

ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America 4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641 773-231-6177 www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am Sunday of the Last Judgment • Meat-Fare



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Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 7): Thou didst shatter death by Thy cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief. Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

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

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.



THE EPISTLE

For Sunday of the Last Judgment

The Lord will give strength to His people. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and honor.

The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not bring us closer to God; for neither if we eat, are we the better, nor if we do not eat, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this authority of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you, as someone who has knowledge, reclining at a table in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of the one who is weak be emboldened to eat of the things sacrificed to idols, and through your knowledge the weak brother perishes, for whom Christ died? And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will not eat meat forever, lest I cause my brother to stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

For Sunday of the Last Judgment

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said: When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the 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 Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?'

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 Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?'

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."

FR. ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN ON THE LAST JUDGMENT

An excerpt from Great Lent, chapter 2: Preparation for Lent

It is *love* again that constitutes the theme of "Meat-Fare Sunday." The Gospel lesson for the day is Christ's parable of the Last Judgement (Matt. 25:31-46). When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgement? The parable answers: *love*-- not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous "poor," but concrete and personal love for the human person, any human person, that God makes me encounter in my life....



Christian love is the "possible impossibility" to see Christ in another man, whoever he 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. For, indeed, what is love if not that mysterious

power which transcends the accidental and the external in the "other" – his physical appearance, social rank, ethnic origin, intellectual capacity – and reaches the *soul*, the unique and uniquely personal "root" of a human being, truly the part of God in him? If God loves every man it is because He alone knows the priceless and absolutely unique treasure, the "soul" or "person" He gave every man. Christian love then is the participation in that divine knowledge and the gift of that divine love. There is no "impersonal" love because love *is* the wonderful discovery of the "person" in "man," of the personal and unique in the common and general. It is the discovery in each man of that which is "lovable" in him, of that which is from God.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for "humanity," yet each one of us has received the gift and the grace of Christ's love. We know that all men ultimately need this *personal love* – the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that men are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ's love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged. For "inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me..."

Announcements and upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today: Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am, followed by coffee hour (<u>R-Z</u>) and church school.

Tuesday, March 12:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Parish council meeting (online), 7:30pm

Wednesday, March 13:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Thursday, March 14: Morning prayers, 9am

Friday, March 15: Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, March 16:

- Icon Academy, 9am-5pm
- Romans Bible Bowl study, 5-7pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, March 17: Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-Fare)

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am, followed by coffee hour (<u>A-F</u>) and church school. *This is traditionally the final day to eat dairy and eggs before Pascha*.
- Forgiveness Vespers, 7pm. This is one of the most important services that all Orthodox Christians should attend every year! 'If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14).

Other upcoming events & services:

March 17-23: First week of Great Lent (services every evening at 7pm)

Saturday, March 23: Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, 6pm at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines. Guest preacher will be Bishop John Abdalah. Note this service is

normally on a Sunday evening, but it was moved to Saturday this year so as not to conflict with the feast of the Annunciation.

Monday, March 25: Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Annunciation, 10am. *His Grace Bishop John plans to be with us at All Saints for the feast!*

CONGRATULATIONS to Hanna Saba and Shay McMullan on the occasion of their marriage! May God grant them many years.

CHURCH SCHOOL DAY OF SERVICE: On April 7, all of our church school children will participate in a service project during their regular class time. Melissa is collecting individually wrapped toothbrushes, travel toothpaste, travel shampoos and full sized men's deodorants to make shower kits for the homeless. Please see Melissa W. with any questions.

WOMEN'S LENT BOOK DISCUSSION: Join us as Sandy A. and Athena L. lead our discussion through *Homilies During Great Lent*, by St. Nektarios Kefalas. Books will be/are available at the book table. Meetings dates are Saturdays March 30, April 13, and April 20 at 5pm. Please bring a fasting dish to share for our potluck meal. Please see Sh. Kim with questions.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT: Kh. Kristina Gillquist from All Saints Church in Bloomington, IN will lead our retreat, *Unshakable Peace in the Eye of the Storm* on **Saturday, April 6.** Akathist prayers will begin at 9am, followed by the presentation, lunch, and an afternoon of baking traditional Middle Eastern Pascha treats with Georgette S. Please submit your RSVP and \$10 registration by March 29; see Sh. Kim with questions.

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2024: As you are likely aware, All Saints Church will be co-hosting our diocese Parish Life Conference this summer, along with Holy Transfiguration in Warrenville. Mark your calendars: the dates are **Wednesday, June 26 through Saturday, June 29.** We will be in need of volunteers, particularly folks to help staff the registration table Wednesday through Friday, and volunteers for the kids' club events – curriculum planning and teaching.

SPEAK OUT ILLINOIS: Please consider attending the SpeakOut Illinois' annual conference on **Saturday, March 16**, 9:30am to 2pm at Drury Lane Theater. SpeakOut Illinois is a pro-life event organized by a coalition of pro-life organizations in Illinois. Keynote Speaker will be Mark Houck, a pro-life sidewalk counselor whose home was invaded by the FBI over his peaceful pro-life outreach. Come hear Mark's inspiring testimony!

For tickets visit www.eventbrite.com/e/speakout-illinois-tickets-775812705687

JOIN OUR ALL SAINTS PSALTER READING GROUP during Great Lent! We begin on March 18 and read each day through April 26. For more details please contact JoAnne via text 773-220-3179 or email <u>jotheo@yahoo.com</u>.

CELEBRATION OF BOOKS: Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Westchester will host their annual Celebration of Books on Sunday, April 7. Vespers begins at 6:30pm followed by a presentation from Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, producer of Trisagion Films.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prosphora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun. March 10 Meatfare	Paul K	Pat K	James B	Lydia A	R-Z
Sun March 17 Forgiveness	Joseph L	Domitille	Azizeh	Zach C	A-F
Wed, March 20 Presanctified		Cristina P	Nancy L	n/a	Sign-up
Sun, March 24	Doug J	Sarah S	John O	Alina S	G-K
Mon, March 25 Annunciation	Richard C	Dn Walid	JoAnne T	n/a	Potluck
Wed., March 27 Presanctified		Cristina P	Domitille	n/a	Sign-up
Sun, March 31	Michelle C	Sandy A	James B	Domtille	L-P

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

Shaded dates indicate fasting – no meat, dairy, or eggs should be served on these days.

If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves. Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour. And of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH 10-16, 2024

ADAPTED FROM THE LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

During the four weeks leading up to Great Lent, the lectionary readings take us through the Epistles of Sts. Peter, John, and Jude, while the Gospel readings give us a foreshadowing of Holy Week with the Passion narratives from St. Mark and St. Luke.

Sunday, March 10: Sunday of the Last Judgment John 20:1-10 / 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 / Matthew 25:31-46

Monday, March 11: St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem 3 John / Luke 19:29-48

Tuesday, March 12: St. Gregory the Dialogist, Bishop of Rome Jude 1:1-10 / Luke 22:1-30

Wednesday, March 13: St. Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople Joel 2:12-27 / Joel 3:9-21 (4:9-21 OSB) / Luke 22:31-65

Thursday, March 14: Benedict the Righteous of Nursia Jude 1:11-25 / Luke 22:66-23:25

Friday, March 15: Holy Apostle Aristobulos of the Seventy, Bishop of Britain Zechariah 8:7-17 / Zechariah 8:18-23 / Luke 23:26-56

Saturday, March 16: Sabine the Martyr of Egypt Romans 14:19-23, 16:25-27 / Matthew 6:1-13

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