

Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)
February 23, 2025

Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Venerable Gorgonia, sister of Gregory the Theologian; Venerable Zebinas, Polychronios, Moses and Damian near Cyrrhus in Syria; Venerable Damian of Esphigmenou monastery on Mount Athos

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2)

Byzantine Tone 2

Basil Kazan
(1915 - 2001)

When thou _____ didst sub - mit thy - self un - to
death, O thou death - less and im - mor - tal One,
then thou didst de - stroy hell with thy God - ly pow'r, and when
thou didst raise the dead from be - neath the earth,
all the pow'rs of heav - en did cry a - loud un - to thee:
O Christ, thou Giv - er of life, glo - ry to thee.

Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

Kontakion for the Last Judgment (Tone 1)

When thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are

opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

Prokeimenon

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

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 anyone 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.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

When the son of man comes in his glory, and all the 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 his 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 thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?" 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 thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?" 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.”

Assisting Priest: Fr. Michael Kontogiorgis

Holy Bread: Kh Meleah Palke/Carol Ofiesh/Pr. Vicki Kontogiorgis

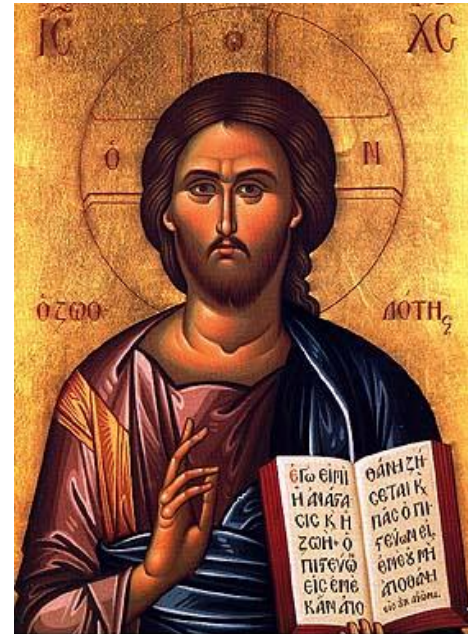
Commemorations(Living): Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, George, Joan, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Cassi, Nina, Dominick, Yina, Rashid, Hala, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Gabriela, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, suffering believers throughout the world.

Zoom Prayer/Bible Study is Wednesday at 8:00 PM. We are studying the Gospel according to St. John, chapters 6 and 7. Look for an email on Tuesday that provides linking information as well as supporting material.

Know your faith. Who was the father of John the Baptist? _____. What was his profession? _____. “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice” is written in _____ 4:4 by St. _____. A list of saints who lived by faith is found in _____, chapter 11. “Beloved, let us love one another” (1 _____ 4:7). Who said that we should earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints? _____ (he wrote a short book of the NT and was the half-brother of Jesus). The Orthodox Church uses _____ tones in its cycles of worship. The liturgical book used for the Lenten season is called the Lenten _____. In the OC Sunday is always dedicated to the _____ of Christ. Wednesdays and Fridays commemorate Christ’s _____. Monday’s theme honors the _____. Tuesday is dedicated to the memory of _____. Thursday is dedicated to _____. Saturday is dedicated to _____.

Today is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meatfare Sunday. It is more than merely our last taste of meat until Pascha. Jesus illustrates to us God’s ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

Today we rejoice in the churching of Cassiopeia, daughter of Courtney and Levi Hamm. May God grant them many blessings and happy years!



St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

**Metropolitan Saba, Primate
Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic**

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

**Meeting at Compton Village
14401 Compton Village Dr.
Centreville, Virginia 20121**

Fr. Thomas L. Palke, Pastor
3041 Donnington Court
Jeffersonton, VA 22724
(703)303-3047

email: pastortlp@aol.com
website: www.straphaelva.org

