



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 (609) 393-1234
Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi V. Rev. Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus
saintvladimir.org
facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE OF THE LAST JUDGMENT FEBRUARY 23, 2025

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Kontakion – Tone 1

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!

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, / His understanding is beyond measure.

V. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Sunday of Meatfare 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. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice). 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). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), 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). Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products 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.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But 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.

Gospel: 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."

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

For the Sick / Caregiver

Betty (2/2)
 Tamara (2/2)
 Trudy (2/2)
 Anthony (2/9)
 Carmine (2/9)
 Marianne (2/9)
 Julie (2/9)
 Thomas (2/9)
 Alexandra (2/16)
 Dorothy (2/16)
 Michael (2/16)

Charlotte (2/16)
 Subdeacon Sergius (2/16)
 Melody (2/16)
 Vasily (2/23)
 Liam (2/23)
 Kelly (2/23)
 Alexandra (2/23)
 Father Paul (2/23)
 Matushka Mary (2/23)
 Deborah (2/23)

For the Deceased

John (2/9)
 Donald (2/16)
 George (2/23)
 Edward (2/23)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of February 23

Sunday February 23 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall
 Saturday March 1 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen Class in the church basement
 Sunday March 2 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Sunday of Forgiveness Prayers and Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

February 16 – 87 adults, 16 youth, \$5,657

ORTHODOXY 101

Great Lent

The season of Great Lent is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the Great Commandments of loving God and our neighbors. In the Orthodox Church, Great Lent is not a season of morbidity and gloominess. On the contrary, it is a time of joyfulness and purification. We are called to "anoint our faces" and to "cleanse our bodies as we cleanse our souls." The very first hymns of the very first service of Great Lent set the proper tone of the season:

Let us begin the lenten time with delight . . . let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good words of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and his holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing.

Thy grace has arisen upon us, O Lord, the illumination of our souls has shown forth; behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of repentance (Vespers Hymns).

It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents, please be aware there will be no Sunday School next Sunday, March 2 due to Forgiveness Sunday.

Catechumen classes will be held every Saturday after Vespers. Everyone is invited to attend the classes, but those who wish to convert to the Orthodox faith must attend.

2025 Parish Council:

President – Alan Berck

Vice President – Herman Meyer

Parish Council Secretary – Madeleine Sekulich

Treasurer – Aftan Chowansky

Financial Administrator – Alexander Brasowski

Property Manager – Leon Brasowski

Members at Large: John Cassar, Alex Medina, Gabriela Plesa, Timothy Srock, Awet Tesfa

Reminder - Great Lent begins next Monday March 3. Today is Meatfare Sunday, the last day to eat meat until Pascha. Next Sunday, March 2 is Forgiveness and Cheesefare Sunday, the last day to eat dairy until Pascha. The Lenten Service Calendars are at the end of this bulletin.

Reminder to please clean up Christmas decorations at the parish cemeteries. There are still over 50 graves with holiday decorations on them. Per the Cemetery By-Laws, all decorations are to be removed three weeks after the holiday. There is no trash collection at the cemeteries, so please take your items home with you. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

James Pitra – February 23

Tyler Cassidy – February 26

Svetlana Sosedov – February 27

Bill DiCicco – February 28

Betty Kavchok – February 29

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

** If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.*

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall -

Let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel
Mar. 2 NO MEAT Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson
Mar. 9 FAST John Cassar, Christina DiDonato
Mar. 16 FAST Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova
Mar. 23 FAST Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
Mar. 30 FAST Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
Apr. 6 FAST Christine Waite, Alla Strauss
Apr. 13 FAST Alex Godun, Melody Stavisky
Apr. 20 PASCHA – No Coffee Hour
Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado
May 4 James & Olga Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey
May 11 Nina Schmidt, Monia & Jim Pitra
May 18 Anne Cheslock, Darice Keyes
May 25 Inna Lebedeva, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
June 1 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina
June 8 Grace Ramus, Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa
June 15 Sami Bachir, Tyler Burger
June 22 FAST Matthew Anderson, Ramazi Shubitidze
June 29 Nancy Mitsos, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky
July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay
July 13 FOCA Club & Ladies Altar Society – Enhanced Coffee Hour for St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration
July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones
July 27 Amber Touch, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick

Have a healthy, blessed week!

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

LENTEN SERVICES - MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 2 <i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY</i> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness	3 7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	4 7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	5 7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	6	7 8:30 AM Confession - 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	8 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession
9 <i>SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY</i> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy with icon procession	10	11	12 5:30 PM Confession - 6:30 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	13	14 8:30 AM Confession - 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	15 9:30 AM <i>MEMORIAL SATURDAY</i> Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession
16 <i>ST. GREGORY PALAMAS</i> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	17	18	19 5:30 PM Confession - 6:30 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	20	21 8:30 AM Confession - 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	22 9:30 AM <i>MEMORIAL SATURDAY</i> Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession
23 <i>VENERATION OF THE CROSS</i> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Mission Service followed by potluck supper	24 7:00 PM Great Compline with Litya <i>FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION</i>	25 9:30 AM Vesperal Liturgy <i>FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION</i>	26 5:30 PM Confession - 6:30 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	27	28 8:30 AM Confession - 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	29 9:30 AM <i>MEMORIAL SATURDAY</i> Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession
30 <i>ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER</i> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	31					

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

LENTEN SERVICES - APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		APRIL 1	2 5:30 PM Confession - 6:30 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	3 6:30 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	4 8:30 AM Confession - 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	5 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession
6 <i>ST. MARY OF EGYPT</i> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Lecture by Mother Abbess Christophora during coffee hour	7	8	9 5:30 PM Confession - 6:30 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	10	11 8:30 AM Confession - 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession	12 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - <i>LAZARUS SATURDAY</i> 5:00 PM Vespers & blessing of palms, followed by Confession
13 <i>PALM SUNDAY</i> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	14	15	16 6:30 PM Service of Holy Unction (The Sacrament of Holy Oil)	17 <i>HOLY THURSDAY</i> 9:30 AM Vesperal Liturgy 6:30 PM Matins with reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels	18 <i>HOLY FRIDAY</i> 2:00 PM Vespers 7:00 PM Matins with Procession, followed by reading of the Psalms	19 <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i> 9:30 AM Vesperal Liturgy 11:30 PM Paschal Vigil with Procession followed by Pascha Divine Liturgy and blessing of baskets in Daria Hall
20 <i>PASCHA</i> 11:00 AM Paschal Vespers followed by blessing of baskets in Daria Hall & picnic on rectory grounds	21 <i>BRIGHT MONDAY</i> 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy					