

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, February 23, 2025

Sunday of the Last Judgment • Hiero-Martyr Polycarp of Smyrna

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am



Fr. Andrew Kishler, pastor
773-575-3272
Kishler.andrew@gmail.com

**Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon,
retired pastor**
phrii@fsj.org

Deacon Walid Abdul Karim
216-392-9292
Walid1177@yahoo.com

Subdeacon Joseph Freve
773-501-9482
Joeruth5@protonmail.com



Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee!

Kontakion for the Last Judgment (Tone 1): When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, all creatures tremble before Thee, 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.

Apolytikion 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 is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

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

Brethren: 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.

Alleluia – Psalm 94:1-2

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us shout with jubilation unto God our Savior.
Let us come before His countenance with thanksgiving.

THE GOSPEL

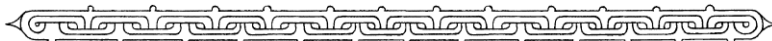
For Sunday of the Last Judgment

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.”



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
- Coffee hour provided by last names L-P
- Church school for all ages. Today's adult class will be taught by Fr. Patrick.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, Feb. 26:

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

Thursday & Friday, Feb. 27 & 28: Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, March 1:

- Bible Bowl study (Luke) & dinner, 5pm
- Great Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, March 2: Forgiveness Sunday/Cheese-fare

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by families R-Z
- Church school for all ages, following coffee hour
- Forgiveness Vespers, 7pm. *We will observe the ceremony of mutual forgiveness at this service, marking the beginning of Lent. Please, let us make every effort to attend this service! We must forgive each other in order to be forgiven.*

FIRST WEEK OF LENT: March 2-8 we will have services every evening at 7pm, marking the first week of the Great Fast. Compline with the Canon of Repentance and Life of St. Mary of Egypt will take place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, March 5.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS: Our annual Pan-Orthodox vespers service will be Sunday, March 9, 6:30pm, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church (601 S. Central). Guest homilist will be Bishop Alexei of Alaska (OCA).

CHURCH SCHOOL DAY OF SERVICE: In preparation for our upcoming Church School day of service, Melissa will be collecting donations for the project. She is looking for donations of black and blue pens, pencils, 8 or 12 crayon boxes, boxes of 10 markers, match box cars individually packaged, small stuffed animals, and kids toothbrushes (no toothpaste). All the items must be new and can be placed in the donation box. We also have an Amazon wish list with additional ideas! Deadline is March 19. Thank you in advance!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/273SXHOTH0Y1?ref=wl_share

JOIN OUR ALL SAINTS PSALTER GROUP during Great Lent! We begin on March 3, and we'll read & pray each day through April 11. For more details please contact JoAnne via text 773-220-3179 or email jotheo@yahoo.com.

A NOTE ON CHURCH GIVING: As we enter the season of Lent, our thoughts often turn to fasting and charitable giving. We are fortunate to have many opportunities for Lenten almsgiving presented to us at All Saints. Please see Alice our treasurer if you have any questions!

- Increase our general tithes to All Saints. It is the responsibility to all church members to support the work and upkeep of the church on a regular basis.
- Donate to our Pastoral Discretionary Fund.

(Reminder: any money donated to the Pastoral Discretionary Fund is given to the Church to allocate as Fr. Andrew sees fit to best serve the needs of our parish community. Suggested recipients are always welcomed, but the final decision is at the pastor's discretion.)

- Donate to a specific fund:

Food for Hungry People: This is an Antiochian Archdiocese initiative we support every Lent. Collect funds in the boxes or write "Food for Hungry People" on a check memo line.

Patriarch's Tray: Our thrice-annual responsibility to the Patriarchate of Antioch. Write "Patriarch" in memo line.

"The smallest thing when done for the love of God is priceless." (Saint Teresa of Avila)

REFLECTIONS ON LOVE

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

On the Sunday of the Last Judgment, the third of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, the Church reads to us from the Gospel of Matthew, where God judges people on the Last Day based on the acts of love they have performed toward those in need—whom Christ identifies with Himself when He responds to the inquirers: "*You did it to Me.*" The gospel passage states: "*I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink...*" (Matthew 25).

Is this gospel passage merely about feeding, clothing, visiting, and comforting others? Or does it emphasize that these blessed actions should naturally flow from our human nature, which is created in the image of God? Is this passage simply urging us to perform acts of charity, or is it pointing to something essential about the very structure of human existence?

Saint Sophrony of Essex once gave a lecture at Oxford University. At the end of his talk, the moderator said, "We have time for one more question." A man in the back of the room stood up and asked: "Father Sophrony, could you tell us—who is God?" The saint replied concisely: "Tell me first, who is man?"

In this brief exchange, Saint Sophrony profoundly revealed a crucial truth: God and man are mysteries intertwined, and one cannot be understood apart from the other. Since man is created in the image of God, there is a structural relationship between humanity and its Creator. If God is love, then man, in his truest nature, must also be love.

We often imagine that being created in the image of God means our relationship with Him is purely vertical—a connection between God and man through worship and devotion. While this is true, it is not the full picture. Since we are created in God's image, we are also created in the image of the Holy Trinity. Therefore, the divine image within us—though darkened by the fall but never erased—compels us to live in love. We exist through love and for love alone.

Let us dive deeper into the mystery of the Trinity. The Cappadocian Fathers—especially Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Basil the Great, and Saint Gregory the Theologian—use the Greek word "koinonia" (κοινωνία) when speaking about God. This word means communion, relationship, and fellowship. The Persons of the Holy Trinity exist in a state of eternal, mutual love, in complete and perfect communion. God's love is not self-contained but outward-reaching, reciprocal, and participatory.

Since the image of God is within us, it calls us to extend our love beyond ourselves—not just vertically toward God but also horizontally toward others. We are called to live in mutual, self-giving love with others, mirroring the divine love of the Trinity.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun, Feb. 23 <i>Meat-fare*</i>	Richard C.	Debbie K	Azizeh C	Domitille	L-P
Sun., March 2 <i>Forgiveness*</i>	Michelle C	Domitille N	John O	Lydia A	R-Z
<u>Wed., March 5</u> <i>Presanctified</i>	n/a	Pat K	Nancy L	Volunteer	Potluck
Sun., March 9 <i>Orth. Sunday</i>	Sdn Joseph	Cristina P	JoAnne T	Zach C	A-F
<u>Wed., March 12</u> <i>Presanctified</i>	n/a	Pat K	Azizeh C	Volunteer	Potluck
Sun, March 16 <i>St Gregory</i>	Christy K	Sandy A	John O	Alina S	G-K
<u>Wed, March 19</u> <i>Presanctified</i>	n/a	Dn Walid	Domitille	Volunteer	Potluck
Sun, March 23 <i>Holy Cross</i>	Jim K	David J	JoAnne T	Domitille	L-P

For Sunday coffee hour, the last names of our church members have 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.

If you have children, monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and make sure they don't take more than they can eat. Please also help your children clean up after themselves.

Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour, but of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!

****Meat-Fare Sunday (Feb. 23) is our final day for meat until Pascha (April 20). Forgiveness Sunday (March 2, also known as Cheese-Fare) is our final day for dairy products and eggs. Coffee hour offerings on March 2 may include dairy and eggs but no meat.***



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1, 2025

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

The Gospel readings for the four weeks prior to the start of Lent take us through the Passion narratives of Mark and Luke, leading us up to the Lenten fast.

Sunday, February 23: Sunday of the Last Judgment
Mark 16:1-8 / 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 / Matthew 25:31-46

Monday, Feb. 24: The Finding of the Venerable Head of John the Baptist
3 John / Luke 19:29-48
For St. John: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 / Matthew 11:2-15

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople
Jude 1:1-10 / Luke 22:1-30

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza
Joel 2:12-27 / Joel 3:9-21 (4:9-21 OSB) / Luke 22:31-65

Thursday, Feb. 27: Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis
Jude 1:11-25 / Luke 22:66-23:25

Friday, Feb. 28: Righteous John Cassian
Zechariah 8:7-17 / Zechariah 8:18-23 / Luke 23:26-56

Saturday, March 1: David the Archbishop of Wales
Romans 14:19-23, 16:25-27 / Matthew 6:1-13

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AMERICA
ARCHIMANDRITE JEREMY DAVIS, VICAR FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO & THE MIDWEST