

## Fr. Alexander Schmemmann on 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 me encounter in my life. Christian love is the "possible impossibility" to see Christ in another man, whoever he is, and who God, in his eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life. .. For indeed, what is love if not the mysterious power which transcends the accidental and the external in the "other" – his physical appearance, social rank, ethnic origin, intellectual capacity – and reaches the soul, the unique and uniquely personal "root" of a human being, truly the part of God in him? If God loves every man it is because He alone knows the priceless and absolutely unique treasure, the "soul" or "person" He gave every man. Christian love then is the participation in that divine knowledge and the gift of that divine love. There is no "impersonal" love because love is the wonderful discovery of the "person" in "man," of the personal and unique in the common and general. It is the discovery in each man of that which is "lovable" in him, of that which is from God.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for "humanity," yet each one of us has received the gift and grace of Christ's love... Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged. For "inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me ...

*"Let us Attend!"*



*"When Thou, O Lord, shall come in glory..."*

A PARISH BULLETIN OF  
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

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15 February 2026

**Sunday of the Last Judgment**

Bulletin, Sunday, 15 February 2026

**SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 3. Sunday of the Last Judgment. Apostle of the Seventy Onesimus (ca. 109).** Ven. Paphnútii (Paphnutius), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Ven. Paphnutius and his daughter, Ven. Euphrosynē, of Alexandria (5th c.). Ven. Eusebius, Hermit, of Syria (5th c.).

**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>.*

**Schedule**

- ~ **Monday, 16 February 2026: 6:50AM Fr. John Stiff's First Divine Liturgy, St. Tikhon's Monastery Church**
- ~ **Wednesday, 18 February 2026: 9AM Service of the Hours.**
- ~ **Friday, 20 February. 11AM-4PM. Lenten Food Sale. Please come and help.**
- ~ **Saturday, 21 February 2026. 5-5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession; 6PM Great Vespers.**
- ~ **Sunday, 22 February 2026, Sunday of Expulsion of Adam and Eve From Paradise. Forgiveness Sunday. 9:30AM Divine Liturgy followed by Vespers of Forgiveness**

**Sunday. Joint Meal at St. Nicholas Church Hall following Forgiveness Vespers.**

Announcements

~ We welcome all those who join us today. Please come downstairs and enjoy fellowship together. We have place waiting for you.

~ We want to thank all those who came to the three-part Educational series. Please note that a series will be held after Pascha in the Spring on the subject "Being Disciples and Making Disciples." More information will be forthcoming closer to the Spring series.

~ The parish will hold a Pre-order Lenten Food Sale on Friday, 20 February 2026 from 11am-4pm. Help will be need in terms of food sale preparation and help on the day of the sale. Food Preparation will take place throughout the week. For more information on food sale preparation, please see Ann Schlasta.

~ Our congratulations Fr. John Stiff and his family on his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Fr. John will serve his first Divine Liturgy tomorrow morning at 6:50AM at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church.

~ Today is Meat-fare Sunday. In our tradition, starting this Monday the faithful fast from eating meat until the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha.