

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).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cabin Fever Fundraiser - Today - February 11

Our Famous Blini Dinner - February 18

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church - Wantage, NJ

Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Rector

Joanne Patrick, Choir Director

Parish Council

Tim Kachur, Starosta (Sr. Warden)

Mark Benda, Jr. Warden

Michael Olsen, Treasurer

Co-Secretaries Doris Livanos/Susan Matthews

Council members

Ed Engelsman • Michael Chwan • Anna Seniw • Louis Matthews

www.holyspiritorthodox.org

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church

102 Route 284

Wantage, New Jersey

February 11, 2007



Last Judgement

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Sunday, February 11, 2007

Today **CABIN FEVER FUNDRAISER**
Saturday **9:00 AM - Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy**
6:00 pm Vespers - Confessions
Sunday **Church School 9:15 AM, Hours 9:40 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am-**
Cheesefare Sunday-Blini Dinner-Refreshments/Fellowship

Today's commemorated feasts and saints... SUNDAY OF MEATFARE Tone 2.

Sunday of the Last Judgment. Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste (ca. 316). Ven. Dimitry (Demetrius), Wonderworker of Priluki (Vologda-1392). Rt. Blv. Great Prince Vsevolod (in Baptism Gabriel), Wonderworker of Pskov (1138). Righteous Theodora, wife of the Emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast (ca. 867).

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2, Matthew 25:31-46

BULLETIN

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.

Last week's Coffee Social was hosted by **the Eptamenitis Family**. Today's social will be hosted by **Pighi Mardaloescu**. Blini Dinner is next week. Please **sign-up downstairs** if you can help with hosting one. Open Dates.

Please pray for **Dan Taylor** as he will undergo surgery on this Tuesday, February 13th at Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla NY.

Pick-up your **Holy Spirit Contribution Receipt/Statements** for the year 2006 downstairs on the candle desk.

Thank you to **Maria Higginbotham, Pighi Mardaloescu, Loren & Mike Chwan and Doris Livanos** for cleaning the Church yesterday.

Our Food Certificate (card) chairperson **Loren Chwan** will be offering the Food Cards at this morning's Coffee Social. Buy your food cards today. **Great for Gifts.**

A Basket in the Vestibule downstairs is for collecting foodstuffs for the needy of the Sussex Borough and the surrounding areas. The sign attached to the basket describes the items needed. Please buy an extra can, box or food item listed so that the needy can be fed.

Sunday School begins at 9:15 AM every Sunday morning.

There is a **Car Removal Program** that has been offered to our parish. If anyone knows of someone who has an old car or junker that is sitting around and they would like to get rid of it, let us know. It will be towed away at no expense, our Church will receive \$100.00 and the owner will receive a tax deduction for the value of the vehicle (more money will be given to the Church if it has more value).

Please Help and remember to send in your **weekly donation or pledge** even when you have **not attended Church** on a Sunday. Our Church depends on your weekly contributions to pay our obligations. Thank you.

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, Frank Higginbotham, Matushka Evelyn Kreta, Pat Nauditt, Chaplain Fr. Peter Daratsos, Stefan Szemetylo, Christopher Mitsos, Swetlana Satch, Gregory Taylor, Larry Quirk, Mary Itsla, mother Sarah and newborn Ella Jane, Richard Kruzelnick, Corinne Matthews, Dan Taylor and Lynne Goodwin.

SEVEN DAY VIGIL CANDLES

By **Olsen Family** for Health, Salvation and Happy Birthday Of **Pighi Mardaloescu 2-9**

By **Kedala Family** for Health, Salvation and Happy Birthday of **Christine Molbury 2-10**

By **Kedala Family** for Health, Salvation and Happy Birthday of **Michael Molbury 2-10**

By **Nadine, Eric, Michelle Olsen Family** for Health, Salvation and Happy Birthday Of **Michael Olsen 2-11**

By **Kedala Family** for Health, Salvation and Happy Birthday of **John Greendyk 2-12**

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 downstairs.