

**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 St. George Orthodox Church

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**Altar Candles** are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Departed Servants of his family. May their memory be eternal.

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**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 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

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**SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 3. Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn (1915). Sunday of the Last Judgment. Ven.**

Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis (8th c.). Ven. Titus, Presbyter, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1190). Ven. Titus the Soldier, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Ven. Thalelæus, Hermit, of Syria.

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!**

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**EPISTLE LESSON**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2      Matthew 25:31-46  
Hebrews 13:17-21      (*St. Raphael*) John 10:9-16

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**Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!**

- Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
- Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . . ", as proof of that belief.
- Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

If you would like to make a donation to our parish, please feel free to use the QR Code below. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our parish in bringing The Love and Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all! May God continue to bless and guide you and keep all of you in His loving care today and always!



## HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

### Troparion for The Resurrection — 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 for St. Raphael of Brooklyn — 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 for The Resurrection — Tone 3

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam! Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One!

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

### Kontakion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn — 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!

## THE EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

*1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 and Hebrews 13:17-21*

### **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.

### **BRETHREN:**

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.

*Now and ever and  
unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Kontakion for The 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!

**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!*

**THE SECOND PROKEMEINON Tone 1**

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

**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 mouth of the righteous shall meditate and his tongue shall speak of judgment.*

**THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

It is truly meet to bless You, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify You!

**THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY**

*Matthew 25:31-36 and John 10:9-16*

**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

**COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Scriptural Readings for the Week**  
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**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

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."

**At That Time:**

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.

**LOVE CONQUERS 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*

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**Warming Up for Great Lent IV:**

**The Second to Last Sunday before the beginning of Great Lent 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 [like Zacchaeus], to see ourselves as we are [as did the repentant Publican], 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).*

**Today's Gospel** — the parable of the Last Judgment — 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).

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**Life: "The most sublime expression of God's creative activity"**

The words below from Fr Alexander Schmemman of Blessed Memory are very fitting for our life:

"All that exists is God's gift to man, and it all exists to make God known to man, and to make man's life communion with God!"

Love one another! Pray for one another! Forgive one another!

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Another saying from The Holy Fathers for everyday of our life and for everything that we go through:

"The Will of God will never take us where The Grace of God cannot protect us!"



**Prayer is a safe fortress, a sheltered harbor, a protector of virtues, a destroyer of passions!**



**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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!**

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**IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace, Resurrection Life Food Pantry, Baker Victory as well as 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 Outlines for ALL weekend SERVICES**
- 2) Zoom information for Education Classes and Book Club**
- 3) Updates on Schedule of Services Events**
- 4) Pastoral Video for Parish Monthly Update**

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**EACH WEEK WE WILL BE RECORDING THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS POSTING THE MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS! INCOME FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2022 - \$1, 320.10 Commercial Savings Account Deposit \$ DONATION TO THE CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Kitchen) – \$750.00**

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



### **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](mailto:bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com). May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

**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**

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website ([www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://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.

Some of the items on the leaves are as follows:

Candles  
7-Day Vigil Candles  
Flowers for Feast Days  
Charcoal  
Altar Wine  
Cups for Zapifka  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper

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!

### **PARISH THEME FOR 2022:**

#### **Orthodox Christian Stewardship**

**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

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OCMC PARISH AMBASSADORS**

To The Glory of God, our parish has been blessed with two parishioners who have answered The Call of Our Lord to be Parish Ambassadors for OCMC guiding us to help bring The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ of “Making Disciples of All Nations baptizing them in The Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit!” Anthony Gregory DelNuovo and John Moses Lutz are our Parish Ambassadors for OCMC (The Orthodox Christian Mission Center). To help the good work being done by The OCMC of supporting Missionaries around the world, our parish will be sponsoring and supporting a missionary on a annual basis. The cost is only \$600/year. So far we have collected over \$1000 for this year’s sponsorship. If anyone would like to make a donation, please see or contact Anthony or John. We express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who has graciously donated so far. Thank you for kindness and generosity in supporting the good work and mission of The OCMC in fulfilling Our Lord’s Command in The Gospel of Matthew of: “Making Disciples of All Nations!”

For more information about The OCMC, please visit their website:  
[www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)

Another blessing for our parish of continuing the Good Work that has been entrusted to us of bringing The Gospel Message to All! Lord it is good to be here!

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**\*\*PLEASE REFER TO THE PARISH WEBSITE FOR THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR GREAT LENT, HOLY WEEK, FEAST OF HOLY PASCHA THROUGH FEAST OF SS PETER AND PAUL!\*\***

- \*Education Sermon on Sunday February 27: The Lenten Sundays\*
- \*Cheesefare Sunday Pot-Luck Luncheon – Sunday March 6\*\*
- \*Matins will be celebrated on Sunday March 13 and 27 at 9:00 AM!
- \*The Hours will be celebrated Sunday March 20 at 9:40 AM!

**\*\*GENERAL CONFESSION WILL BE CELEBREATED ON SUNDAY MARCH 6 – FORGIVEBESS SUNDAY – AT 9:30 AM!\*\***

**If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason!**

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 parish 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 Retreats, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parish in her many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

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

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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!](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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**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  
(2022)**

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser      Reader Victor Shanchuk      Mrs. Luba Japadjief  
147 West Hazeltine Avenue      McAuley Residence      Elderwood Nursing Home  
Kenmore, NY 14217      1503 Military Rd.      104 Old Niagara Rd.  
716.875.9503      Buffalo, NY 14217      Lockport, NY 14221 (Room 47A)  
716.881.3096

Mrs. Bonnie Dan      Mr. Albert Fadell  
15 Pine Street      317.376.2562  
North Tonawanda, NY 14150  
716.693.1377

Andrew Wityk      Mrs. Tita Abraham  
Ellicott Center      84 Stonington Lane, Apt 3  
200 Seventh Street      Getzville, NY 14068  
Buffalo, NY 14201

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**\*\*GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE**

**SUNDAY MARCH 6 (FORGIVENESS SUNDAY) AT 9:30 AM\*\***

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**THE INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
CHARITIES (IOCC) is an agency of The Standing Conference  
of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA)**

**PREPARATION FOR GREAT LENT**

Our preparation for Lent thus begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, a restoration of our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness and He blesses by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.

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**SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT**

On this day we commemorate the inexorable Second Coming of Christ. The holy fathers have ordained that it be observed after the second parable of the Prodigal Son, so that no one who has learned from it of God's love of for mankind will live in laziness, saying, "God loves mankind, and when I am separated from Him by sin, I will nevertheless be restored." This terrible Day of Judgment is now commemorated, so that through fear of death and

which represents Orthodox Christians in North America and understands it work to include developing in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy and global cooperative involvement within the Orthodox Church. IOCC was established in March 1992 as the Official Humanitarian Organization of SCOBA.

Consonant with the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20 and Matthew 25:35-46), the vision of IOCC is to provide programs and services such as: providing emergency relief and establishing developmental programs as well as ministering to those who are in need worldwide.

For more information about IOCC please visit their website at: <http://www.iocc.org>.

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**It is the Psalm of exile.** It was sung by the Jews in their Babylonian captivity as they thought of their holy city of Jerusalem. It has become forever the song of man as he realizes his exile from God, and realizing it, becomes man again: the one who can never be fully satisfied by anything in this fallen world, for by nature and vocation he is a pilgrim of the Absolute. It reveals Lent itself as pilgrimage and repentance – as return. ~ *Amen*

the expectation of future torment, those who live in laziness may be encouraged to strive for the virtues, not only trusting in the love of God, but also realizing that He is the righteous Judge, who will judge all men according to their deeds. In other words, those souls who have passed over to the next life must undergo judgment.

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH MEET n GREET**

**SUNDAY MARCH 6, 2022  
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**



**IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS**

Please join us on Sunday March 6 for a Special Lenten Luncheon 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  
FEBRUARY 27, 2022**

Please join us on Sunday February 27 in The Parish Fellowship Hall immediately following The Divine Liturgy for a Special Meatfare Sunday Luncheon!

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!!

