



# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

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Very Rev. Peter Zarynow, Pastor  
Protopresbyter John Fedornock

Subdeacons Anastasios Davis & Michael Vaporis Reader Stephen Sudik



**Sunday 10 March 2024**

**Meatfare Sunday**

**St. Porphyrius, bishop of Gaza**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

**Tone Seven**

## **THE SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK IS AS FOLLOWS:**

### **10 Mar (SUN) Meatfare Sunday**

Chanting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour 9:15am  
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am  
Sunday School, Coffee Social, ACRY Cash Day to follow

### **17 Mar (SUN) Cheesefare Sunday**

Chanting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour 9:15am  
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am  
Sunday School, Coffee Social to follow  
Forgiveness Sunday Vespers approx. 12noon

## **Announcements:**

Confessions will be heard by appointment. Please contact Fr Peter to schedule. All faithful are encouraged to come to the Sacrament every 8-10 weeks, on average, to help maintain spiritual health.

Congratulations and God's choicest blessings to the newly-chosen warriors of Christ, Timothy Sabirov and Sabastian Greenwald who were received into the Holy Orthodox Church by the Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist this past week. Blessings also to their godparents and parents! For them all we pray: *MANY YEARS! MNOHAJA L'ITA!*

Reminder that today is Meatfare Sunday, traditionally the last day for meat products before the beginning of the Great Fast.

Due to a family funeral, Fr Peter will be away all-day Thursday 14 March. The mid-week Liturgy scheduled for that day will be canceled.

Lenten Reading Books have arrived. If you ordered a book, please see FrPeter for your copy. Let's all read together during the coming season of the Great Fast!

We have the bakers for our two bake days, 16 March and 13 April. Baking will begin at 8am and a lunch will be provided. Even if you did not sign up, we'd still love to have you come and help!

Bake Orders will be taken until this evening, Sunday 10 March. Any orders received after that date may not be honored. Place your order in the box provided under the TV in the hall.

We are trialing a small group format for anyone who like to meet in person for fellowship and discussion with fellow parishioners mid-week. We will be meeting weekly in or around Mt. Airy (exact location TBD), tentatively starting the week of 3/18. All are welcome to attend whenever they are able. We will meet either Tuesdays or Thursdays based on feedback. Please notify Jason Aumen by email at JasonAumen@tutamail.com if you are interested in attending.

The National ACRY is sponsoring an "Eastern Seaboard Lenten Retreat" at Holy Ghost Church in Phoenixville on Saturday 6 April. Online registration is until 25 March. See the bulletin board and the flier attached to today's bulletin for details. This retreat is sponsored by the National ACRY and is open to everyone.

***Flowers on the Altar & Tetrapod*** are donated this week by Olga Vovk for the wellbeing of newly Baptized Timothy Sabirov (*Many Years!*)

Note: last week's flower donation was also from Olga and should have read "wellbeing of family and friends & relatives in Russian & Ukraine"

The Home Blessing Season for 2024 has drawn to a close. FrPeter would like to express his thanks to everyone who invited him to their homes to bring the gift of the Holy Spirit, through the sprinkling of the Holy Water. As always, your hospitality is much appreciated! May God bless you for your kindness! *Many Years!*

# CANDLE OFFERINGS

**Eternal Light:** Happy Birthday Jeanne Delasko-Lois (*Many Years!*) In Memory of Marge Tomasevich & Mildred Sukal-Lois (*Memory Eternal!*)

