

Sunday 23rd of February 2025

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Kontakion — Tone 1

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble / and the river of fire shall flow before Your 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 Your right hand, Most Righteous Judge!

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protospresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Tanya and John Francis and Pamela.

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

February 23rd, 2025

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

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Friday 21st of February

Great Vespers at 6 pm

Saturday 22nd of February

MEMORIAL SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 23rd of February – Meatfare Sunday

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 1st of March

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 2nd of March – Cheesefare Sunday

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Forgiveness Vespers after the Liturgy

Blini Breakfast following Forgiveness Vespers

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitor Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy you are invited to join us for light refreshment in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation and ask any question you may have.

Thank you!

HSOC Parish Council Members and Father Michael Pejovic would like to thank everyone who participated at the Annual Parish Meeting held last Sunday, February 16th, 2025.

Memorial Saturday 22nd of February 2025

Divine Liturgy will be served on Saturday, March 22nd at 9 am. A Memorial Service will follow to remember the departed family and friends of Holy Spirit Orthodox Church parishioners and friends of the parish. Please provide Father Michael, via email pejovicveljko@gmail.com or prior to the service, a list of your departed. You are invited to worship with us to honor our departed family and friends.

Meatfare Sunday Coffee Hour

On Meatfare Sunday, February 23rd, right after morning service we will gather for the meatfare meal in the parish hall. Please bring your favorite meat dish to share with everyone. Starting on Monday, February 24th, we are called to start preparation for Great Lent by abstaining from meat products.

Agape/Blini breakfast

On Forgiveness Sunday (March 2nd), right after morning services we will have agape breakfast in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcomed to attend. We are planning to serve traditional blini breakfast. For more information, please talk with Nadine Olsen or Mark Benda. This will be the last day when we use milk and dairy products before Most Holy Pascha of our Lord.

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and other nonperishable food items.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com.