



HOLY GHOST ORTHODOX CHURCH

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

1510 East Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06608 ·

P.O. Box 55339, Bridgeport, CT 06610

The Rev. Dr. Mark Roosien · Pastor · (312) 961-6097

Website: <https://www.holyghostbpt.org>

President – Richard Kendall

(203) 521-3456, richard.kendall@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Dulin, Parish Council Secretary

(203) 452-0776 (h), moparbarb@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 – SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – Tone 2

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

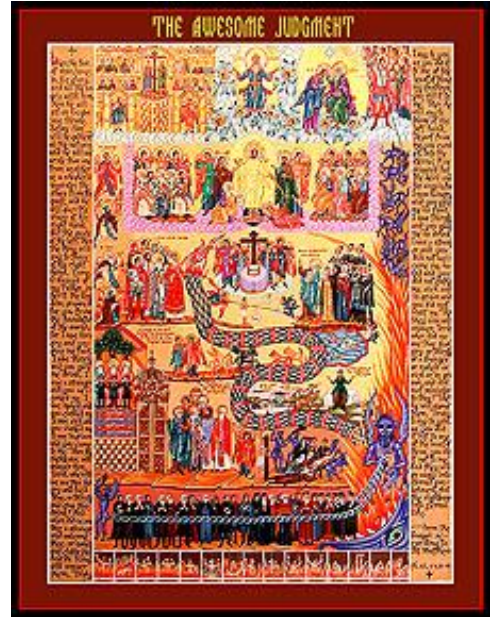
<u>Scripture Readings</u>	<u>Services</u>
<p>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 1 John 2:18-3:10 Mark 11:1-11</p> <p>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 1 John 3:11-20 Mark 14:10-42</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1 John 3:21-4:6 Mark 14:43-15:1</p> <p>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 1 John 4:20-5:21 Mark 15:1-15</p> <p>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 2 John 1:1-13 Mark 15:22-25, 33-41</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 1 1 Corinthians 10:23-28 Luke 28:8-9, 25-27, 33-36</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 <i>No Bible Study</i></p> <p>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 Divine Liturgy, Soul Saturday.....9:00 a.m. Great Vespers.....4:00 p.m.</p> <p>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – Sunday of Meatfare, Sunday of the Last Judgment Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. “Ask the Priest” (shortened) during “Second Sunday” brunch Parish Council Meeting.....11:30 a.m.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 1 Great Vespers.....4:00 p.m. Panikhida in loving memory of Dorothy Kopko on her 1st anniversary in the Lord and in loving memory of Lauren Kopko on her 40th day in the Lord. (<i>before Vespers</i>)</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 2, Sunday of Cheesefare The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>Rite of Forgiveness at conclusion of Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>MARCH 3, Beginning of Great Lent</i></p>
<p><i>All services will also be streamed online via Facebook Live as follows: https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Ghost- Russian-Orthodox-Greek-Catholic-Church- 681248091936330/</i></p> <p>Reminder: The schedule of services can be found on the front page of our website, hollyghostbpt.org. The schedule is recorded on the Google Calendar of the church’s acct. You can add it to your own Google Calendar by clicking the + sign on the bottom right corner of the calendar window.</p>	

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Commemorated on February 23

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.

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:

(Epistle)

8

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

9

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

10

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

11

And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

12

But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

13

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

1

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

(Epistle, Cont'd.)

2

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Matthew 25:31-46

(Gospel)

31

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.

32

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

33

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

34

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35

for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36

I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

38

When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

39

Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

41

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

42

for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43

I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44

Then they also will answer Him, saying, '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?'

45

Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

46

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CANDLE DESK DUTY

February 23 – LoveAnn Curran

March 2 – Tim Savisky

If you are unable to make your scheduled day, please switch with another member.

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP ... This week's cleanup crew is Group K through O. If this is your week to help, please see crew chief Jerry Kopko for instructions. Thank you!

CANDLES / DONATIONS

- A donation to the General Fund of \$50 in loving memory of Lauren Kopko from George Kasper.

SECOND SUNDAY POSTPONED TO TODAY ...

This is the last "Second Sunday" before Great Lent, so please bring something hearty to eat. It is also the last day for eating meat. Thank you!



ASK THE PRIEST TODAY!



Please get your questions ready for Fr Mark for a shortened "Ask the Priest" session, which is scheduled for today, **February 23rd**.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IS TODAY ... It was postponed due to the inclement weather.

LENTEN SOUP FUND RAISER ... Please place your orders for soup if you have not already done so. March 3rd is the first Sunday that soup will be available. Please check the sheet.

BRIDGEPORT ISLANDER GAME ... Orthodox Christians from the Tri-State area and New England celebrated Faith and Family night at the Bridgeport Islander hockey game. Fr Harry Pappas from Archangels Greek Orthodox Church in Stamford stated that over 400 Orthodox believers attended the game Saturday evening despite the snowstorm. His Grace, Bishop John Abdullah, Antiochian Archdiocese, and Fr Peter Orfanakos from St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT led a seminar before the game themed, 'All You Need is Love.' Despite the Islanders losing the game, everyone had a great time.



Photos by Rich Kendall

LENTEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ... The Beth-El Homeless Shelter in Milford is looking for volunteers to help out from 3pm-7pm on **Friday, March 7** in preparing and serving dinner to clients.. If you're available and interested, please contact Dave Lapesko or Fr Mark. There is also a sign-up sheet downstairs. Thank you.

PARISH METRICS (FEBRUARY 23 THRU MARCH 1)

BIRTHDAYS

Gabrielle Lepesko-Deosingh, February 24th; George Dulin, February 24th; Audrey Stabler, February 25th; and Carolyn Margaret Quill, February 26th (17 years old)

God Grant them Many Years!

Многая лета!

ANNIVERSARIES

None Listed

DEPARTED FROM THE PARISH METRICS

FEBRUARY 23 – Michael Galayda, 1912 (41); Evangel Theodos, 1919 (17 days); Evdokia Kosteino, 1923 (35); Vladimir Malevsky, 1948 (62); Michael Markitan, 1957 (44); Marion Rabovsky Feller, 1984 (69); Danica Trajkowsky, 2000 (67); Joyce Karpie, 2011 (82); Virginia Ventulett, 2017 (88); Mary Buzzanca, 2017 (85)

FEBRUARY 24 – Anna Borowsky Fedor, 1948 (69); Elizabeth Zolnerchik, 1970 (82); Mary Ermolovich, 1976 (80); Michael Fetcho, 1983 (69); Joanna Andruschkevich, 2006

FEBRUARY 25 – William W. Hutchings, 1949 (43); Joseph Sosik, 1955 (61)

FEBRUARY 26 – Alexander Kisliak, 1964 (78); Mary Hopko, 1965 (78); John Alesevich, 1967 (81)

FEBRUARY 27 – John Soltan, 1918 (8 months); Peter Pavlik, 1952 (45); Michael Kranyak, Sr., 1978 (67); Olga (Cherniak) Kamenitsky, 1997 (76); Rangel Dimitrov, 2002 (75); Olga G. Walsh, 2005

FEBRUARY 28 – Maria Ladash, 1912; Zinaida Lontovsky, 1918 (1); Efim (James) Roksha, 1934 (52); Theodore Wysocki, Sr., 1959 (68); Anna Choomak, 1976; Peter Yurkowsky, 1976; William Megura, 1981 (32); George Halzak, 1983 (89); Joseph Esuchenia, 1985 (88); Sophie Nash, 1994 (82); Mary Kowalchuk, 2010 (82)

FEBRUARY 29 – Maria Gydesch, 1927 (74); Joseph Sokolowsky, 1964 (75); Paul Kollar, Jr., 2000 (90); Dorothy Kopko, 2024 (94)

MARCH 1 – Maria Oleshkevich, 1931 (37); Anastasia Shafarevich Hancharik, 1955 (62); Sergei Konen, 1972 (86); Nina Andrenyak, 2017

Memory Eternal!

Вечная память!

