

MEATEFARE SUNDAY



Icon of the Last Judgment

February 12, 2023: Sunday of Meat-Fare

Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8 - 9:2

Gospel: Mt. 25: 31-46

Mon., Feb. 13

to

No Services This Week

Fri., Feb. 17

Sat., Feb. 18

No Morning Divine Liturgy

No Confessions

4:00 + Mary Lil (Daughter, Lori Hayslett)

Sun., Feb. 19

10:30 For Our Parishioners

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

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. Because He is a good and loving God who does not desire the death of a sinner, He calls us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). The time for repentance and forgiveness is now.

As Father +Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4) that sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. 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).

Today is also known as the Sunday of Meat-Fare... That means that Great Lent begins next Sunday afternoon. In this final week of preparation for the Great Lent, the traditional discipline suggests that we bid farewell to meat in our diet after today 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. The way we decide to adapt this discipline to our own situation is a matter of individual choice. Of greater importance is the need to formulate a spiritual plan for the coming Holy Season.

EVER CHANGING LITURGY

One of the most commonly raised excuses for not attending Divine Liturgy regularly is that it is always the same. The reality is nothing could be further from the truth. While many segments of the Liturgy—the ektenias and consecration—are constant, there is much which varies from week to week, season to season.

It is said that Byzantine Christians worship with all five senses. The Divine Liturgy provides us with an opportunity to do just that. Perhaps most significant are our voices. Indeed, the human voice is the only instrument considered worthy to praise God in church, hence the absence of organs, pianos, or guitars, often found in other churches.

Visually, the icons which surround us in church help us to pray and meditate in ever-changing ways. Festal icons are placed on the tetrapod each week to help us appreciate the feast or saint who is currently being celebrated as we approach to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Liturgical vestments also vary with the season or feast. Although only light or dark vestments are specified, in practice a variety of colors are worn. Generally, light or

bright colors including white and gold are used for joyful occasions such as Christmas, Pascha, and Sundays. Dark colors, including red, are used for Lenten services, funerals, etc. More specifically, certain colors are commonly associated with particular liturgical celebrations. Throughout May and October, blue vestments are worn in honor of the Theotokos who is honored in these months. Blue may also be worn on Marian feasts.

At Pentecost, many priests wear green vestments symbolizing the new life of the Church brought about when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles. On that Sunday, the faithful fill the church with freshly cut boughs of trees, their new, bright green leaves fresh from the forest. They remind us of new life through the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life.

Pentecost is not the only opportunity the faithful have to enrich their celebration of the Divine Liturgy with the natural world. On the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord (August 6th), the first fruits of the season are brought to church to be blessed. Only a few days later, on August 15th when we celebrate the Dormition of the Mother of God, the blessing of flowers

and herbs takes place. In past times, these were seen not only as beautiful but capable of bringing about healing.

The meeting of our temporal needs with our spiritual needs reaches a pinnacle at Pascha (Easter) when we bring baskets of food to be blessed on that morning (although, for practical reasons, some large parishes also bless baskets on Holy Saturday afternoon). Paska, ham, sausage, butter, cheese, and other rich foods from which we have abstained during the Great Fast are brought to be sanctified, then taken home to be eaten. In this way, we bring the celebration of Pascha with us and have it continued in our homes throughout the day. This ancient tradition is also an eminently sensible way for the entire family to feast without any members being tasked with the job of preparing the meal. All are able to enjoy the celebration.

At other Divine Liturgies, sacramentals are blessed and offered to the faithful to take home as aids to daily worship. On January 6th, the Feast of Jordan, water is sanctified, to be used throughout the coming year. A month later, at the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple, candles are blessed. These may be burned on celebrations such as birthdays, at the

prayer corner, or perhaps during times of ill health, or some other great need. On Flowery or Willow Sunday, one week before Pascha, willow branches are blessed with holy water. These remind us of spring and of the new life which comes with Easter. They may be set in a prominent place for the duration of the Paschal season, or perhaps for the whole year. There are ancient beliefs that these blessed branches hold healing powers.

Finally, many parishes are now reviving the old tradition of having the Mysteries of Initiation take place as public celebrations in the context of the Divine Liturgies. They are meant to be public because they not only bring about a new spiritual life in Christ, but they also make the new Catholic a member of the local parish family. We all become responsible for his or her spiritual welfare. By actively participating in the initiation of these children and adults, all of the congregation are reminded of our own baptismal vows and are invited to personally renew them.

Far from being repetitive or static, the Divine Liturgy inspires us to worship through ever-changing prayers, sights, and sounds.

-- by Brent Kostyniuk

WELCOME MSGR. PETER WASLO

Today (Sunday), I left for a little vacation and will be gone all week. Today (Sunday), we warmly welcome Msgr. Peter Waslo who will be substituting for me at the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Msgr. Peter Waslo is assigned to the Archbishop's Chancery and is both the Chancellor

and the Vicar General. We thank Msgr. Peter for coming up to Olyphant today. May God grant him many happy and blessed years!

During the week, however, if there is an emergency, please call Fr. Myron Myronyuk at 570-342-7023.

IDENTITY - PART 3

In part 2, we mentioned that the Priest anoints three parts of our body; forehead, breast, and shoulders. In that ritual, he also anoints three other parts of our body. He anoints our ears that we may serve in listening to the teachings of the Faith and in accepting the words of the Divine Gospel.