### Vigil Candles Offered For the Living (*Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!*)

- 2-for health-love Mom & Dad  
*Jonathan & Lara; Stephanie*
- 1-health of Melanie-love Alex
- 1-health of Alex-love Melanie
- 1-safe travels Krynitsky family-Alex & Melanie
- 1-health & Special intention John & Marie Smith, Georgene & Ray Ammon, Fr Peter & Pa i Bernadette, Alex Zarynow, Marie Skasko, Fr John & Pa i Marge Fedornock, Lois Erhard, Charlie & Debi Myers, Chris Fallon, Barbara Homick, All parishioners of HROC-Carol Miller
- 2-for health-Sheila  
*HROC parishioners; Family members*
- 3-special intention-Sheila  
*Fr. Peter & family; Diocesan Priests & their families; OCMC Missionaries*
- 1-health of children & grandchildren-Tom & Amy
- 1-health of Chris Fallon-Michael, Kathleen, John & Anna
- 2-special intention-brother George  
*Archbishop Michael; Barbara Knighton*
- 2-special intention-George Dahulich  
*Metropolitan Gregory; Bishop Matthias*
- 13-for health-George Dahulich  
*Archbishop Michael; Fr Tom Kadlec; Fr Jim Dutko; Chris Fallon; Charlie Myers; Barbara Knighton; Pañi Kathy Dutko; Alex Zarynow; Emily Dzubak; Bishop Matthias; Katherine Chow; Psa. Diana Acsente; Fr. John & Pañi Marie Brancho*
- 3-happy birthday-George Dahulich  
*Sarah Hetzler; Jeanne Delasko; Steve Ellis*
- 1-health of Savannah, Chloe, Caroline, Christopher, Natalie, Cole-love Grandparents
- 18-health & healing-John & Marie Smith  
*Irene Dzubak; Melanie Sampson; Carol Miller; Barbara Homick; Marie Skasko; Georgene & Ray Ammon; Fr Tom & Pañi Linda Kadlec; Fr John & Pañi Marge Fedornock; Fr John & Pañi Eleanor Pribish; Eleanor Breno; Charlie Myers; Lois Erhard; Pañi Marie Brancho; Pañi Jean Hutnyan; Chris Fallon; Fr Peter & Pañi Bernadette, Dorothy Sudik; Angela & son*
- 2-safety & peace-John & Marie Smith  
*for the Ukrainian people; Israel & its people*
- 6-special intentions-the Breno Family  
*Breno Family; Fedornock Families; Peart Family; Nakonecznyj Family; Zankej Family; Fabian Family*
- 3-special intention-the Breno Family  
*all who are traveling; all who are ill; all who need a blessing*
- 2-specail intention-Mom & Dad  
*Brian, Angela & Dominic; Stephen*
- 16-for health & special intention-Mark & Marie  
*Mom; Nancy Shields; Mike Czap; Skeets & Beth; Charlie; Irene Dzubak; Carol Miller; Ray & Georgene Ammon; Eleanor Breno; FrJohn & Pañi Marge; FrPeter & Pañi Bernadette; Chris & Mike Fallon; Dan Zelensky*
- 1-health of Andrew Myers-Mark & Marie
- 4-health-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey  
*Skeets; Jessica; Aunt Dorothy; Carol Miller*
- 2-specail intention Jacob & Joey-love Mom & Dad
- 1-health & healing Hayley, Bob, Peggy and Bruce, Andrea, Katie, Carol Miller, Cathy and her dad John, Chris Fallon, Cindy, Sharon, AnneMarie, Dorothy Sudik, Pa i Jean, Ray Ammon, Vickie Sullivan, Tom Delare, Chryl-Lois
- 1-for health Savannah, Caroline, Natalie, Karen K, Elizabeth Michel, Jeanne Delasko, Irene Dzubak, Barbara Homick, Georgene, Debbie Delare- Lois
- 1-health and wellbeing of Artem-Olga Vovk
- 1-health and wellbeing of Andrey, Lidia and Tatiana, Natalia, Konstantin, Eva, George, Michael, Lubov, Anastasia, Maxim and Ivan-Olga Vovk
- 1-health and wellbeing of Sofia, Sergey, Eva, Matthew, Yuliia, Alex, Dru, Irina and Dennis-Olga Vovk
- 3-birthday blessings-Rose Plowchin  
*Sarah Hetzler; Jeanne Delasko; Steve Ellis*
- 5-for health-Rose Plowchin  
*Carol Miller; Barbara Parimucha; Lois Erhard*
- 1-specail prayer-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-special intention Philip-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 2-for health-Pa i Marge Fedornock  
*all my children; those who are ill*

### Vigil Candles In Loving Memory: (*Memory Eternal! Vcnaja Pamjat!*)

- 1+in loving memory of Les-love Carol
- 1+in memory Mother & Father. Carol Miller
- 1+In loving memory of Chris Hudack, Grandparents, Bettie Searfoss, Myrtle Miller, John Hudack, John Hrapchak, John Homick, Marge Tomasevich-Carol Miller
- 1+in loving memory of our father & mother-Taina and Craig
- 1+in loving memory of Chrysa Thear-Taina and Craig
- 2+loving memory-the Fallons  
*Pañi Jeannette; Anna & John Luchok*
- 1+in memory of parents Helen & Larry Rowland-Diane
- 1+in memory of grandparents Helen & Peter Sedlar-Diane R
- 1+Memory Eternal Parents/Grandparents-Koval Family
- 1+Memory Eternal Uncle George, Aunt Marge & Uncle Tony-Koval Family
- 2+Memory Eternal-love Alex, Melanie  
*parents Michael & Elaine; parents John & Katherine*
- 6+in memory-Sheila  
*John; Dad Kraynok; Mom Kraynok; Charles Hrapchak;*
- 1+in memory of Metro-Love, Joan and Family
- 1+in loving memory of parents Peter & Ann Dahulich-love son George
- 1+in memory of Marge Tomasevich-George Dahulich
- 1+in memory of Grammy-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey
- 4+in memory-Mark & Marie  
*Chris Hudack; Verna Czap; Charlene Myers; Marge Tomasevich*
- 1+loving memory of Vladmir, Irina, Sergey, Nina, Rafael, Germina, Maxim, Anna, Irena, Lidia, Pavel, Tatiana, Natalia, Olga-Olga Vovk
- 1+loving memory of Leonid, Anna, Izot, Natalia, Afanasii, Anastasia, Lidia-Olga Vovk
- 2+in memory-John & Marie Smith  
*John Homick; Marge Tomasevich*
- 2+in memory-Pa i Marge Fedornock  
*Parents; Brother & Sister*



