season!

Great Food ~~~~ Great Fellowship ~~~~ Great Fun for All!

Let us come together as a parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ and enjoy Christian Fellowship as begin The Great Lenten Season!

March 21: World Down Syndrome Day.

Do you know about the lots of socks initiative? Those with Down syndrome have a 3rd copy of chromosome 21, so on Sunday March 21 (3/21) the world celebrates World Down Syndrome Day. The idea behind lots of socks is that everyone wears two different colorful socks to highlight the uniqueness of these individuals and show their support for the Down syndrome community. We will be celebrating this on Sunday March 21. So get your mismatched socks ready and be prepared to display them on Sunday. We will also be collecting financial donations from Coffee Hour. Last year we donated the money to the local Learning Disabilities of WNY!



2021 - THE SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY GREAT LENTEN VESPERS - 2021

“Fulfilling the Gospel through Our Life in Christ”

****ALL SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS**

WILL BE SERVED AT ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH (BUFFALO, NY)**

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Discussion: “Being called to be Living Icons of The Gospel in our everyday life”

Sunday March 21, 2021

5:00 PM

St. Gregory Palamas

Discussion: “Prayer as a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

Sunday March 28, 2021

5:00 PM

Veneration of the Cross

Discussion: “The Cross a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

Sunday April 4, 2021

5:00 PM

St. John Climacus

Discussion: “The Ladder of Divine Ascent a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

Sunday April 11, 2021

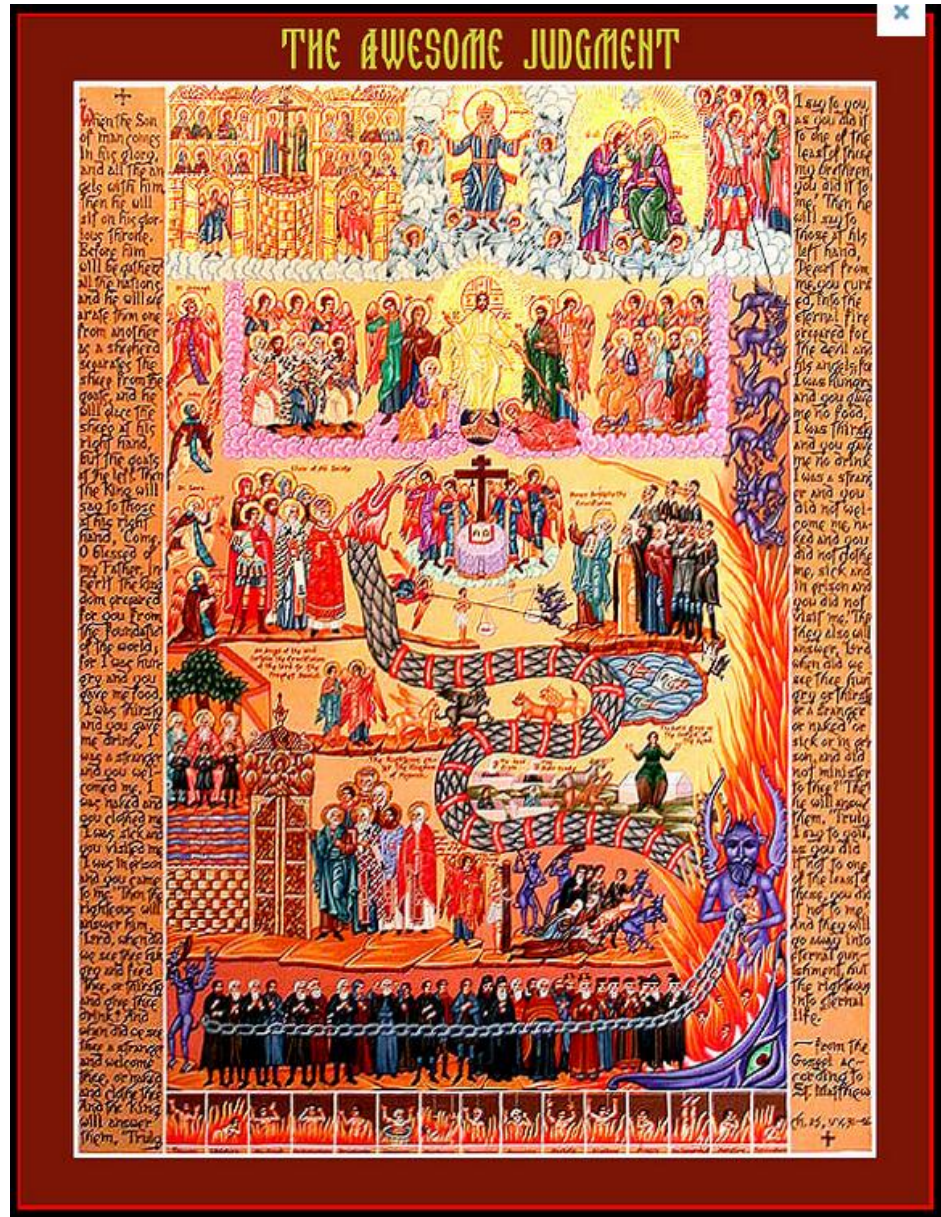
5:00 PM

St. Mary of Egypt

Discussion: “Repentance a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

Sunday April 18, 2021

5:00 PM



SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

The Third Sunday of the Triodion Period:

Sunday of The Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)

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Introduction

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During this time, the services of the Church have begun to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory.

