

Meatfare Sunday – Sunday of the Last Judgment

Troparion (TONE 6) Resurrection

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //
glory to Thee.

Troparion: (TONE 3) St. Matthew

From the tax desk you eagerly followed the call of Christ the master
Who of His goodness, revealed Himself on earth to man.

You appear as a chosen apostle and eloquent proclaimer of the Gospel to the universe!

Wherefore, we revere your honorable memory, O Divinely speaking Matthew//

Pray to the merciful God that He will grant remission of sins to our souls.

Glory...Kontakion (TONE 4) St. Matthew

Turning away from the tax collector's scales

You assumed the yoke of righteousness

You appear like a most talented merchant

Offering the riches of that wisdom which is from on high

Whence you preached the true word

And roused up slothful souls//

By describing the hour of judgment.

Now and ever...Kontakion (TONE 1) Last Judgment

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,

all things shall tremble,

and the river of fire shall flow before Thy 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 Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Directory Updates Needed

Please make any changes to the church directory, located on the candle stand in the church entrance, the next time you're at Worship. If you're new, please add your name and other information so we can include you to the new directory.

St. Matthew Orthodox Church



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Diocese of the Midwest



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March 7, 2021

Sunday of the Last Judgment

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."

Parish Activities

***Please note:** Lenten schedule of services are subject to change, some services may be added. Please check the weekly bulletin online and the website regularly.

9	Mar	Tues	6:00pm	Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom)
10	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Vespers (all welcome)
13	Mar	Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
14	Mar	Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only) Forgiveness Sunday Vespers (following coffee, after Divine Liturgy)
15	Mar	Mon	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)
16	Mar	Tues	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)
17	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)
18	Mar	Thurs	6:00pm	Great Canon (all welcome)
19	Mar	Fri	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy (all welcome)
20	Mar	Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
21	Mar	Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only)
24	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy (all welcome)
25	Mar	Thurs	6:00pm	Vesperal Liturgy for Annunciation (all welcome)
27	Mar	Sat	9:30am	Memorial Saturday Liturgy (all welcome)
27	Mar	Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
28	Mar	Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only)
31	Mar	Wed	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy (all welcome)

Juice is needed for coffee hour. Individual juice for the children and larger containers to pour into cups for adults who prefer juice instead of coffee. We appreciate any and all contributions!!!!

Church Cleaners.....

Julian - Week of March 7, for Sunday, March 14

Greetings from your ministry Team!

Our focus this month is Food for Pantries. Over the years we have been supporting two pantries, alternating our donations. As you know, the pantries have been asking for extra help keeping their shelves stocked. Let's bless them again this month with an abundance of non-perishable food that will help out our neighbors. Please bring your donations and leave them in Herrick Hall. Thanks to Zdrales and Odmans for faithfully making deliveries for us. Thank you!

Sunday of the Last Judgment & Sunday of Meatfare

Today's Gospel reading, Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment, reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live. 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).

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book, *GREAT LENT*, 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).

Knowing the commandments of the Lord,

let us conduct our lives in this way:

let us nourish the hungry, let us give drink to the thirsty;

let us clothe the naked, let us welcome the strangers;

let us visit the sick, the infirm, and those in prison,

so that He Who is coming to judge the whole earth may say to us:

"Come, O blessed of My Father,

inherit the Kingdom which has been prepared for you!"