

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

February 11, 2018

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

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

Memorial Service	Page 164
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Today's Calendar

- **Memorials: 40-day for Madeline Anton; 40-day for George Malapanis; 3-year for Nicholas Panas**
- **A Spaghetti Luncheon at the Hellenic Cultural Center will follow the Divine Liturgy. Limited tickets will be available at the door. Adults, \$12, Children, \$5.**
- **Parish Council members on duty: George Tgibides, Betty Themeles, Tom Themeles, George Zaharoolis**

This Week

Saturday, February 17 – Second Saturday of Souls – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

For Our Edification

Donations Appreciated

The Philoptochos Winter Appeal for donations to the House of Hope was successful thanks to all of you who donated items such as shampoo, conditioner, paper napkins, baby bottles, diapers and wipes.

Lenten Vesper Schedule

The Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches has released the following schedule for Lenten Vespers: Sunday, February 25, 6:00 pm, Holy Transfiguration; Sunday, March 4, 6:00 pm, Holy Trinity; Sunday, March 11, 6:00 pm, St. George Antiochian Church; Sunday, March 18, 6:00 pm, St. George Greek Church; Sunday, March 25, 6:00 pm, Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

Unique Gift Idea

Consider purchasing the Philoptochos cookbook, *Treasured Recipes from Our Greek Kouzines*, for \$25. Make your inquiries on Sunday in the narthex.

Don't Forget Your Dues

It is time once again to mail in your dues for the year 2018. Family membership is \$400, a single membership is \$300, and a membership for a student is \$200. On this year's dues invoice, an additional line has been added 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

One must in every way flee from judging and pray in secret for those who have sinned. “This form of love is pleasing to God.” Judging is bound up with impudence and is incompatible with true repentance: “To judge is to impudently appropriate to oneself the rank of God.”

St. John Climacus