## ALL SOUL SATURDAYS

The remaining All Soul Saturdays for 2024 will be observed on 6 April and 22 June. *If there are any additions to make to your family list (or if you need to begin a family list), contact Fr. Peter as soon as possible.* Please come and pray for the departed of your family and our parish family. Divine Liturgy and Panachida will be at 9:30am on each of these Saturdays. (Note: This year we are observing 3 of the 5 All-Souls Saturdays in the hope of boosting attendance at these Divine Services)



# Prayer For The Priesthood

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our **Metropolitan Gregory**, and our spiritual fathers who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Remember also, O Lord, our priests and deacons, especially **Fr Edward Pehanich, Fr John Pribish, Fr Deacon Art Steinstra and our Diocesan Seminarians Dn. Peter Sodini, Nicholas Worobey, Seamus Murry, Samuel Lopusky, Timothy Paproski, Nicholas Laliberte, Ignatios Leonardo, an Alexander Hurtsellers.** Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God who loves us, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.



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## TWO WEEKS REMAINING: EASTER CANDY SALE IS OPEN

Orders for Easter Chocolates from Sarris Candies is open until Friday **22 March 2024**. Place your order online and your order will be shipped directly to you. Shipping is still at \$5.00 order. Go to: [www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com) and click on line ordering. Go to Easter



Make sure that you give our full name:  
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church  
Our customer number is 10-2493.

Proceeds from the sale goes to benefit our Camp Transportation Fund.  
*(Because of the very early date of Easter on the western calendar, we are having to order early. Make sure your order is in on time)*

**NOTE:** from the Christmas sale we were able to raise \$178.78 for our Sunday School Fund!

**Please pray for the following:** Metropolitan GregoryLBishop MatthiasLFr. Frank & Pa i Connie MiioloLPa i Betty Jean BaranikLFr Michael RustikLFr. Mark LeasureLFr. John FencikLFr. Paul StollLFr. Robert & Pa i Peggy TeklinskiLDn. Peter Skoog & familyLFr James & Pa i Kathy DutkoLFr. Gregory AllardLPa i Linda BarrigerLFr. James Gleason, Fr. Luke MihalyLFr. Ted & Pa i Marjorie MozesLFr. Thomas BlaschakL Hieromonk MichaelLFr Thomas KadleLFr Stephen KrivonakLPa i Donna SmoleyLPa i Annamari SloveskoLPa i Patricia DurankoLFr John & Pa i Cindy Zboyovski, Fr. Jonathan & Pa i Marsha Tobias, Pa i Delores ZuderLPa i Amy GeorgeLPa i Sharon HolowatyLPa i MaryMargaret ConjelkoLFr Vasily & Matushka Olga AndreyukLFr John & Pa i Eleanor PribishLFr John MikitishLFr Michael & Pa i Karen MiklosLPa i Marie BranchoLPa i Joan MahlerLPa i Jean HutnyanLFr David & Pa i Paula KossyLPFC Joey MyersLBeth & Ed SkeetsqWilliamsLCarol MillerLDorothy MastronicolaLTony ZankeyLJustin PopekLFlorence Gregoric, James & Melody PeytonLJennifer BradyLCarol Blum, Katie Bleeker, Alexi Williams, Missy Johns, Susan Buckley, Constance Amey, James Lazor, Debbie DellGrace YoonLMichael DinneenLJoan DetwilerLJoan KondratickL Barbara HomickLJim David & Jeanne DelaskoLMelanie SamsonLLaura GaryLRichard & Wendy SulichLWendy TaylorLJames DurachkoLRandi Caffalle, Hayley Marshall, Jon Green, MaryJane, Kyle & Rosie Brant, Mary Agnes, Alicia, Lisa Chernoo, Stephen BranchoLEmilyLMaryMargaretLLeah PerezLThomas & Deborah DelareLDiana HannanLBridget MyersLDevan MerrilBob FitzurkaLOlga VovkLLelaLCarlyLRobertLVic FitzwaterLTaina FergusonLOlya RomanovaLLuke GriffithLRichard DurachkoLJennifer HaireLMary, Simon, AllaLArtem VovkL Charles ArnholdLDanielle VLDebbie AumenLDavid BulkoLBill FinkenLAngelo Taveira-DaSilva, Andrew S.L Natalie ZLStephen HutnyanLBarbara DrillockLCassidy RiselvatoLKatie AtkinsonLPhillip TrivettLCamila BonillaL Hilary SoperakLRobert KnowltonLRay RushnakLJenn Riselvato & baby

***May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand!!***

## The ENEMY of Faith is Pride

Abbot Tryphon, from his blog *The Morning Offering*

The absolute necessary element for salvation is faith. Faith alone will save us, for only faith brings us into communion with God. Faith is a free gift, for nothing we can do can save us. Good works cannot save us. Being a good person will not save us. Only faith in Christ will bring us into everlasting life.

The enemy of faith is pride, for pride destroys faith. Pride makes us believe we do not need God, and pride is what leads many into the abyss of atheism, for pride makes us believe that there is nothing beyond ourselves. Pride leads us to believe that we are all important, and that nothing exists beyond ourselves. Once pride takes hold, our heart grows hard, and faith grows cold and dies. Repentance is the cure for pride, and only through repentance can we rekindle the grace that brings life to our faith. Humbling ourselves before God, and giving ourselves over to divine worship, brings us back into the natural relationship that was preordained for us before the fall, and faith grows as grace rebounds.

"Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."" (John 6:29).

# CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2024

## ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

Week 3: Sunday, July 28 – Saturday, August 3, 2024 -- Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Washington D.C., and Tri-State Deaneries  
Science and Nature Camp: Sunday, August 4 - Saturday, August 10, 2024



**Register Online Starting March 1, 2024 @ 6pm (EDT)**

Register at – [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org)

Registration for Camp will be on a **First-Come First-Serve Basis!!** Once capacity for a given week is filled, all other campers will be put on a waiting list.

### **\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!!!**

(one-time only, not per week)

### **Must Register & pay by May 1, 2024!!!!**

Online Registration **MUST** be complete **AND** payment must be submitted by **May 1** in order to qualify for the Early Bird Discount.

Registration will close on June 15, 2024 @ 12pm!

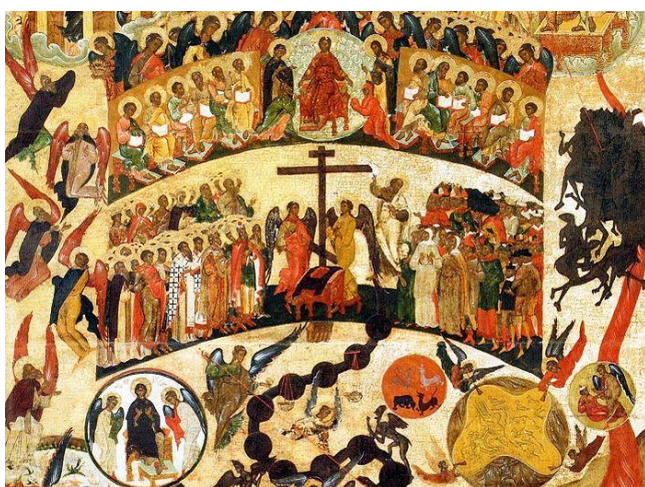
**ALL OF THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH OF ELIGIBLE AGE ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND OUR CAMPING WEEK! QUESTIONS, CONTACT FRPETER**

**No child should be restricted from attending Camp because of finances. Campships are available for those who are in need of financial assistance. Please contact FrPeter for more information or to apply**

Along with the above announcement for Camp, if your children are attending Camp for our Deanery session 28 July-03 August, and you are needing a ride to Camp, notify FrPeter as soon as possible. We will once again be renting a van, having room for 11 campers. Space is limited, so let him know early!



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## On The Last Judgment

St Theophan the Recluse

There have been so many predictions that the end of time is right around the corner. And none of it came true. The Savior said that no one knows the time. So, there is no point whatsoever in guessing or being disturbed by other people's guesses. That there will be a Second Coming, this we don't doubt. And neither do we doubt that it will come suddenly unawares, despite all the great signs beforehand. We have only to ceaselessly wait for the Lord, and prepare

ourselves for the meeting, without guessing about the time.

O Lord, help us to pass this year in the fear of God. Could that be what your dream was about?! Nothing upholds the fear of God so strongly as the remembrance of the Last Judgment. There is no need to give in to the spirit of despondency over this. We should only look carefully around us, and whatever is not pleasing to God should be immediately removed, and if necessary, cleansed away by confession. Then trusting everything to God's mercy, it is only left for us to be of good cheer. The Lord at the Last Judgment will not only be as if judging us, but also as if justifying us all. And He will justify everything if there is at least some small possibility to do so.

## LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT

Did you know there is a way for your giving  
to the Church to live on beyond your life?

Not only can you leave a legacy gift to your loved ones, but also to your church. A legacy gift ensures that your acts of faith will continue to make a lasting difference to Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church. It's easy to do. Consider your options to name the Church as a beneficiary or make a bequest in:

- Your will
- Your trust
- Your life insurance policy
- Your retirement plan
- Your saving, checking or non-retirement investment account



With a gift to the Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, you can extend your legacy of caring and love that you have shown to your church far into the future. If you already have made a legacy gift to Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, we thank you! Legacy gifts will be used for major projects or new initiatives of the parish.

*Please consult your legal or tax advisor when preparing estate plans. Our Church cannot provide legal or tax advice.* If you are interested in making a legacy gift, we would be glad to help you and your advisor plan a gift that works for you.

Very Rev. Peter Zarynow  
Office: 301-299-5120  
frzarynow@gmail.com

Rose Plowchin, Council President  
703-968-2989  
[thisrose22@gmail.com](mailto:thisrose22@gmail.com)

*Giving back to God a portion of what He has given to you  
is the way of an Orthodox Christian*

## Sts. Joachim and Anna Senior Retreat

Tuesday-Thursday, April 9-11, 2024  
Camp Nazareth Retreat and Conference Center  
Mercer, PA

**Purchasing the Right Things as a Senior:  
Can You Buy Your Way into Heaven?!**  
Reflections on Proverbs 23:23 – “Buy truth, and do not  
sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Mother Christophora, Abbess of The Monastery of the Holy  
Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA**

**Seniors' needs and interests and will offer something for everyone.**

**Schedule includes church services, Social Hours, Meals, presentations, Free-Time, evening  
entertainment, and More!**

**Register at [ACROD.ORG](http://ACROD.ORG)**

**For more information call 724-662-4840 or email [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org)**

\*It might be possible to get a carpool together from HROC. If you are interested in attending, and if you would like to maybe drive, please contact Fr Peter or Rose Plowchin\*

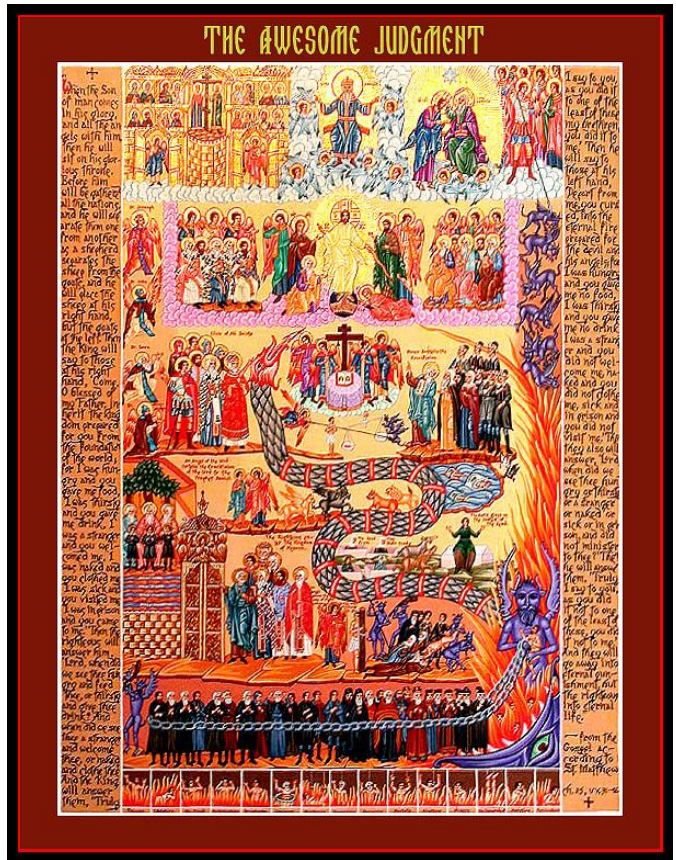
# Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

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.



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## Homily on Meatfare Sunday/The Sunday of the Final Judgement

The Gospel reading appointed for Meatfare Sunday comes from the Gospel according to St Matthew and concerns the Last Judgement. Christ speaks to us concerning in what manner we will eventually be judged when He returns. Rather than pointing out that the righteous will consist of those who simply believe in God and lead a good life, or even those who go to Church every Sunday, Christ tells us that it is not solely our faith, but also our actions that will determine our final destination. Jesus is more concerned about how we act toward those around us, and in particular, towards those less fortunate.

One of the important things that Christ teaches us through His message is that whatever we do to the next person, we do the same to Christ also. And it brings up the important fact that the true Christian is the one who sees Christ in everyone. All are created in the image and likeness of God. We are all (or at least strive to be) living icons of Christ. And it is when we recognize that image of Christ in everyone (including our enemies) that we gain a step closer to residing in the mansions of the Father that have been prepared for us.

The next time that you set out to destroy someone's reputation, break someone's heart, show indifference and even ignorance toward a person, or maliciously gossip about someone, remember that Christ says that you are doing exactly the same thing to Him! And whatever you do wrong to the next person will count against you when the Righteous Judge returns. We Christians can sometimes be judgmental toward those around us (both in and out of the Church), and yet we don't stop to think that this will reflect on Christ Himself. We take the duty of the Judge and make judgement against the Saviour. We really need to see that icon of Christ in everyone no matter who they are.

We also need to ACT as Christians, and what this means is pouring out your heart and resources to those less fortunate around us. Great and Holy Lent is a time for repentance, change, and renewal in our lives. It is also a time to evaluate what we have done in terms of caring for our neighbor. Use this time leading toward Holy Pascha to do something about ACTING like an Orthodox Christian, rather than merely thinking like one.

# SAINT PORPHYRIUS, BISHOP OF GAZA

Commemorated 26 February/10 March

Saint Porphyrius, Archbishop of Gaza, was born about the year 346 at Thessalonica. His parents were people of substance, and this allowed Saint Porphyrius to receive a fine education. Having the inclination for monastic life, he left his native region at twenty-five years of age and set off for Egypt, where he lived in the Nitrian desert under the guidance of Saint Macarius the Great (January 19). There he also met Saint Jerome (June 15), who was then visiting the Egyptian monasteries. He went to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and to venerate the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord (September 14), then he moved into a cave in the Jordanian wilderness for prayer and ascetic deeds.

After five years, Saint Porphyrius was afflicted with a serious malady of the legs. He decided to go to the holy places of Jerusalem to pray for healing. As he lay half-conscious at the foot of Golgotha, Saint Porphyrius fell into a sort of trance. He beheld Jesus Christ descending from the Cross and saying to him, "Take this Wood and preserve it."

Coming out of his trance, he found himself healthy and free from pain. Then he gave away all his money to the poor and for the adornment of the churches of God. For a time he supported himself by working as a shoemaker. The words of the Savior were fulfilled when the saint was forty-five years old. The Patriarch of Jerusalem ordained Saint Porphyrius to the holy priesthood and appointed him custodian of the Venerable Wood of the Cross of the Lord.

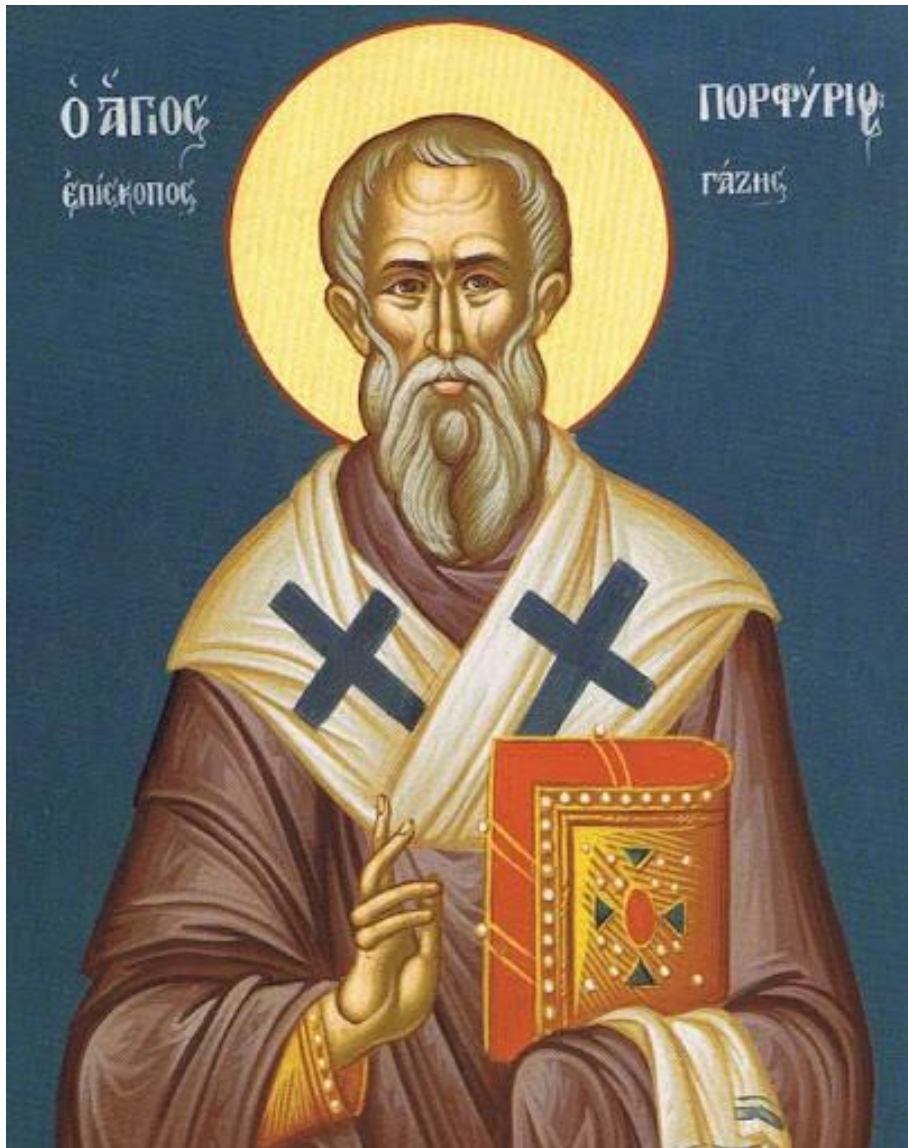
In 395 the bishop of the city of Gaza (in Palestine) died. The local Christians went to Caesarea to ask Metropolitan John to send them a new bishop who would be able to contend against the pagans, which were predominant in their city and were harassing the Christians there. The Lord inspired the Metropolitan to summon the priest Porphyrius. With fear and trembling the ascetic accepted the office of bishop, and with tears he prostrated himself before the Life-Creating Wood and went to fulfill his new obedience.

In Gaza there were only three Christian churches, but there were a great many pagan temples and idols. During this time there had been a long spell without rain, causing a severe drought. The pagan priests brought offerings to their idols, but the woes did not cease. Saint Porphyrius imposed a fast for all the Christians. He then served an all-night Vigil, followed by a church procession around the city. Immediately the sky covered over with storm clouds, thunder boomed, and abundant rains poured down. Seeing this miracle, many pagans cried out, "Christ is indeed the only true God!" As a result of this, 127 men, thirty-five women and fourteen children were united to the Church through Holy Baptism, and another 110 men soon after this.

The pagans continued to harass the Christians. They passed them over for public office, and burdened them with taxes. Saint Porphyrius and Metropolitan John of Caesarea journeyed to Constantinople to seek redress from the emperor. Saint John Chrysostom (September 14, January 27 and 30) received them and assisted them.

