

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

March 6, 2016

## *Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)*

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2	Page 132
Gospel Reading	Matthew 25:31-46	Page 133
Creed		Pamphlet
The Lord's Prayer		Page 26
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 29-30
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		Pages 33-34
Memorial Service		Page 164

**Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.**

### Today's Calendar

- **Philoptochos is hosting today's Coffee Hour.**
- **Parish Council members on duty: Lewis Demetroulakos, Deborah Detora, Charles Hondros, Paris Karahalios**

### This Week

**Monday, March 7 – Philoptochos Meeting – 6:30 pm – Olympia Restaurant**

**Wednesday, March 9 – HAA Open House – 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Thursday, March 10 – Parish Council Meeting – 6:30 pm – Church hall**

**Saturday, March 12 - Second Saturday of Souls – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy**

### For Our Edification

#### **.HAA Open Houses**

An Open House at the Hellenic American Academy is being held today from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

There will also be an Open House this Wednesday, March 9, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. If you know of any families who might be interested please encourage them to attend.

#### **Memorial Arrangements**

When planning a Memorial, please call the office (978) 458-8092 at your earliest convenience so that the proper arrangements can be made.

#### **Don't Forget Your Dues**

It is time once again to mail in your dues for the year 2016. Family membership is \$400, a single membership is \$300, and a membership for a student is \$200. On this year's dues invoice, there is an additional line if you wish to make an additional stewardship donation.

#### **Meatfare Sunday**

Today is called Meatfare Sunday because during the week following it, the Church prescribes a limited fasting – abstention from meat. The Church begins now to “adjust” us to the great effort, which she will expect from us seven days later. She gradually takes us into that effort – knowing our frailty, foreseeing our spiritual weakness.

If strict fasting is observed, this is the last day to eat meat until Easter. The reading for the day states that an individual will be judged in heaven according to the kindnesses shown to others on earth.

It is love that constitutes the theme of Meatfare Sunday. The Gospel lesson for the day is Christ's parable of The Last Judgment. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? 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 us encounter in our lives.

Christian love is the ‘possible impossibility’ to see Christ in another man, whoever he is, and wherever we encounter him.

“Great Lent – Journey to Pascha” – Alexander Schmemmann