

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom on the Last Judgment

If we only could become aware that all and each of us stand before the judgement of God and the judgement of men, if we could remember and realise with depth, wholeheartedly, in earnest that we are, all of us, indebted to each other, all responsible to each other for some of the pain and the heaviness of life, then we would find it easy, when we are asked to forgive, not only to forgive, but, in response to this request, to ask for forgiveness ourselves. It is not only by what we do, not only in a way by what we leave undone, it is by this extraordinary lack of awareness, of our responsibility, of all we could be to others, and to do to others, that we do not fulfil our human vocation. We could, and we should, on all levels and for all men, and beyond men for the whole world which is ours, be a blessing and a revelation of things great, of things so great, so deep that people, we first of all, could realise that we are on the scale of God Himself, that our vocation is not only to be morally good, but to be as great as God. If we only could remember this, and this is why the judgement is not only a moment when we are confronted with a danger of condemnation; there is in the very notion of judgement something great and inspiring. We are not going to be judged according to human standards of behaviour of decency. We are going to be judged according to standards which are beyond human ordinary life. We are going to be judged on the scale of God, and the scale of God is love: not love felt, not an emotional love, but love lived and accomplished. And so, let us this week prepare ourselves for the final stage of our journey by asking ourselves in the face of this divine judgement, 'Am I human? Am I human within myself, in my behaviour – not my general attitude, but my ways: are they human? Is my life an expression of a fine, a thoughtful, a perceptive, a creative, and at times a generous and a sacrificial love?'

“Let us Attend!”



“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....”

A PARISH BULLETIN OF
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

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23 February 2025

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Bulletin, Sunday, 23 February 2025

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 2. Sunday of the Last Judgment. Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (167). Ven. Polycarp of Briansk (1620-1621). Ven. John, Antiochus, Antoninus, Moses, Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, Ascetics, of the Syrian deserts (5th c.). Ven. Alexander, founder of the Monastery of the “Unsleeping Ones” (ca. 430). Ven. Damian of Esphigmenou (Mt. Athos—1280). Monastic Martyr Damian of Philotheou (1568). St. Gorgonia, Sister of St. Gregory the Theologian (370).

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish’s wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA’s daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.

Weekly Schedule:

- **Wednesday, 26 February 2025 9AM. Akathist of Forgiveness in Preparation for Forgiveness Sunday.**
- **Saturday, 1 March 2025: 5:00–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession; 6:00PM Great Vespers**
- **Sunday, 2 March 2025. Forgiveness Sunday. 9:30AM Divine Liturgy, followed Immediately by Forgiveness Sunday Vespers. Following Vespers all parishioners are**

invited to join the faithful of St. Nicholas parish for a Maslenitsa meal at St. Nicholas Parish Hall.

–Monday, 3 March 2025, First Day of Great Lent. 9AM Lenten Hours. 6PM Small Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.

~ A warm welcome to all those who are visiting with us today. Please join us downstairs and join us for Agape Coffee Hour fellowship. All are welcome.

~ Archbishop Mark will be visiting our parish on Saturday Evening, 8 March for Great Vespers and will preside at Divine Liturgy on Sunday, 9 March. During the Liturgy, His Eminence will award Fr. Paul the right to wear the Kamilavka. Let us all gather together for these services to welcome our Archpastor to All Saints.

~ The parish will hold a Lenten food sale on Friday, March 14 from 11am-4pm. Please tell your family and friends. For information about food sale preparation, please see Ann Schlasta.

~ This Sunday is Meat-fare Sunday. Beginning tomorrow the Church calls us to Fast from meat until the Great and Holy Pascha.