Saints John and Porphyrius were presented to the empress Eudoxia who was expecting a child at that time. "Intercede for us," said the bishops to the empress, "and the Lord will send you a son, who shall reign during your lifetime." Eudoxia very much wanted a son, since she had given birth only to daughters. Through the prayer of the saints an heir was born to the imperial family. As a result of this, the emperor issued an edict in 401 ordering the destruction of pagan temples in Gaza and the restoration of privileges to Christians. Moreover, the emperor gave the saints money for the construction of a new church, which was to be built in Gaza on the site of the chief pagan temple.

Saint Porphyrius upheld Christianity in Gaza to the very end of his life, and guarded his flock from the vexatious pagans. Through the prayers of the saint numerous miracles and healings occurred. The holy archpastor guided his flock for twenty-five years, and reposed in 420 at an advanced age.



# MARTYR EUDOKIA OF HELIOPOLIS

Commemorated 1/14 March

Holy Monastic Martyr Eudokia was a Samaritan, a native of the city of Heliopolis in Phoenicia (modern Baalbek), who lived during the reign of Trajan (98-117). Her pagan impiety took her off the good path, and for a long time she led a sinful life. Her soul was deadened and her heart hardened.

Eudokia awoke one night at midnight and heard singing from the house of a Christian woman next to hers. A monk was reading from a book which described the Last Judgment, the punishment of sinners, and the reward of the righteous. The grace of God touched Eudokia's heart, and she grieved because of her great wealth and for her sinful life.

In the morning Eudokia hastened to call on the man whose rule of prayer she heard the previous night. This was a monk named Germanus, returning from pilgrimage to the holy places to his own monastery. Eudokia listened for a long time to the guidance of the Elder, and her soul was filled with joy and love for Christ. She asked Germanus to stay in her home for a week, during which she secluded herself in her room, and spent her time in fasting and prayer.

The Elder Germanus told her to give away her wealth and to forget her previous life. Eudokia received holy Baptism from Bishop Theodotus of Heliopolis. She entered a monastery and took upon herself very strict acts of penitence. The Lord granted forgiveness to the penitent sinner and endowed her with spiritual gifts.

After she had become the head of the monastery, the young pagan Philostrates (one of her former lovers) heard of her conversion to Christ and longed to see her again. Aflame with impious passion, he came into the monastery in the guise of a monk and began to urge Eudokia to return to Heliopolis, and resume her former life. *May God rebuke you and not allow you to leave these premises,* Eudokia cried. Then the impostor fell down dead. Fearing that she had served as an accomplice to murder, the sisters intensified their prayer and besought the Lord to reveal to them His will.

The Lord appeared to Saint Eudokia in a vision and said: *Arise, Eudokia, and pray for the resurrection of the dead man.* Through Eudokia's prayers, Philostrates revived. Having been restored to life, the pagan begged the nun to forgive him. After he was baptized, he went back to Heliopolis. From that time he never forgot the mercy of God shown him, and he started onto the way of repentance.

Some time passed, and another situation occurred. Inhabitants of Heliopolis reported to the governor Aurelian, that Eudokia had taken gold and silver out of the city and concealed it at the monastery. Aurelian sent a detachment of soldiers to confiscate these supposed treasures. For three days the soldiers tried in vain to approach the walls of the monastery, but an invisible power of God guarded it.

Aurelian again sent soldiers to the monastery, this time under the command of his own son. But on the very first day of the journey Aurelian's son injured his leg and soon died. Then Philostrates counseled Aurelian to write to Mother Eudokia, imploring her to revive the youth. And the Lord, in His infinite mercy, and through the prayers of Saint Eudokia, restored the youth to life. Having witnessed this great miracle, Aurelian and his close associates believed in Christ and were baptized.

When persecutions against Christians intensified, they arrested Eudokia and brought her to the governor Diogenes to be tortured. While torturing the saint, the military commander Diodorus received news of the sudden death of his wife Firmina. In despair he rushed to Saint Eudokia with a plea to pray for his departed wife. The monastic martyr, filled with great faith, turned to God with prayer and besought Him to return Firmina to life. As eyewitnesses of the power and grace of the Lord, Diodorus and Diogenes believed in Christ and were baptized together with their families. Saint Eudokia lived for awhile at the house of Diodorus and enlightened the newly-illuminated Christians.

Once, the only son of a certain widow, who was working in the garden, was bitten by a snake and died. The mother wept bitterly for her dead son, and asked Diodorus to resurrect him. Learning of her grief, Saint Eudokia said to Diodorus, *The time is at hand for you to show faith in the Almighty God, Who hears the prayers of penitent sinners and in His mercy grants them forgiveness.*

Diodorus was distressed, not considering himself worthy of such boldness before the Lord, but he obeyed Saint Eudokia. He prayed and in the name of Christ he commanded the dead one to rise, and before the eyes of everyone present the youth revived.

Saint Eudokia returned to her monastery, where she lived in asceticism for fifty-six years.

After Diogenes died the new governor was Vicentius, a fierce persecutor of Christians. Having learned of the accomplishments of the saint, he gave orders to execute her. The holy martyr was beheaded on March 1, 107.





# So What's the Big Deal with Great Lent?

## Knowledge Informs Effort

By Fr. Joseph Allen (from *The Word Magazine*, March 2013)

On March 18, Pure Monday, we will have arrived at the gate, that which opens the way to our spiritual renewal. Yes, Lent will be full of those special services—for example, those on Wednesdays and Fridays. It will be a time for self-reflection, for Christian action, and for remembering a calendar of historic events. Increased fasting and prayer will become the norm, and we will be called to a heightened philanthropy by our Orthodox Faith. All these efforts are important, in fact, *critical*, for our journey to Jerusalem and the unfolding events of Holy and Passion Week. (Pascha is May 5 . late this year.)

I had been trying to think, with greater discernment, about this Great Lent. I concluded that, yes, our effort is indeed important, *but our knowledge is even more important*. In fact, it is precisely our knowledge that makes all the difference to our effort. The big deal with Great Lent is to discover that truth! Now I had a problem, however: how to demonstrate the truth that our knowledge informs our efforts, that is, how to show that what we *know* about our Faith, our Church, and, in particular, Great Lent, will give meaning to our efforts in these areas?



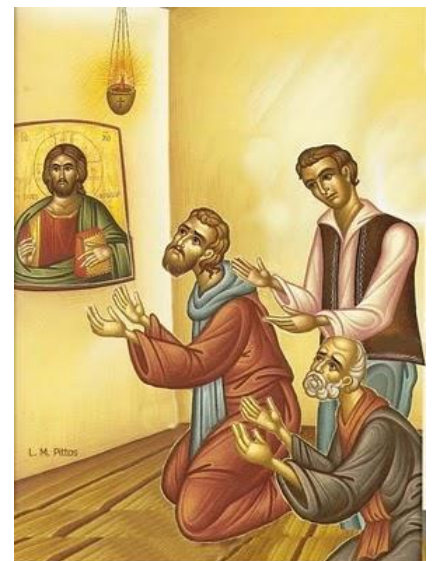
Well, my problem was solved when I recalled a very brief story about the giant ship engine that failed. The ship's owners called in one expert after another to fix that engine—none could figure out what to do! Then they brought in an old man who had been working on the ships since he was a teen. The other workers who had been applying all their efforts to repair the ship, smirked and laughed with each other as the old man walked on the ship carrying his bag of tools, which seemed to them crude and archaic.

He went to work immediately. After checking over the engine, the old man opened his bag and pulled out a small hammer. He tapped three places on the engine, and when he hit the third place, the engine lurched into life! The engine was fixed! The old man carefully put his hammer back in his tool bag and left.

Later that week, the owners received a bill from the man for \$5,000.00. What?! the owners exclaimed. He hardly did anything! so they wrote the old man a note asking him for an itemized bill. In return, he sent such a bill: Tapping with a hammer, \$2.00 knowing where to tap, \$4,998.00.

Yes, effort is important, but *knowing* where to make an effort in your life makes all the difference. Our knowledge informs our efforts, and this is especially true of our faith-life, particularly during the intensity of Great Lent. In short, it means that our *praxis* during Great Lent . prayer, fasting and philanthropy . has its most powerful effect when it is informed by our knowledge of its meaning. So Great Lent is also a time to read, to study and to learn . and that's a big deal!

What then, is prayer? Prayer is the raising of the *mind and heart* to God in *praise and thanksgiving* to Him and in *supplication* for the good things that we need, both spiritual and physical. Prayers are spiritual because they are originally born in the (human) spirit and ripen there by the Grace of the Holy Spirit. In their origin they (i.e. prayers, psalms, hymns, etc.) were purely spiritual and only afterwards came to be clothed in words and so assumed an oral form. St Theophan the Recluse



# MEATFARE SUNDAY



Acknowledge the Presence  
of CHRIST in your world

## JUDGING BOTH THE LIVING & THE DEAD

**W**hen our Lord came down from heaven initially, He entered the world as a helpless Babe. He promised, however, that His "second coming" would be entirely different. When He returns to us, Christ will come to pass judgment on all mankind. In the words of St. Paul: "We must all appear before the dread judgment seat of Christ."

Judgment Day has been portrayed as a terrifying event. Scriptures tell us of the sudden swiftness with which Christ will return, and the stern manner in which He will deal with sinners, condemning them to a place of everlasting fire and eternal punishment. Listen, for example, to the words of the Kondakion for Meatfare Sunday: "When You will come to earth in glory, O God, all things will tremble before You. The river of fire will flow before Your judgment seat, and the books will be opened and all hidden things will be revealed."

Faithful followers of Christ, however, need not fear His return! On the contrary, we should all eagerly await this blessed day, for it will afford us the opportunity to achieve our ultimate spiritual goal: to be with the Lord in His heavenly kingdom.

What will determine whether our Lord will invite us to "come, inherit the kingdom" or "depart, you accursed ones?" Ultimately, WE will decide our own fate with our actions during our lifetime. Have we cared for the needy? Have we helped the poor and oppressed? Have we answered the cries for assistance from those less fortunate? After all, how can we claim to love the Lord if we have not been charitable to even the least of His brethren?

May we all prepare for the final day every day of our life! If we live in accordance with Christ's commandments in this world, we will certainly be with Him in the world to come.