

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.

Upcoming Events

Blini Dinner and Dance -Sunday, March 9

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church - Wantage, NJ

Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Rector

Joanne Patrick, Choir Director

Parish Council

Timothy Kachur, Sr. Warden

Mark Benda, Jr. Warden

Michael Olsen, Treasurer

Doris Livanos/Susan Matthews, Co/Recording Secretary

Council members

Edward Engelsman • Michael Chwan

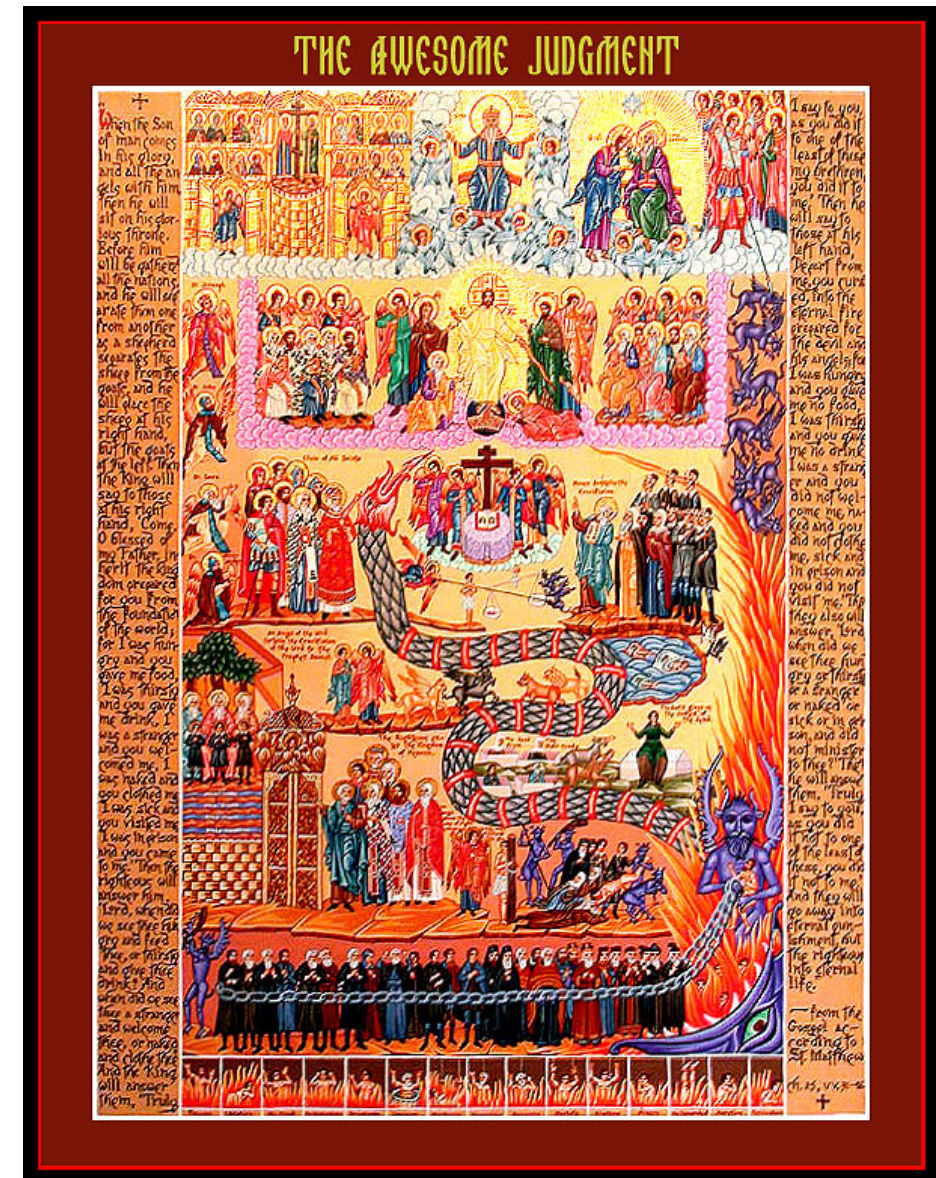
Anna Seniw • Louis Matthews

www.holyspiritorthodox.org

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

Wantage, New Jersey

March 2, 2008



Sunday of the Last Judgment

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Wantage, New Jersey 07461
(973) 702-0622

e-mail: fr.samuel@holyspiritorthodox.org web site: www.holyspiritorthodox.org

Sunday, March 2, 2008

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Today **Meatfare Sunday**
Wed. **7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**
Thurs. **Parish Council Mtg.-Greeters Ministry presentation**
Saturday **7:35 hrs-8:00 am. Memorial Divine Liturgy, 6:00 p.m. Vespers**
Sunday, March 9 **9:15 Church School – 9:35 a.m. Hours, 10 AM Divine Liturgy**
Forgiveness Vespers–Blini Dinner

Today's commemorated feasts and saints... SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 7.

Sunday of the Last Judgment. Hieromartyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrenia (ca. 320). St. Arseny (Arsenius), Bishop of Tver' (1409). Virgin Martyr Euthalia of Sicily (257). Martyr Troadius of Neo-Cæsarea (3rd c.). Ven. Agathon of Egypt (5th c.). 400 Martyrs slain by the Lombards in Sicily (579).

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle), Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

BULLETIN

We welcome **the Archpriest Stephen Kopestansky and Matushka Alexandra** who are with us today. Father Stephen is substituting for Father Samuel who is in Connecticut with his family for his son Samuel's wedding. **Thank you Father Stephen.**

Thank you to Valentina Bobrowsky who signed up to host the social today. **Blini Dinner next week no one** is signed up to host next week. **The schedule is posted downstairs and on our website. Please make arrangements for someone to fill in for you or switch with if you cannot make your day.**

Please place a **food donation in the Sussex Help Center basket** downstairs. The food is distributed to the needy in our community. Thank-you, Despena Eptamenitis.

Pickup your annual contribution statements downstairs on the Candle Desk. Thank you.

Thank you to all who supported our **Gyro Sale at our Church** last Sunday. \$200. was realized from the sale.

Memorial slips are enclosed w/bulletin. Fill them out and return before the Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgies so that Father Samuel can pray for your loved ones along with you at the Memorial Divine Liturgies.

Our Blini Dinner is coming up next Sunday on **March 9, Forgiveness Sunday**, be sure to put the date aside.

Please place a small donation in the basket at Coffee Social to help pay for the paper products.

A reminder to all who are worshipping at Holy Spirit Church, please turn off your cell phones or leave it in your cars until after Divine Liturgy

PLEASE PURCHASE gift cards for shopping at ShopRite and A & P stores. They are working out wonderfully. Very convenient for shopping. No cash, no checks, just a little card. They are

great, and our church benefits by your using them.

WE HAVE SHOP RITE AND A&P GIFT CARDS-STOCK UP ON GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR REGULAR SHOPPING & AS GIFTS TO OTHERS

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Catherine Schwed, Thelma Macheska, Alyssa Karakos, Mary Kwak, Matushka Evelyn Kreta, Christopher, the infant Ella Jane, Corinne Matthews, infant Nicholai, Dan Taylor, Stephen Kachur, Pighi Mardaloescu, Valentina Bobrowsky, Archimandrite Joachim (Parr), Frank Higginbotham, Joanne Patrick, Feodora Apanasow, Archpriest Joseph Chupeck, the infant Logan Eugene, Evanthia, Loren Chwan, Jennifer, Matushka Vera Yuschak, Kat Shannon, Christine Molbury and her children, and Elise Chwan.

SEVEN DAY VIGIL CANDLES

By the **Alexandra Gutu** in Blessed Memory of her brother **+ND Dumitru** 2-09-08

By the **Marian Ion family** in Blessed Memory of his mother **+ND Maria**

By **Elena Pavel** in Blessed Memory of her deceased **+Family**

Seven day vigil candles are available for the faithful to sponsor in memory of their departed, the sick, or for the general intentions (anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, baptisms, etc.). They will remain lit on the altar and table of oblation. The suggested donation is \$10.00 each and will burn for seven days. The intentions and those who offered them will be announced in the weekly bulletins. You may purchase your offering at the Parish Council office.

If you would like to have something published in the weekly bulletin, e-mail or bring typed copy to Father Samuel by Wednesday of the week prior to the Sunday you would like it published.

We welcome our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please join us downstairs for refreshments and fellowship. Please sign our guest book before you leave.

Please be respectful of our children participating in Church School. If you are not a teacher or student, please remain upstairs, rather than interrupt their schooling. Thank you-Fr Samuel

Visit our web site at www.holyspiritorthodox.org -Updates to services and schedules will be posted there as needed. **Please try to come early to services.** On Sundays we should strive to be in church by 9:35 am to hear the reading of the Hours, light our candles and say our private prayers (pre-Communion prayers). Thank You!

Beginning of Great Lent- Beginning with Sunday, February 17th, we entered into the time of the Triodion, so named for the book where service texts are taken from for Great Lent up to Pascha itself. With the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, we begin to take more notice of fasting days. The week of Feb. 17th is fast free, then the next week is regular (Wednesday and Friday), and then we leave off meat, and then with Forgiveness Sunday, dairy and the rest. Let us prepare to enter the Lenten season as a most important journey in our lives.

CONFESSION: Great Lent is a time for each and every one of us to come to the Sacrament of Confession. This is an integral part of our Great Lenten effort. Confessions can be scheduled before or after Great Vespers, before services held during the week, or at other times by arranging with Fr. Samuel. Please remember that when you come to confession, you should plan to receive Holy Communion. In addition, all who come to confession during Lent are encouraged to receive Holy Communion throughout Great Lent, and especially on Great and Holy Pascha, the goal of our Lenten effort. Make this part of your family journey through Great Lent! **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR CHILDREN EXPERIENCE THE VALUE OF CONFESSION ALSO, THROUGH YOUR EXAMPLE!**

The Rebates from the president's stimulus package will be forthcoming. You may want to apply yours toward our mortgage for this year..