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Sunday, February 15, 2026

Meatfare Sunday

8:30am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

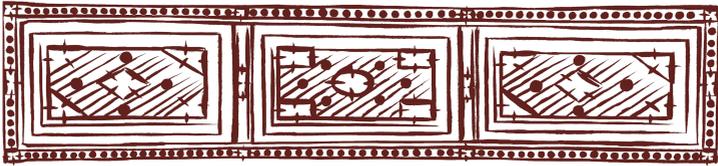
Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. * For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. * He trampled death under foot by means of death; * and He became the firstborn from the dead. * From the maw of Hades He delivered us; * and He granted the world His great mercy.

Ἄπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ἦχος γ´.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode

An example of the faith and a life of humility: * as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, * and through the truthfulness of your deeds * were exalted to greatness through your humility, * uplifting all, and by poverty gaining wealth. * Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, * intercede with Christ our God * that our souls may be saved.



Kontakion of Meatfare Sunday in the First Mode

When You come upon the earth, O our God, in in Your glory, and everything is shuddering, then the river made of fire shall flow forth before Your throne, and books shall be opened up, and hidden things shall be known publicly. Please, deliver me from the unending inferno, and then let me be worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Judge, who alone are just.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 8:8 – 13; 9:1 – 2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31 – 46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O 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 welcomed me, 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, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal 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 welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

“Then they also will answer, ‘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, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Saints and Feasts

Meatfare Sunday

The foregoing two parables— especially that of the Prodigal Son— have presented to us God’s extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin

the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight— which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now— it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy

Saint Onesimus, Apostle of the Seventy, in his youth was a servant of Philemon, a Christian of distinguished lineage, living in the city of Colossae, in Phrygia. Guilty of an offense against his master and fearing punishment, Onesimus fled to Rome, but as a runaway slave he wound up in prison. In prison he encountered the Apostle Paul, was enlightened by him, and was baptized.

In prison Onesimus served the Apostle Paul like a son. Paul was personally acquainted with Philemon, and wrote him a letter filled with love, asking him to forgive the runaway slave and to accept him like a brother. He sent Onesimus with this letter to his master, depriving himself of help, of which he was very much in need.

After he received the letter, Philemon not only forgave Onesimus, but also sent him back to Rome to the apostle. Philemon was afterwards consecrated bishop of the city of

Gaza.

After the death of the Apostle Paul, Onesimus served the apostles until their end, and he was made a bishop. After the death of the holy apostles he preached the Gospel in many lands and cities: in Spain, Carpetania, Colossae, Patras. In his old age, Onesimus occupied the bishop's throne at Ephesus, after the Apostle Timothy. When they took Saint Ignatius the God-Bearer to Rome for execution, Bishop Onesimus came to meet with him with other Christians, as Ignatius mentions in his Epistle to the Ephesians.

During the reign of the emperor Trajan (89–117), Onesimus was arrested and brought to trial before the eparch Tertullus. He held the saint in prison for eighteen days, and then sent him to prison in the city of Puteoli. After a certain while, the eparch sent for the prisoner and, convincing himself that Onesimus maintained his faith in Christ, had him stoned, after which they beheaded the saint with a sword. A certain illustrious woman took the body of the martyr and placed it in a silver coffin. This took place in the year 109.

Wisdom of the Fathers

“At His first coming the glory of His divinity was hidden beneath the flesh which He took from us and for our sake. Now it is hidden, together with the flesh which is divine, with the Father in heaven. But then He will reveal all His glory, for He will appear in radiance from the east to the west, illuminating the ends of the earth with the rays of His Godhead, while the trumpet that brings the dead to life shall sound throughout the world, summoning everything to Him. He also brought angels with Him before, though invisibly, and He restrained their zeal against God's enemies. Afterwards He will lead them openly and will not keep silent, but will put the disobe-

dient to shame and hand them over for punishment.”

- St. Gregory Palamas, *Homily* 4, §10.

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your God-pleasing prayers the servants of God:

Robert Tewis; Robert (Tikhon) Foster; Lance (Stylianos) Schmitt; Alexandra Currier; Karen (Marie) Eagle

If you would like for yourself or a loved one to be added to the prayer list, please contact Fr. Jeremy.

Parish Information

Church School

Church School for our children begins following Holy Communion. We have two classrooms: one for elementary-school ages, and one for middle school and up. Please allow our Church School kids and their teachers to come up for Communion first.

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

Our Adult Ed class meets on Sundays following coffee hour. We meet in the classrooms downstairs. Any who would like to learn more about our Orthodox Faith, whether a newcomer or a life-long member, are welcome to attend. Please contact Fr. Jeremy to be added to the distribution list for readings.

On Behalf of All

Funded through the Lilly Endowment, OBOA is a program aimed at ensuring that children with disabilities are able to participate fully in our parish life. We are a pilot parish in this program, and are looking for volunteers from the parish to help coordinate our participation in this ministry. If you are interested in learning more, please talk to Fr. Jeremy or Pres. Allison.

Byzantine Chant Classes

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **March 7 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, March 12** at 12pm.



This Week at St. Nicholas

- Wednesday, February 18: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Saturday, February 21 **Memory of the Holy Ascetics:**
9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy, 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers