

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

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Sunday Bulletin, March 3, 2019

**MEATFARE SUNDAY. TONE 7. SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT.
MARTYR EUTROPIUS OF AMASEA, AND WITH HIM MARTYRS CLEONICUS
AND BASILLISCUS. ST. PIAMA, VIRGIN. SS ZENO AND ZOILUS.**

Service Schedule:

Sunday, Mar 3: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10).
Saturday, Mar 9: 1 PM Baptism of David Gabriel Cushner
5 PM Great Vespers
Sunday, Mar 10: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10) followed by Forgiveness Vespers

Remember in Your Prayers...

Health / General: Stella Krenitsky, Michael Jadick, Helen Chesniak, Marie Buranich, Mary Slenska, Helen Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Tammy Wytovich, Fr. John Nightingale, Bernie Elko, Sandra Pritchik, Marie Pasternak, John Pritchik, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Steve Pregrim, Lillian Mathews, Nadia Macheska, Dr. David Lezinsky, Tom Krenitsky, Matushka Mary Lynn, Lillian Kite & Paulette Ezbiansky.

Memory Eternal: Jean Wasko, Helena Wozniak.

Offerings:

Vigil Lights: In Memory of: Lucille Lezinsky (Birthday March 1) by Nicholas Lezinsky, Dorothy Strzelczyk, David Lezinsky & Marie Polyniak; Steve Polanchik by Paul & Mary Polanchik; Skip Polanchik by Mia & Nicholas Polanchik.

Parastas: In Memory of: Jean Wasko by Mike, Sandy, Jaye & Family (40th day 3/18), Judy Kosloski (3/16), Pat & Christa Murman (3/23).

Parastas: In Memory of: Diane Yacopchak by Helen & Tammy Wytovich & Marie Pasternak (3/11 at 5 PM).

Food Pantry: On behalf of: Fr. Joseph Tylanda (Jesuit Priest) by Sister Richard Mary Peters (IHM).

Announcements: (Please submit any announcements no later than the Thursday before they are to be posted)

St. Michael's Orthodox Church Food Pantry: The food pantry will be open Thursday, (3/7) and Saturday, (3/16) from 11 AM – 12 Noon. The following individuals / organizations made donations to the pantry in the last couple of weeks: **Rev. German Ciuba, John & Elaine Ezbiansky & Sr. Richard Mary Peters.**

Meatfare Sunday: After this Sunday, meat is no longer eaten until the Sunday of Pascha, but otherwise there is no fasting this week, so that eggs, cheese, butter, milk and fish are permitted each day, including Wednesday and Friday.

Clergy Retreat: Fr. Peter will be attending a clergy retreat at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA on Thursday (3/7) and Friday (3/8). The subject of the retreat is "The Wounded Healer" with retreat leader, Dr. Timothy Gahles.

Daylight Savings Time: Starts next Sunday, March 10 at 2 AM. Clocks are turned forward one hour.

Lenten Mission Services will start at 4 PM:

March	17	Sunday of Orthodoxy	Holy Resurrection Cathedral	Wilkes-Barre
March	24	St. Gregory Palamas	Holy Trinity	Wilkes-Barre
March	31	Sunday of the Cross	All Saints	Olyphant
April	7	St. John Climacus	St. Nicholas	Olyphant
April	14	St. Mary of Egypt	Saints Peter & Paul	Uniondale

Today's Holy Scripture Readings:

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle)

8 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.

9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

10 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?

11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

1 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?

2 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.

Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

31 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.

32 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.

33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 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:

35 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;

36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 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.'

41 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:

42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 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.'

44 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?'

45 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.'

46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'"

Sunday of Meatfare 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.