Sunday of the Last Judgment

goarch.org

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During this time, the services of the Church have begun to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory.

On the past two Sundays of this pre-Lenten period, the focus was placed on God’s patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our Judge. Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes. This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Savior, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come, a theme that is also the focus of the first three days of Holy Week. But the judgment is not only in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts toward others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves.

Another theme of this Sunday is that of love. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable of the Last Judgment answers: love—not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous “poor,” but concrete and personal love for the human person—the specific persons that we encounter each day in our lives. Christian love is the “possible impossibility” to see Christ in another person, whoever he or she is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a “good deed” or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself.

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese :: www.antiochian.org
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest :: www.antiochian.org/midwest
Fr. Pat’s Daily Reflections :: touchstonemag.com/daily_reflections
“Homilies from All Saints” podcast :: ancientfaith.com/podcasts/all saints
Please send bulletin submissions to Kim A. at Keggers854 [at] aol [dot] com by Wednesday of the week

February 23, 2020 – Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Venerable Gorgonia, sister of Gregory the Theologian; Venerable Zebinas, Polychronios, Moses and Damian near Cyrrhus in Syria; Venerable Damian of Esphigmenou monastery on Mount Athos

Matins Gospel Reading: Mark 16:9-20

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3):
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead.

He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Kontakion for Sunday of Last Judgment (Tone 1):
When Thou comest, O God, to the earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and the sins revealed, deliver Thy servant then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

All Saints Antiochian Orthodox Church
4129 West Newport Avenue, Chicago IL 60641

Church Office 773-777-0749
www.allsaintsorthodox.org
Pastor: Father Patrick Henry Reardon
phrii@touchstonemag.com
Deacon Walid Abdul Karim
Walid177@yahoo.com
Subdeacon Joseph Freve

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
The Lord is my strength and my praise.
The Lord chastising hath chastised me, but He hath not delivered me over to death.

Epistle Reading: The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

This Week at All Saints

Saturday, February 29: Vespers, 7:30 PM (Confession available before and after)

Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Proshora</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Feb 23</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Azizeh C.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Gabriel &amp; Domitille N.</td>
<td>R - W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Mar 1</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td>Carmen C.</td>
<td>Eric &amp; Cristina P.</td>
<td>A - F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 4</td>
<td>Dcn Walid</td>
<td>Olcjia I.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 11</td>
<td>Dcn Walid</td>
<td>Nancy L.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 18</td>
<td>Octavian F.</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

News and Announcements

TODAY is the last day to eat meat before the Great Fast
The last day for dairy and eggs is Cheesefare Sunday, March 1

Please consider attending the upcoming pro-life SpeakOut Illinois Conference at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace for breakfast on Saturday, February 29th. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the conference ends around 1 pm. This year's conference will feature keynote speaker Mary-Louise Hengesbaugh of Girls' Health First. Please visit SpeakOut Illinois Conference 2020 - Splash for ticket prices and more information.