# Lenten and Paschal Cycle



## Zacchaeus Sunday

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feb 14	Feb 6	Jan 29	Feb 18	Feb 2



## Publican & Pharisee

*Beginning of the Lenten Tridion*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feb 21	Feb 13	Feb 5	Feb 25	Feb 9



## Prodigal Son

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feb 28	Feb 20	Feb 12	Mar 3	Feb 16



## Meatfare

*Sunday of the Last Judgment*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mar 7	Feb 27	Feb 19	Mar 10	Feb 23



## Cheesefare

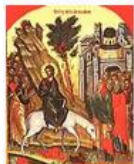
*Forgiveness Sunday*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mar 14	Mar 6	Feb 26	Mar 17	Mar 2



## Beginning of Great Lent

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mar 15	Mar 7	Feb 27	Mar 18	Mar 3



## Palm Sunday

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Apr 25	Apr 17	Apr 9	Apr 28	Apr 13



## PASCHA

*Beginning of the Pentecostarion*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
May 2	Apr 24	Apr 16	May 5	Apr 20

## THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2022

THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT  
MEATFARE SUNDAY

9:40 A.M. The Hours  
10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

ANNUAL MEATFARE SUNDAY LUNCHEON  
FELLOWSHIP N PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

Church School Class In-Person and  
Via Google Classroom

### MONDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2022

6:00 P.M. Healing Prayer Service  
6:45 P.M. St. George Bible Study Class  
(via Zoom)

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 2, 2022

6:00 P.M. Paraklesis Service

### THURSDAY MARCH 3, 2022

9:00 A.M. Akathist Service to Our Lord

### SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2022

4:00 P.M. Great Vespers

### SUNDAY MARCH 6, 2022

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY/CHEESEFARE SUNDAY  
EXPULSION OF ADAM FROM PARADISE

9:30 A.M. General Confession Service  
10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy  
followed by Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

ANNUAL CHEESEFARE SUNDAY LUNCHEON  
FELLOWSHIP N PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FOLLOWING FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS

Church School Class In-Person and  
Via Google Classroom

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR OUR PARISH**

We will continue to celebrate The Divine Services with FULL CAPACITY in The Church. ALL Pews will be open and available for everyone to stand together. So that we can, to the Glory of God, pray together, sing together and stand together as parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Until further notice, we continue to follow the following guidelines based upon The Newly Updated Pastoral Guidelines for our Diocese, Parish and the new directives from The State Government and Erie County:

- To ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe while attending Divine Services and Fellowship Activities at our parish, we will make the wearing of masks a voluntary decision. If someone wishes to continue to wear a mask, that is their choice and their right to. If someone chooses not to wear a mask, that is their choice not to wear a mask. This is to ensure that we, as a parish family and as brothers and sisters in Christ, minister in every way possible through love to those who come to St. George Orthodox Church to grow in their faith and love of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Out of love, care, concern, and the well-being of EVERYONE, The Clergy, when distributing Holy Communion and Holding The Cross at the Veneration of the Cross/Dismissal and whenever there is interaction between The Clergy and parishioners, The Clergy will be wearing a mask to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. As a parish family, let us continue to love one another, respect one another, and pray for and with one another! As I have mentioned previously, the topic of vaccinated vs unvaccinated has no place in our parish. That is a private and individual matter and choice and above that is a HIPAA Privacy Law!
- We will also continue to have hand sanitizer and masks available for everyone both in the Church and in The Parish Fellowship Hall to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes to St. George Orthodox Church for Divine Services and Fellowship Activities. These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.

- \* There will be Coffee Hour Fellowship will resume while following the Proper Protocols, Guidelines, and Directives.

- \* The choir will continue to sing up front

- \* The space in the back of the church (choir area and children's area) will remain open for the 17 chairs socially distant for those who wish to stand there.

- \* We will continue to use the Common Communion Cloth. However, if anyone wishes to use the individual napkin to wipe their lips after receiving Holy Communion, they may do so.

- \* We will resume with the passing the Stewardship Collection Plate during The Litany before The Lord's Prayer.

- \* The Church will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week and after every service

- \* The Parish Fellowship Hall will continue to be cleaned and sanitized throughout the week as well as a thorough cleaning/sanitizing every week by hiring our Professional Cleaner (Rocco) who will come in every week on Saturday Night to clean and sanitize the Parish Fellowship Hall and Restrooms.

