

## Scripture Readings

**EPISTLE I 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 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."

## Gospel Reflection: Understanding the Last Judgment



The fact that there will be a Last Judgment is an element of Orthodox Christian teaching that is often misunderstood or simply avoided. The precise details are unknown to us, but today's Gospel passage reveals that we will indeed be judged by Christ based on whether we lovingly reached out to others in works of mercy. These include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and tending to the imprisoned. It also includes simply caring for all whom the Lord sends into our lives. The saddest part of today's Gospel is the "goats" admission that they walked through life oblivious to the plight and pain of others, never noticing their marginalized brethren living on the edge of society. Those "sheep" asked the Lord, "When did we see you?" even as they

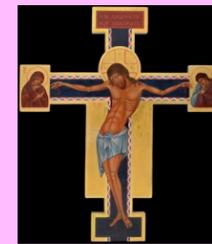
had properly reached out to the broken and the poor, recognized their needs and met them as best they could. To them, Jesus responded, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, receive the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world," for the Last Judgment is ultimately about how we manifest how deeply and truly we desire God's love. From St. Matthew we learn that the Lord will not ask us how many prostrations we made or how many icons we have on our walls. He will not count the hours we have spent reciting long prayers or monitor how rigidly we have kept the fast. Nor will He take an inventory of what we own or count how many activities in which we participate at Church. The Son of God will ask us, point blank: Did you love those who are my face in the world? Did you even see them, and did you see me in them? Did you become directly involved in their lives? Were you part of their experience of my Cross? How we answer these questions from the Lord of Glory will determine whether we are among the sheep or the goats, and whether we are true Christian disciples who have turned the Gospel from a glorious theory into authentic action of the heart. In this sense, the Last Judgment is not something done unto us by God; it is the choice we are making right now for ourselves regarding eternal life,

## What Do We Pray for On the Sunday of the Last Judgment?



St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the flesh." (2 Cor. 5:10) While the notion of Judgment can be frightening, we forget that we come before the throne of grace on which is seated the God of love and mercy! During Great and Holy Lent, the Church offers us the opportunity to shed our fears, and to cast ourselves at the feet of the Lord of Mercy. It has been said that "it is more likely that all men will be saved, and none be damned, so great and deep is the mercy of God." Today and every day during Lent, take time to speak to our loving God. Read in fervor every day of Lent the following prayer of our Holy Father, St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco (1896-1966), as it provides comfort and hope, chasing out all fear in our hearts and bringing us closer to God: "Receive our unworthy prayers, O Christ our God, as Thou didst accept the tears and the myrrh of the harlot, and be Thou entreated by our songs of praise, as by her kisses, and grant us a good conversion, like hers, unto Thee, bestowing upon us, as to her, the remission of our sins; and as Thou didst not reject her that touched Thy most pure feet, so too cast us not off who fall down at the unseen feet of Thy merciful kindness: and as Thou didst not send her away in shame when she confessed Thee, the Knower of Hearts, neither cause us, who confess our hidden sins, to be shamed before Angels and men at Thy dread Judgment: but rather make us heirs of eternal forgiveness, and of Thine incorruptible glory. For Thou art merciful, and glorified together with Thy Father Who is from all ages, and Thine All-Holy, Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen."



Second Saturday  
of Souls

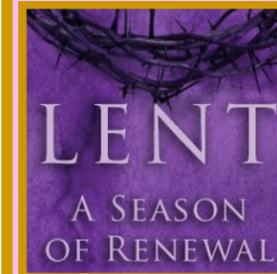
Mar. 9

Orthros 8:30 AM  
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

**Today is the last day meat or meat products may be consumed until Great and Holy Pascha.**

### Save, Have Mercy On, and Protect...

His Eminence Metropolitan +Panteleimon; His Eminence Archbishop +Pavlos of Aleppo and His Eminence Mar +Gregorios Ioanna of Aleppo, who were kidnapped; Metropolitan +Kallistos of Diokleia, Anatoly Seraphim, Jessica, Amanda Lawrence, Ourania Mantzouranis, Maria Kritzas, Cathy, Janie Pappas, Eleni Gourmani, Dimitrios Papapostolou, Angela Apidououlos, the child of God Amelia Marghi, the child of God Seraphina Marie Vasilatos, Adib Marghi, Betty Jean Dubard, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Bill Pastis, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson;



March 13

**From Wounded to Healed: the Church's Ministry**  
Fr. John Anderson

March 20

**The Philokalia: Prescription for Spiritual Healing**  
Chrysostomos Gunning

March 27

**Healing My Relationships – Love Challenged**  
Dr. John Georgeopoulos

April 3

**Woundedness and Transformation: Encountering Christ as the Wounded Healer**  
Michael Haldas

April 10

**The Glory of Healing: The Resurrection of the Lord**  
Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas

### For Their Blessed Repose

Michael Kitsoulis (40 Days)  
Theodore A. Lalos (1 Year)  
Helene Catsouras (4 Years)  
Nicholas Alexiou (6 Years)

May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may their memory be eternal!

## SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEARNING

**BIBLE STUDY:** “The Gospel of St. John: Beholding the Glory” held on Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. This year’s Scripture study focuses on the fourth Gospel, composed by St. John the Theologian. Both groups are currently on Chapter 7. Join us every Thursday at 10:30 AM or 7:00 PM in the Church library to explore the depths of the Gospel written by “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** “The Shared Experience of the Orthodox Christian Faith,” Sundays in the Church Library following Divine Liturgy. Our faith is not about ideas or concepts, rules and regulations, but our relationship and daily connectedness with Jesus Christ. Through the Orthodox Christian Network’s live Facebook stream, the class reaches thousands in the United States, Canada, and dozens of countries worldwide. Enjoy the archives at <http://myocn.net/orthodox-christianvideo-programs/adult-study-classes/>

**ORTHODOX ADULT INQUIRY CLASS:** For adults interested in joining the Orthodox Church. Through discussion, speakers, and personal sharing, adults will be preparing to receive Baptism or Chrismation. The theme is “Living the Liturgy.” Sessions held Wednesdays through Mar. 6 at 7:30 PM in the Church Library. Contact Fr. Dimitrios for more information or to sign up at 301- 469-7990.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**50 PLUS:** Selling koulourakia TODAY following Divine Liturgy. Stop by for some delicious treats!

**GREEK SCHOOL:** Invites you to their annual Apokriatiko Glendi, on Friday March 8th at 7pm. Come dressed in your favorite costume and enjoy fun for the whole family! The event will include dinner, soft drinks, DJ, costume contest, and a cash bar. Tickets are available for purchase online at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/286/responses/new>.

**ST. GEORGE MEN’S GROUP:** Men’s Fellowship dinner Tues. evening March 5th at Normandie Farm restaurant, 10710 Falls Rd., Potomac MD. For details email Mike Sakellarides at [msakellarides53@gmail.com](mailto:msakellarides53@gmail.com)

**GREEK PRESCHOOL:** Current families register now for 2019-2020 school year, and new families register Feb. 25-Mar. 8. Preschool is open Mon-Fri for children 18 months-5 years to learn the Greek language through play, art and engaging activities. Visit [stgeorge.org](http://stgeorge.org) to register or email [saintgeorgepreschoolregister@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgepreschoolregister@gmail.com) for information.

**GOYA:** Annual Spaghetti Luncheon next Sunday, March 10th during coffee hour. \$10 supports GOYA and includes a plate of delicious spaghetti, homemade sauce, freshly baked bread, dessert, and a drink. We look forward to serving you lunch next Sunday.

**ST. JOHN ORATORICAL FESTIVAL:** Mar. 10, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM. For information, contact festival chairman Nick Moniodis at [nickmoniodis@gmail.com](mailto:nickmoniodis@gmail.com)

**“BE THE BEE” RETREAT:** Saturday, Mar. 30. Steven Christoforou, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, will lead a daylong program for 6-12 grade youth (9:30 AM-5:00 PM) and an evening program for young adults 18-25 (7:00 PM), to share the Gospel in a clear and accessible way and helping young men and women see Christ at work in their lives. Watch their videos at <https://www.youtube.com/y2am>

**PHILOPTOCHOS/GOYA/YAL:** Will co-sponsor an important community event on Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM: “Be M.O.R.E. AWARE” The event will deal with substance dependency and its serious consequences in the hopes of raising awareness, understanding and compassion. For registration or additional information contact [stgphiloptochos1019@gmail.com](mailto:stgphiloptochos1019@gmail.com)

**ORTHODOX YOUTH MISSION TEAM:** July 6-13. Seeking St. George GOYANs and other youth participants in the Appalachian Service Project, working with families in this very poor region of our country to help make their homes “warmer, safer and drier.” Contact Athena Kaiser for information at 240-498-0870 or [avkmail@verizon.net](mailto:avkmail@verizon.net)



# THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

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## SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

MEATFARE SUNDAY

MARCH 3, 2019

**Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 3**

Come rejoice all ye Heavens and be glad all ye on earth. For by His power the Lord created might. By His Death He conquered death; for He became the first born of the dead. From the depths of Hades, He delivered us; and He granted to mankind His great mercy.

**Apolytikion of St. George**

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

**Ἀπολυτίκιον**

Ὡς τῶν αιχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.