Biblical Story

The commemoration for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning his Second Coming and the Last Judgment of all, both the living and the dead. In Matthew 25:31-46, Christ speaks about what will happen at this specific point in time when He will “come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him” (v. 31).

At His coming, “He will sit on the throne of His glory,” and all of the nations will be gathered before Him. He will separate them “as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats” (v. 32). The sheep will be placed on His right hand, and the goats on the left.

To the sheep, He will say “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (vv. 33-34)

This kingdom is offered to the sheep because of their compassion and service to those in need. Jesus says, “...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.”

The sheep, who are the righteous chosen for the kingdom, will ask how this could be so. They will ask Jesus when was He hungry or thirsty, a stranger, naked, and in prison. He will answer them by saying, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of these My brethren, you did it to me” (vv. 35-40).

Christ the King, seated on His throne of judgment, will then turn to the goats on His left and say, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (v. 41). He will condemn them because they did not feed Him when He was hungry, give Him drink when He was thirsty, take Him in when He was a stranger, clothe Him when He was naked, visit Him when He was sick or in prison.

The goats will ask the 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” (vv. 42-45).

Jesus concludes His words on the Last Judgment by stating that those on the left “will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (v. 46). On the past two Sundays of this pre-Lenten period, the focus was placed on God’s patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our Judge. Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes.

This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Savior, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come, a theme that is also the focus of the first three days of Holy Week. But the judgment is not only in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts toward others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves.

Another theme of this Sunday is that of love. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable of the Last Judgment answers: love – not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous “poor,” but concrete and personal love for the human person – the specific persons that we encounter each day in our lives.

Christian love is the “possible impossibility” to see Christ in another person, whoever he or she is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a “good deed” or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for “humanity,” yet each one of us has received the gift and the grace of Christ’s love. We know that all persons ultimately need this personal love – the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that people are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ’s love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged.

[COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL 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.

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Meatfare Sunday/The Last Judgment **Matthew 25:31-46**

From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Matthew
by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

31-33. When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Since the first coming of the Lord was not with glory but with dishonor and indignity, He says, *When He shall come in His glory.* For at the second coming He will come with glory, escorted by angels. First He will divide the saints from the sinners, delivering them from tribulations, and set them on His right, and then speak to them. He calls the saints *sheep* on account of their gentleness, and because they yield fruit and useful things for us, as do sheep, providing wool, which is divine and spiritual protection, and milk, which is the sustenance that is needed. The goats are the sinners, for they walk along the precipices and are unruly and fruitless.

34-40. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry, and ye fed Me: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye

clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

He does not give honor or punishment until He has first judged. For He loves mankind and teaches us to do the same as well, not to punish until we have made a careful examination. In this way those *blessed* as they have been accepted by the Father. He considers them to be inheritors of the kingdom to show that God makes them participants in His own glory as His sons. For He did not say, "receive", but rather *inherit*, as a man would say of his father's estate. By *the least brethren* He means either His own disciples or, simply, all the poor. For every poor man is Christ's brother for the very reason that Christ, too, spent His life in poverty. See also God's righteousness, how He acclaims the saints; and see the good disposition of their mind, how they deny, with befitting modesty, that they have cared for Him. But the Lord accepts as for Himself the things that were done for the poor.

41-46. Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry, and ye gave Me nothing to eat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in: naked, and ye clothed Me not: sick, or in prison, and ye visited Me not.

Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

He sends those on the left into the fire which had been prepared for the devil. For as the demons are without compassion and are cruelly and maliciously disposed towards us, it is fitting that those who are of like mind with them, and who have been cursed by their own deeds, should merit the same punishment. See that God did not prepare the fire for men, nor did He make hell for us, but for the devil—I make myself liable to hell. Tremble, then, O man, and understand from this that these men were not punished as fornicators, or robbers, or perpetrators of any other vice, but for not having done good. For indeed, if you consider things well, the robber is he who has much and does not give alms, even if he does no obvious injury. For whatever he has in excess of his needs, he has stolen from those who are in need and who have not received anything from him. For if he had shared these things with them, they would not be in need. Now that he has locked these things up and kept them for himself, for this very reason they are in need. So he who does not give alms is a robber, doing injustice to all those whom he could have helped but did not, and for this reason he and those like him shall go away into eternal punishment which never ends; but the righteous shall enter into eternal life. Just as the saints have unceasing joy, so too the unjust have unceasing punishment, despite the gibberish of Origen who says that there is an end to hell

