

## Week Schedule

**Saturday** Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.  
Confessions following Vespers

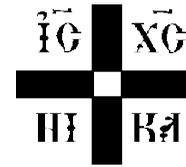
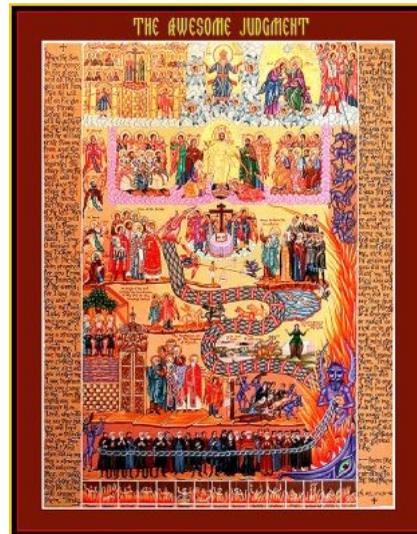
**Sunday** Reading of Hours, 9:40 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
**Forgiveness Sunday Vespers following Liturgy**  
*Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy*

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.



## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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**Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Acting Rector**

**Rev. Sergius Willis, Associate Pastor**

Call to arrange sacraments, services, instruction, counseling, home visits, sick calls.

### **Troparion (Tone 7)**

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrh bearers You changed weeping into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen,//granting the world great mercy.

### **Troparion (Tone 1)**

Your proclamation has gone out through North America, calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church. Hearing your voice, they respond to your teaching, and through your writings you instructed them in piety. Now guided by your example, O Father Raphael, we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God: "Glory to Him Who gave you strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!// Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all!"

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

You were a guardian and a defender of the Church's teaching, you protected your flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in the true faith! O holy Father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America,//always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

**February 27, 2011**

**SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 7. Sunday of the Last Judgment. Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn (1915).**

### **Kontakion (Tone 1)**

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, O Righteous Judge!

### **Prayers for The Faithful and Departed**

Dn. Peter Skoog, Lena Robovitsky, Albert and Catherine Kavalkovich, Ronnie Kavalkovich, Olga Macalush, Joyce Spack, Corba family and parishioners, Kenny Cavalli, McCartney family, Witiak family, Christopher, Patricia, Timothy Riley, Rabik family. **May God Grant Them Many Years!**

William Brasko, Charles Fortner, Diane Benson, Michael Makara, Spack family members, Anna Mackiewicz. **May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

### **Epistle Reading**

#### **1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2**

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. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. 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? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. 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? 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.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **Matthew 25:31-46**

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. 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. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 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: 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; 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, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 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.' 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: 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 take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 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?' 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.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

### **Welcome to our Visitors!**

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us for our Fellowship Hour in the Church Hall . **Please note: Only those Orthodox Christians that have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession of sins should approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Church Telephone Number**

Our church's telephone number is 215-468-3535. If there is inclement weather, do please call the number and wait for the answering machine. If church is canceled, it will be announced on the machine.

#### **Church Education**

Do remember that the last Sunday of the month is devoted to our church education. We'll continue to address suffering and Christ following the Divine Liturgy.

#### **Easter Flowers**

Debbie Kavalkovich has started collecting orders for Easter flowers. Please see her if you would like to place an order.

#### **Parish Statistics for February 13, 2011**

Attendance: uncounted

Income: \$727.00

Expenses: \$00.00

**Surplus: \$727.00**