

Pre lent:

Meatfare Sunday is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every person, and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

Lenten Fasting:

A special word must be said about fasting during lent. Generally speaking, fasting is an essential element of the Christian Life. Christ fasted and taught men to fast. Blessed fasting is done in secret, without ostentation or accusation of others (Mt 6:16; Rom 14). It has as its goal the purification of our lives, the liberation of our souls and bodies from sin, the strengthening of our human powers of love for God and man, the enlightening of our entire being for communion with the Blessed Trinity.

The Orthodox rules for lenten fasting are the monastic rules. No meat is allowed after Meatfare Sunday, and no eggs or dairy products after Cheesefare Sunday. These rules exist not as a Pharisaic *"burden too hard to bear"* (Lk 11:46), but as **an ideal to be striven for**; not as an end in themselves, but as **a means to spiritual perfection crowned in love**. The lenten services themselves continually remind us of this.

Let us fast with a fast pleasing to the Lord.

This is the true fast: the casting off of evil, the bridling of the tongue, the cutting off of anger, the cessation of lusts, evil talking, lies and cursing. The stopping of these is the fast true and acceptable.

(Monday Vespers of the First Week)

The lenten services also make the undeniable point that we should not pride ourselves with external fasting since the devil also never eats!

(from the Rainbow Series)

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On this day the Church remembers:

- **Meat Fare Sunday (Sunday of Last Judgement)** • **Repose of St. Raphael of Brooklyn (1915)** • Venerable Titus the Presbyter of the Kiev Near Caves (1190) • Venerable Titus the Soldier, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves 14th c.) • Venerable Thalelaeus the Hermit of Syria (460) • Venerable Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis (750) • St Asclepius of Syria (5th c.) • St James of Syria (5th c.) • St Stephen of Constantinople (614) • Martyr Julian of Alexandria (3rd c.) • Martyr Eunios of Alexandria (3rd c.) • Martyr Beza -Bisos- the soldier of Alexandria (3rd c.) • Martyr Mekaros of Lebanon (3rd c.) • St Leandre of Seville

*When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble
and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;
the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed!
Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, righteous Judge!*
(Kontakion – Meatfare, Sunday of the Last Judgment)

February 27, 2011

Sunday of Last Judgement (Meatfare)

Triodion week 3

| Tone 7 of the Octoechos. |

40th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Bulletin is Sponsored:**For the health of:**

Lore Stefy, for her years of service to our church, by the Parish Council.

Readings:

- Hebrews 13:17-21 (Saint Raphael)
- John 10:9-16 (Saint Raphael)
- 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Last Judgment)
- **Matthew 25:31-36 (Last Judgment)**

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, '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?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Sunday service:

9:40 AM – Hours

10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

Church School - 9:30 Choir practice - 9:30 Coffee hour after Liturgy

2011 Services for Great Lent

- Saturday March 5, 10:00 AM** - Liturgy - Commemoration of the Departed
Sunday, March 6, after Sunday Liturgy - Forgiveness Vespers
Friday, March 11, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday, March 18 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday, March 25, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday, April 1, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday, April 8, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday, April 15, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, April 16, 6:00 PM - Vespers - Saturday of Lazarus' Resurrection

We would like to welcome all parish visitors.

Announcements:

- Today, the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will have a **luncheon for Meatfare Sunday. Cost is \$5 at the door.** All are invited.
- **Commemoration of Departed** - This **Saturday at 10 am**, we as a Church, will pray for our friends and family, who have departed this life in the hope of resurrection to eternal life.
- **Dues and assessments** are being collected for the year 2011, **Total is \$175.** (\$30 dues, \$145 assessment)
- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored;** this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- **Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Special Announcements:

- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will have a **luncheon on March 6, Cheesefare Sunday. Cost is \$5 at the door.** Invite your friends and family.
- **Sign-up sheets for luncheon food donations are posted.**
- Today and throughout Lent, there will be a **special collection after the sermon.** This collection is for **Plaschinitsa Flowers** and for Pascha basket raffle items.
- **Choir practice** will be held at 9:30 Sunday mornings, downstairs.