and that sinners will not be punished for ever, but that there will be a time when they enter the place of the righteous because they have been purified by suffering in hell. (1) Origen is clearly refuted here, both when the Lord speaks of *everlasting punishment*, that is, never ending, and when He likens the righteous to sheep and the sinners to goats. For just as a goat can never become a sheep, neither can a sinner ever be cleansed and become righteous after the Judgement. *Outer darkness* [mentioned in the preceding parable of the talents] is that which is furthest from the light of God and for that reason renders the punishment more harsh. There is another reason that could be mentioned, and that is that the sinner is in darkness even in this life, as he has fallen away from the Sun of Righteousness, but as there is still hope of conversion, this is not yet the *outer* darkness. But when he has died and an examination has been made of the things he has done, then the outer darkness in its turn receives him. For there is no longer any hope of conversion, but he undergoes a complete deprivation of the good things of God. While he is here in this life he enjoys to some degree the good things of God, I mean, the tangible things of creation, and he believes that he is in some manner a servant of God, living out his life in God's house, which is this creation, being fed by Him and provided with the necessities of life. But then he will be altogether cut off from God, having no share at all in the good things of God. This is that darkness which is called *outer* by comparison to the darkness here, which is not *outer* because the sinner is not yet completely cut off from this time onward. You, then, O reader, flee from this absence of compassion, and practice almsgiving, both tangible and spiritual. Feed Christ Who hungers for our salvation. If you give food and drink to him who hungers and thirsts for teaching, you have given food

and drink to Christ. For within the Christian there is Christ, and faith is nourished and increased by teaching. If you should see someone who has become a stranger to his heavenly fatherland, take him in with you. While you yourself are entering into the heavens, lead him in as well, lest while you preach to others, you yourself be rejected. If a man should cast off the garment of incorruption which he had at his baptism, so that he is naked, clothe him; and if one should be infirm in faith, as Paul says, help him; and visit him who is shut up in the dark prison of this body and give him counsel which is as a light to him. Perform, then, all of these six types of love, both bodily and also spiritually, for we consist of both soul and body, and these acts of love are to be accomplished by both.

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“Have Mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us!”

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The Pre-Lenten Sundays



The next Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday since it is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25.31–46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

... 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 in prison and you visited Me. For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me (Mt 25).

We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by “religious exercises” alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.



Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the day called Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.

If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14–18).

GOD WANTS US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

"Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O 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 welcomed me, 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, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal 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



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

"Then they also will answer, 'Lord when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Read Daniel 7:13-14 where the Son of Man is described.
2. What does today's Gospel say about the coming of the Son of Man? About his kingship? About how he relates to the nations?
3. How are these two descriptions similar? How are they different?
4. Who claimed to be this Son of Man?
5. What was He saying about himself by saying He is the Son of Man?
6. Why is this an important claim?

LET US ATTEND!



Let Us Attend! is published by the Antiochian Orthodox Department of Christian Education (www.antiochian.org). If you would like information on our present programs and future initiatives, contact Mrs. Carole Buleza at aodce@antiochian.org. We gratefully acknowledge support from the Order of St. Ignatius which funds, in part, the work of the Department.

Visit www.antiochian.org/LetUsAttend for free downloads related to this Gospel story: mp3 audio, coloring sheet, script for readers' theater, and handouts for preschool through high school. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AODCE.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2021

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 21st	TRIDION WEEKS Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 28th	The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 7th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 14th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 21st	GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 28th	ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 4th	VERNERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 11th	ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 18th	ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 25th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 30th	GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 2nd NO FASTING!	BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. **Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges** accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God by teaching and giving examples of a virtuous life to all (St. John Chrysostom). A primary goal of Stewardship is to strengthen our understanding of the teachings and dogmas of The Orthodox Faith through supporting the work of The Church. This can be found in The Divine Services as reiterated by St. John of San Francisco: "The Divine Services in their composition contain all the fullness of the dogmatic teaching of the Church and set forth the path of salvation." Fulfilling our responsibility of continual learning begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. Through being Stewards of the Gospel and of The Orthodox Church, Education calls on the faithful to cheerfully receive instruction given to the Church by Our Lord, Holy Scripture, The Divine Services, and The Holy Fathers of

the Church. Through Orthodox Christian Stewardship, The Church promotes spiritual growth and strengthened faith and calls on all of us to bring the faith and love of Our Lord to every aspect of our lives as gifts from Him through our time, talents, and treasures. During this year, let us come together as a Diocesan Family and recommit ourselves to both spiritual growth of our Life in Christ as well as through Orthodox Christian Stewardship by attending the Divine Services, attending the many opportunities of Education for both Adults and Children through Parish Education, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parishes and Diocese in the many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8

