



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

8:11 Destroying One for Whom Christ Died

Responsibility for the Weak. St John Chrysostom: There are two things which deprive you of any excuse in this mischief. The first is that he is weak, the second is that he is your brother. I should add a third excuse also, one which is even worse than the others. What is this? That whereas Christ died for him, you cannot even lift a finger to help him in the slightest. Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 20.10.

Bray, G. L. (Ed.). (1999). [1-2 Corinthians](#) (p. 78). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

The Final Judgment 25:31 The Son of Man Coming in Glory

When He Comes in His Glory. St John Chrysostom: In his previous parables when he speaks of two persons he is referring to two portions of humanity, the disobedient and the obedient. Here he speaks out more fearfully and with fuller clarity.

He does not say that the coming kingdom is compared to this or that, as he has been speaking previously, but now openly shows himself to be the Son of man, who “shall come in his glory.” If he has up to now appeared in a condition of dishonor, now he appears in a different role. He reproaches. He confronts. He sits upon his throne of glory.

And he continually mentions glory. For his cross was drawing near, a thing that seemed to be a matter of reproach. So he lifts his hearers up and brings before their sight the judgment seat, with all the world gathered around him. The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 79.1.

Simonetti, M. (Ed.). (2002). [Matthew 14-28](#) (pp. 230-231). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH,
OLD FORGE, PA

Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

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Sunday, February 19th, 2023

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 3. Sunday of the Last Judgment.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for February

Birthdays: Barbara Sevensky (2/14)

Nameday:

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: Please sign up to bake prospora.

February. Thank you to Matushka Emilia for this week's Prospora!

Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR DOWNSTAIRS

Agape Meal: Thank you to all who have donated and contributed to our Agape Meal.

All are encourage to sing the “Lord Have Mercy” & “Amen” responses. And please sing along if you know the other verse, troparions, and kontakions as well.

Service Attendance: 31 Last weekend Divine Liturgy:

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by fasting and a recent (monthly) confession..If you have questions please ask Fr Michael!*



Service Schedule
WEEK of 20Feb-26Feb

SAT, Feb 25th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Feb 26th: Hours @ 9:20 Hours, Cheesefare - Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

SUN, Feb 26th: Hours @ @ 5:00 PM Forgiveness Vespers

UP COMING

27Feb-03Mar: @ 5:00 PM Compline w/ Canon of St. Andrew

SAT, Mar 4th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Mar 5th: Hours @ 9:20 Hours, Sunday of Orthodoxy - Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

SUN, Mar 19th: @ 5:00 PM Sunday of the Cross Lenten Mission Vespers

Announcements



& Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Silent Prayers: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help!

Catechumen Class: Every Saturday 3:30 PM Catechumen Class - All are invited
Theophany Home blessings continue. Please Schedule with Fr Michael

Annual All Parish Meeting - 26Feb23 after Liturgy. *PLEASE SPEAK TO FR ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP/VOTING STATUS*

Lenten Mission Vespers Choir Concert - St Michael's will be hosting a Lenten Choir Concert after our deanery mission vespers led by Fr Mikel Hill.

Please coordinate with me who would like to do another prosphora class. Several people have spoken to me about one but we need to find a date so we all can attend. Need volunteers for a lenten pierogi sale.

Kontakion, Synaxis of Archangel Michael & all the Bodiless Hosts

Commanders of God's armies and ministers of the divine glory, princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind, ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

Holy Archangel Michael Pray unto God for us!

Rejoice at every opportunity of showing kindness to your neighbour as a true Christian who strives to store up as many good works as possible, especially the treasures of love.

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Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt

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.

The trumpets shall blow, and the graves shall be empty, and all mankind shall rise trembling. They who have done good shall rejoice with joy, expecting their reward; and those who have done evil shall tremble greatly, moaning and shaking, as they are sent to suffering, separated from the elect. Wherefore, O Lord of glory, be compassionate toward us, and make us worthy to be of those who love thee; for thou art good.

- *from Vespers, Tone 6*

This Week the Annual meeting agenda/package will be published on Tuesday. I will send it digitally on the parish distro list and I will also have some packets here available to pick up on wednesday. Since this is our Annual Meeting to vote on Bylaws the voting will go out of normal order.

Tentative Agenda:

Annual Meeting will begin after Coffee Hour

Opening Prayer

Roll/Sign In

Update Mailing roster when you enter
Presentation on OCL by Evangeline Clausson

1. Vote on Bylaws
2. Vote on Parish Council
3. Vote on Auditors
4. Financial Report / Vote on Budget
5. Rector's Word

Closing Prayer

“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.”

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Ill-afflicted Archpriests John Nightingale & Fr Theodore Orzolek

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: Mike Jadick, Bernie Elko, Margaret Pregmon, Marie Buranich, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Sandra Pritchky, Marie Pasternak, Sandy Batton, Paula Stavisky, Al Pritchky, Eli Stavisky, Evelyn Bunevitch, Nadia Macheska, John Pritchky, Paulette Ezbiansky, Andrew Lutzick, Daniel Jones, Charissa Voroziichak, Matushka Paula Soucek; Al Horek

Servants of God Fr Nathan, Mat. Katherine, Micaiah, Evangeline, Gideon, Zacharias, Ignatius, Basil (Clausson), Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina (Shepherd), Barbara Sevensky, Bev Elko, Sandra Condon, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmann, Walter Pritchky, Michael & Euphemia (Mia) (Keklak); Amaya Jackson; Robert Kane; Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky; Ekaterina & Anna; Kelly Cigna; Natasha & Rosa Coyoy

Catechumens: Jason, Emily, Judah, Nadia, & Silas

DEPARTED

Newly Departed: Helen Bezuhly 1/27/2023

Departed: Ellen Pasternak 1/24/1982; Stephen Pasternak 1/30/2009; Alexandra Toczko 2/3/1995; Anna Zupko 2/6/2014; Jean Wasko 2/7/2019; Femia Pasternak 2/14/1961; Ann Freeman 2/18/2015; Walter Pritchky Sr. 2/28/2015

PLEASE STOP GATHERING YOU BELONGINGS AND GETTING READY TO GO IN THE MIDDLE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS.

*Please sign up and help Marie Pasternak with the Agape Meal and Coffee Hour. She will be coordinating an Agape Meal every other week. However, we have Meatfare and Cheesefare Sunday coming up and this is the time to “Spring Clean” your pantry and refrigerator.