The Priest then anoints the palm of our hands so that we may raise up our hands in innocence to heaven; that we may do the right thing at all times; and

that we may bless the Lord.

The Priest lastly anoints our feet that we may walk in the ways of the commandments of Christ.

In that beautiful and meaningful rite of anointing, we see that our whole being is anointed, is set aside to give witness to Jesus Christ, to be a prophet. We can truly say that we are a baptized prophet.

WJW - Part 3 of 5

CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States participates in a Special Collection which supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Communism in this region fell more than 30 years ago, but the Church still struggles to rebuild after decades of oppressive rule. Under communism,

religion and religious practices were openly persecuted, and atheism was actively propagated and enforced. Your support of this collection aids those affected by the war in Ukraine and renews vital aspects of Church life throughout the region. You support Seminary programs, promote

ministries and education for children and families, rebuild Churches, and renew community life. Please be

generous and prayerfully consider how you can support this collection.

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER...

During this time of Covid-19, if you are sick, or not feeling well, **please stay home**. If you are sick, you are dispensed of the Obligation to attend the Divine

Liturgy. Please be considerate of your fellow Parishioners and not spread any germs. Let's keep everyone healthy.

MYASOPUSNA (MEAT-FARE) DINNER

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, 240 Center Street, Nanticoke, will hold it's Annual Myasopusna (Meat-Fare) Dinner Celebration today (February 12, 2023). This event combines a delicious Ukrainian meal (Ham, kobasi, Halupki, pyrohy, kapusta, bosch, & dessert) with Ukrainian dance, singing and art. This year the program will feature the St. Mary's Ukrainian Dancers and

Kazka. Ukrainian Beer and wine will be available. Ticket price is \$20 in advance, children \$10 and \$22 at the door. Doors open at noon. Cocktail 1/2 hour is noon-12:30. Serving starts at 12:30PM and stops approximately at 2:00PM. Tables are not reserved ahead of time. The Entertainment Program will start approximately 1:30PM. Take-outs are available.

PIGS IN THE BLANKET DINNER

Shopa-Davey VFW Post #6082 at 123 Electric Street, Peckville, Pa is sponsoring the "Pigs in the Blanket" Dinner on Sunday, February 19, 2023, Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. available "TAKE OUT" or "EAT IN."

Raffle tickets are available to purchase. Open to the Public and dinner tickets are \$12.00 each, tickets are available also during the week at the VFW Post on Electric Street, Peckville.

PARISH MEETING

There will be a Parish Meeting on Saturday, March 4th immediately following the 4:00 liturgy. All

parishioners are invited to attend this half-hour meeting, which has a very brief agenda:

1. Schedule of upcoming Parish fundraising events.
2. Clearance Rummage Sale details.
3. Ideas/feedback/suggestions regarding the above two items.

UKRAINIAN PYSANKY CLASSES

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant will be offering Ukrainian Pysanky classes in March 2023. The two-hour beginner class will teach the basics to create a traditional Ukrainian pysanky egg. The cost of the class is \$25 for each person. Supplies are included. Classes will be held at 207 River Street, Olyphant, St. Cyril's Parish Hall, with plenty of free parking. Classes will be held on Sunday, March 12th, starting at Noon., and the 2nd class on March 12th at 3:00

p.m. On Sunday, March 26th, starting at noon and the 2nd class on March 26th will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Class size is limited and you must call for a reservation to register. Call Tammy Budnovitch at 570-766-1919.

This is a fundraiser for the church. Available for purchase are individual Pysanky eggs created by Tammy Budnovitch. Other items available for purchase are jewelry, mosaic art, books, and additional pysanky egg supplies.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

It is very rare that the Divine Liturgy is canceled, especially on a Sunday. I want to encourage those of you who must walk further or more importantly, who drive to church, to PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE, when making a determination about attending the Divine Liturgy on the snowy, icy,

inclement weekend or even more so on the weekday. If attendance means putting yourself and others at risk, I am sure the Lord understands if you should decide to pray at home. Please use common sense and a well-informed conscience when making such a decision.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2023 is Team #2:

Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr, Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for February 4 & 5, 2023: \$

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

I was Hungry

You see, my beloved, there is no excuse for it. They knew what they had to do in this world. But greed and ill-will prevented them, so they laid up for themselves not treasures for the future but the world of the dead. Neither were they condemned because of the active wrong they did, nor did the Lord say to them: depart from me, you wicked, because you committed murder or adultery or theft. But instead: because I was hungry and thirsty in my servants, and you did not minister to me. If those who did no wrong are thus condemned, what must be said of those who do the works of the devil? Will not the prophecy of blessed David come upon them: "The wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous?" Not that they will not rise, but that neither in judgment [nor in] the congregation of the righteous do they deserve to enter. They will stand, however, so that from

punishment they may enter into punishment." And they will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Whatever will be is everlasting. Sinners will have everlasting punishment; and the righteous, everlasting life.

St. Epiphanius the Latin

Do you wish to honor the body of Christ? Do not ignore Him when He is naked. Do not pay Him homage in the temple clad in silk, only then to neglect Him outside where He is cold and ill-clad. He who said: "This is my body" is the same who said: "You saw me hungry and you gave me no food" and, "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers you did also to me." ... What good is it if the Eucharistic table is overloaded with golden chalices when your brother is dying of hunger? Start by satisfying his hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well.

St. John Chrysostom