

The Last Judgment (Meat-Fare Sunday)
An Excerpt from Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

It is *love* again that constitutes the theme of *Meat-Fare Sunday*. The Gospel lesson for the day is Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Matt. 25:31-46). 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 whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a "good deed" or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself. For, indeed, what is love if not that 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 the grace of Christ's love. We know that all men ultimately need this *personal love*-- the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that men are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift 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..."

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church -- and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament -- may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



February 23, 2014

Meat-Fare/Judgment Sunday

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Meat-Fare/Judgment Sunday

Commemoration of: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna; Gorgonia, sister of Gregory the Theologian; Damian, New Martyr of Mt. Athos

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ote katilthes (Hymn of the Day) Tone 2

Tou Stavrou Sou (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

Otan elthis o Theos Tone 1

When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge.

Epistle Reading 1 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 Reading 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."

This Week

Mon, 2/24 thru Fri, 2/28– Fr. Alex will be in California for the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Congress and a Clergy Retreat. In the event of a pastoral emergency during the period of time mentioned, please call Fr. Anatole Lyovin at (808) 947-9093.

Sat, 3/1- 2nd Saturday of Souls: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m., Memorials

Nisiotopoules Dancers & Aloha Choir

Welcome back home, Nisiotopoules Dancers and Aloha Choir! We heard and read that you had a wonderful experience at FDF in Anaheim last week! Congratulations to our Aloha Choir who won "1st Place" in the Choral Competition!!! Well done!

Volunteers Needed for Agape Picnic 4/20/2014

We are looking for volunteers interested in helping with the Agape Picnic which is held annually on Pascha. We will need volunteers who are interested in helping with either food preparation, serving lunch, setup and clean up and ticket sales. Those who are interested may contact Anita Higashi at 358-8127 or Tina Dimitrion at 375-2151. Thank you!!!

Saturday of the Souls

The Saturday of the Souls are Saturdays in which we commemorate our beloved departed. The Saturday of the Souls will be celebrated with Orthros at 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Memorial Service on March 1st and 8th. If you wish to have your deceased loved ones commemorated, please fill out a commemoration slip which can be found in the Narthex. Please write the first names only for those who are departed. The names you give for commemoration will be kept for remembrance at all 3 Memorial Saturdays.