

# SS. PETER AND PAUL

Lorain, OH | [www.OrthodoxLorain.org](http://www.OrthodoxLorain.org) | (440) 277-6266

Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

Cell Phone: (440) 668 - 2209 - Email: [frjosephmccartney@gmail.com](mailto:frjosephmccartney@gmail.com) - Rectory Phone: (440) 654-2831

**Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 25:31-46**  
**Epistle Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2**  
**Sunday of Meatfare**

## Gospel Meditation

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.

### *This Week at a Glance*

**Sat, Feb 17th**

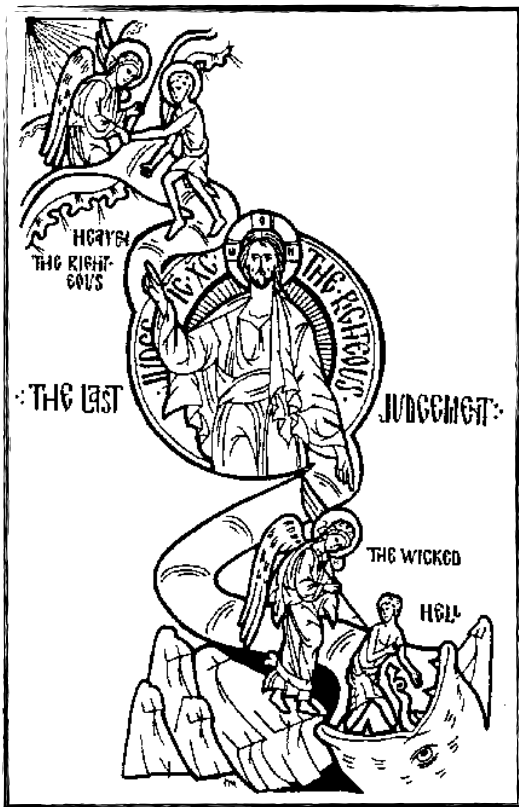
6:00 pm - Great Vespers  
& Confession

**Sun, Feb 18th**

*Cheesefare Sunday*

9:00am - Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy  
Rite of Forgiveness



### **Parish Council Meeting**

Our monthly Parish Council meeting will be held tomorrow, Feb. 12th at 6:00pm in the church basement.

### **Sunday of Orthodoxy**

Sunday, Feb. 25th is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, and as is our custom, Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at 2000 Tower Blvd in Lorain. Liturgy begins at 10:00 am. We will NOT have liturgy here at Ss Peter and Paul. Please make every effort to come and participate in this Sunday that celebrates the Universality of the Orthodox Church.

### **Lenten Pierogi Dinners**

Our parish is offering Lenten Pierogi Dinners Friday Nights during Lent. February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th & 16th. 4:30-7pm. Dine in or take out. \$10 per dinner. Includes Pierogis, Cabbage & Noodles, Green Beans & bread. Soup, desert and a la carte items will be available as well. Tell your friends! If you're coming to Presanctified Liturgy on Friday Evening, be sure to stop downstairs to place your to-go order that you can pick up after the service.

### **Pierogi Making Sign-up**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for our upcoming pierogi making days. These pierogi will supply our Lenten Pierogi Dinners, which is a big fundraiser for our parish. Please sign up and help make this year a success.

### **Righteous Theodora**

Holy Empress Theodora was the wife of the Byzantine emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast (829-842), but she did not share in the heresy of her husband and secretly venerated the holy icons. After the death of her husband, Saint Theodora governed the realm because her son Michael was a minor.

She convened a Council, at which the Iconoclasts were anathematized, and the veneration of icons was reinstated. Saint Theodora established the annual celebration of this event, the Triumph of Orthodoxy, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast. Saint Theodora did much for Holy Church and fostered a firm devotion to Orthodoxy in her son Michael.

When Michael came of age, she was retired from governing and spent eight years in the monastery of Saint Euphrosyne, where she devoted herself to ascetic struggles, and reading books that nourished her soul.

A copy of the Gospels, copied in her own hand, is known to exist. She died peacefully around the year 867.

In 1460, her relics were given by the Turks to the people of Kerkyra (Corfu).