- \* With this in mind, we will still need to sign up when we come to Church for THE DIVINE LITURGY on Sundays! This is to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of everyone attending our Parish for the Divine Liturgy. We do NOT need to sign-up beforehand but rather we will need to sign in at The Candle Desk when we come to church. This sign-up is important for us and our parish not only to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to come to Church to pray, participate in The Divine Liturgy and to receive Holy Communion but also to ensure that I have a record of everyone who attends the Divine Liturgy in case, God-forbid, someone becomes ill I would need to contact everyone who was in attendance.

We are taking every measure that we can to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our parishioners and of everyone that comes to our parish to pray. Together, with the Parish Council, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your help, assistance, patience, and understanding and for your continued working together and praying together as a Parish Family for The Glory of God, To the Glory of God, and With the Glory of God!

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

# FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 PM

SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

~ All are Welcome ~

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](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 or needs and help or assistance, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.



## 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:)**



The poster features a green tree icon on the left. The background shows a lake with several people kayaking. The text is as follows:

**St. Andrew's  
Camp Summer 2022**

**Save the Dates!**

**Week 1: Sunday, July 3 - Friday, July 8 -- Family Week**

**Week 2: Sunday, July 10 - Saturday, July 16 -- Horse Week 1**

**Week 3: Sunday, July 17 - Saturday, July 23 -- Mish Mash Week**

**Week 4: Sunday, July 24 - Saturday, July 30 -- Horse Week 2**

**Week 5: Sunday, July 31 - Saturday, August 6 -- Teen Week**

[standrewscamp.org](http://standrewscamp.org)



# Red Blazer Men's Chorus

SAVE the DATE!

Join us April 1 & 2 for the **Red Blazer Varieties** of 2022 ...

## Tickets now available!

Seating is limited to 400 to ensure comfortable spacing.

Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for students) and can be purchased at:

[RedBlazerMensChorus.com/tickets](http://RedBlazerMensChorus.com/tickets)

### THE 2022 GREAT LENTEN SEASON SUNDAY LENTEN VESPERS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday of St. Theodore, March 12, 1:00 PM (Annunciation Family Life Center)

Father Andrew Damick, "Demons, Paganism, and the Gospel"

First lecture, "What Do Demons Have to Do with the Gospel?"

Lunch

Second lecture, "What Does Paganism Have to Do with Christianity?"

Vespers

Lenten Vespers schedule for 2022, Sundays at 6:00 PM

Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 13 (Annunciation Church, Buffalo)

Father Andrew Damick, "What Do Angels Have to Do with Salvation?"

St. Gregory Palamas, March 20 (St. Stephen Church – Lackawanna)

Father Raphael, Reenchantment of the World

Veneration of the Cross, March 27 (SS. Peter and Paul Church)

Father Jason, Evangelization

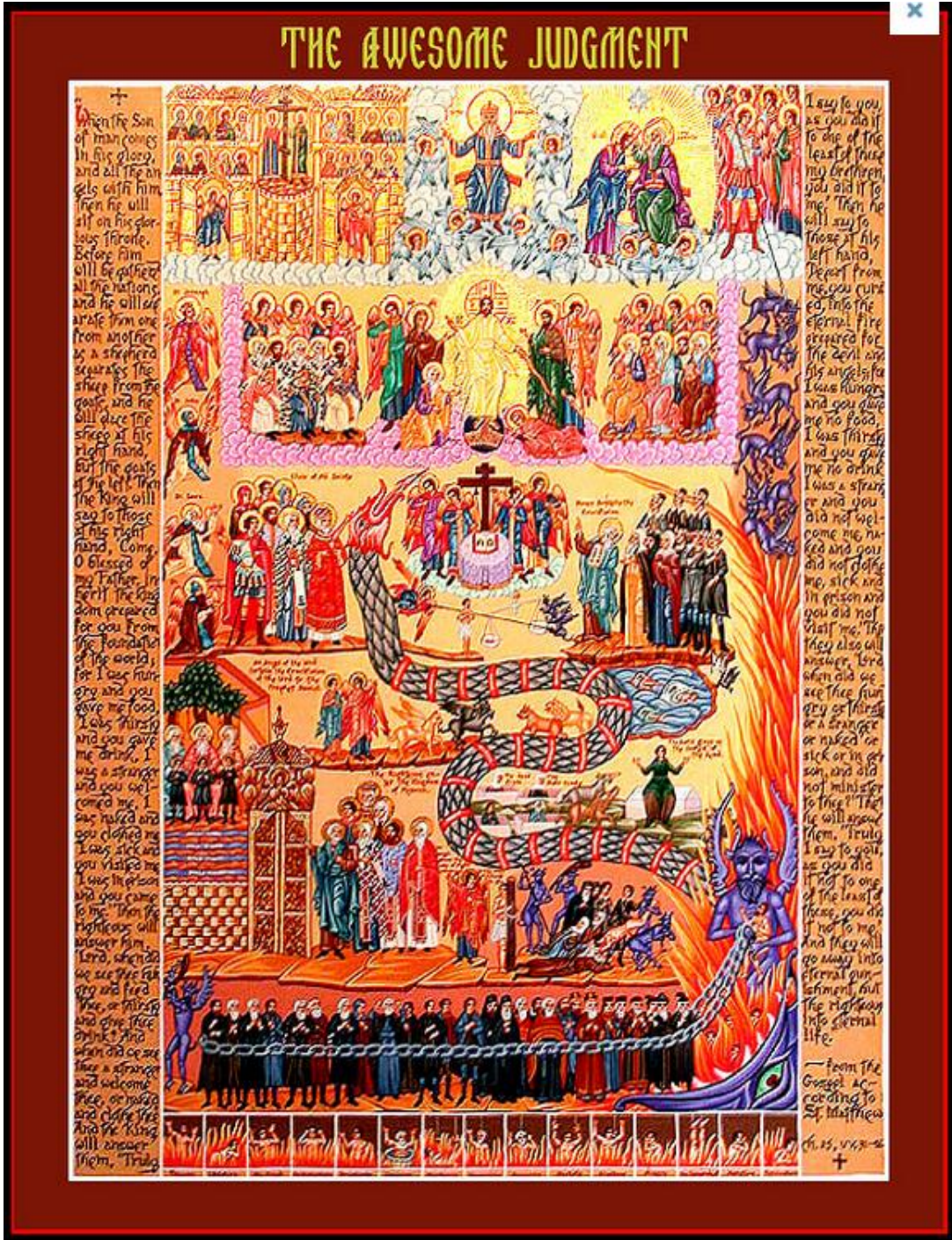
St. John of the Ladder, April 3 (St. George Church, Buffalo)

Father Christos, Guardian Angels

St. Mary of Egypt, April 10 (St. George Church, Niagara Falls)

Father John Hutnyan., Not yet determined

# "THE ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CORNER"



**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 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, but on our actions, which are 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).*

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2022

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 13th</b>	 <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15 Gospel: Luke 18: 10-14	TRIODION WEEKS 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 <b>FEBRUARY 20th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> 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 <b>FEBRUARY 27th</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> 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 <b>MARCH 6th</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> 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 <b>MARCH 13th</b>	 <b>SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 20th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> 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 <b>MARCH 27th</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> HALF WAY TO PASCHAI 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 bowl
4th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 3rd</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> 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 <b>APRIL 10th</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> 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! <b>APRIL 17th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4: 4-9 Gospel: John 12: 1-18	GREAT AND HOLY WEEK Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 22nd</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> 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! <b>APRIL 24th</b> NO FASTING!	 <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: Jan 1:1-17	BRIGHT WEEK Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!



COUNCIL OF CANONICAL  
ORTHODOX CHURCHES  
OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER

# PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT

with

V. Rev. Fr. Andrew Damick

## “DEMONS, PAGANISM, AND THE GOSPEL”

1 PM - “What Do Demons Have to Do with the Gospel?”

2 PM - Lunch

2:45 PM - “What Does Paganism Have to Do with Christianity?”

3:30 PM - Q&A

4 PM - Vespers

### ALL ARE WELCOME

**Saturday of St. Theodore, March 12, 2022**

Annunciation

Family Life Center

5992 Genesee St, Lancaster, NY 14086





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# GREAT LENT 2022

Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 13

Fr. Andrew Demick - **What Do Angels Have to Do with Salvation?**

**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**, 146 West Utica Street, Buffalo, New York 14222

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas, March 20

Fr. Raphael Barberg - **Reenchantment of the World**

**St. Stephen Serbian Orthodox Church**, 177 Weber Road, Lackawanna, New York, 14218

Sunday of the Cross, March 27

Fr. Jason Vansuch - **Evangelization**

**Ss. Peter and Paul**, 45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, New York, 14206

Sunday of St. John of the Ladder, April 3

Fr. Christos Christakis - **Guardian Angels**

**St. George Orthodox Church**, 2 Nottingham Terrace, Buffalo, New York, 14216

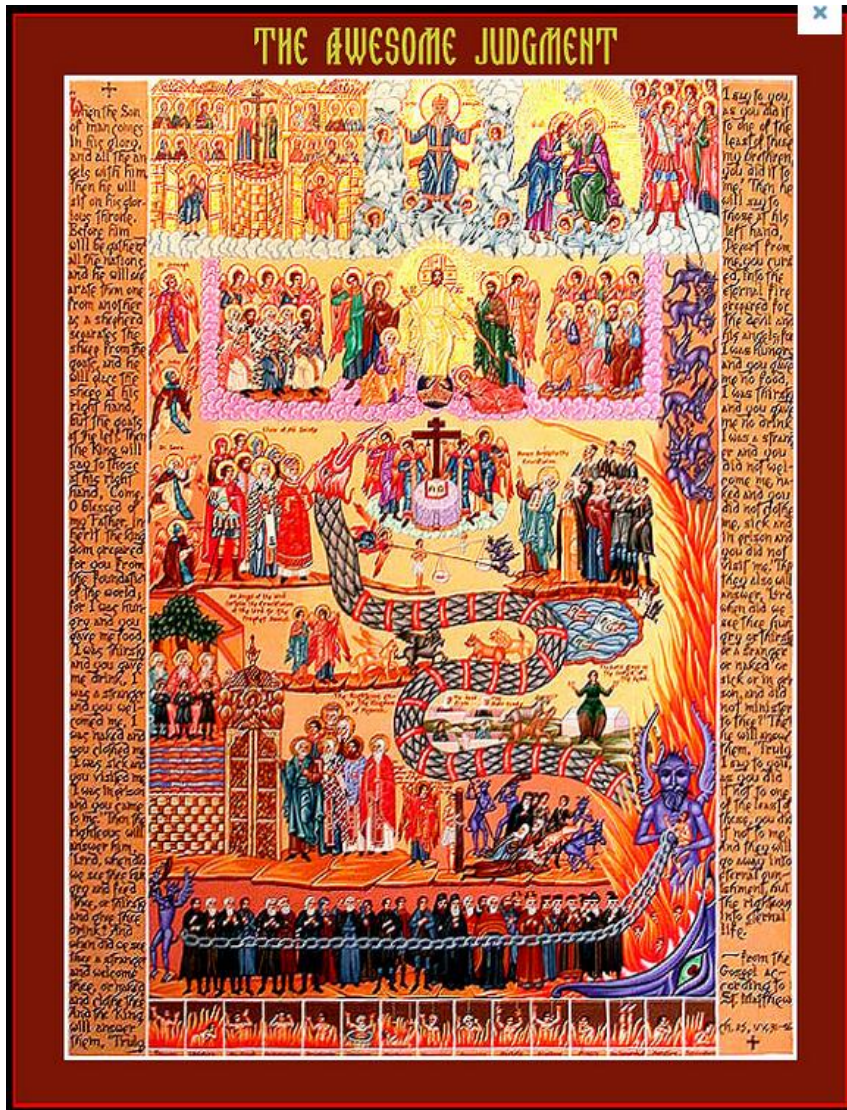
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, April 10

Fr. John Hutnyan - **Not yet determined**

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**, 1073 Saunders Settlement Rd, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Vespers Services begin at 6 PM followed by presentation and discussion

## ALL ARE WELCOME



### 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

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