

VARIABLES – FEBRUARY 23, 2025

SS. PETER & PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELS AND THE WEST

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER DILLON, PASTOR

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE WASHBURN, REVEREND FATHER JOHN CHRISTIANSON

“...those who are punished in Gehenna are scourged by the scourge of love. Nay, what is so bitter and vehement as the torment of love? I mean that those who have become conscious that they have sinned against love suffer greater torment from this than from any fear of punishment. For the sorrow caused in the heart by sin against love is more poignant than any torment. It would be improper for a man to think that sinners in Gehenna are deprived of the love of God. Love is the offspring of knowledge of the truth which, as is commonly confessed, is given to all. The power of love works in two ways. It torments sinners, even as happens here when a friend suffers from a friend. But it becomes a source of joy for those who have observed its duties. Thus, I say that this is the torment of Gehenna: bitter regret. But love inebriates the souls of the sons of Heaven by its delectability.” ~ St. Isaac the Syrian

Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us this morning! Please sign our Guest Register as you enter the church and be our guest for coffee and refreshments this morning after the service is over. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Ss. Peter and Paul.

Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)

HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA; VENERABLE GORGONIA, SISTER OF GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Hymns & Scriptures

Variable Hymns – *see music in packet*

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 2, Byzantine

When thou didst submit thyself unto death, O thou deathless and immortal One, then thou didst destroy hell with thy Godly pow’r, and when thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the pow’rs of heaven did cry aloud unto thee: O Christ, thou Giver of life, glory to thee.

Troparion of Ss Peter & Paul, Tn. 4, Byzantine

O Foremost of the Apostles, and teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the world and to our souls the Great Mercy.

Clergy only – Kontakion for Sunday of the Last Judgment, Tn. 1, Byzantine

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.

Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the 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 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.

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:31-46).

The Lord said, "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 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 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 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."

Receiving Holy Communion: Only Orthodox Christians prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice "open communion" and has no intercommunion with non-Orthodox churches.

After taking Communion: Please return to your place and continue standing until the announcements.

Today's Commemorations and Prayer Requests

Take this list of prayer requests home with you and keep these people in your prayers this week.

For the living: Bp. Anthony; Prs. John, Thomas, David; Khs. Barbara, Carla, Luanne; Romina, Steve, Rebeca, Dane, Sue, Elizabeth, Lynne, Terry & Mary Beth, Mike, Betty, Hugh, Jim, Timothy, Alexander, Jeremiah, Alex, Sophia, Hector, Saoirse, Michael, Persephone, Samuel, Verity, Christine, Fiona, Atticus, Evelyn, Enrica, Tony, Jon & Serenity, Ada, Grayson, Emmett, Sage, Rosanna, Beverly.

For those who are pregnant and their unborn children: Monica, Helen, Pres. Nikoletta, Katrina.

For the reposed: Newly departed Priest David, Glenn Elias, Chuck, April & family; Met. Philip; Aps. Gordon, Jack; Prs. Tom, Stephen, Basil, David, Terry; Igm. Leonty; Hmks. Ephraim, John, Athanasios; Mnk. Simeon; Dns. Mark, John, Mark, Nathaniel, David, Joseph, Michael, Daniel; Khs. Judy, Jedonne, Terry Elizabeth, Doris; Pres. Zinnia, Barbara; Mka. Anna; Boris, Glaphyra; Dan, John; James, Amy, Rick, Leonard, Eleanor, Ray.

For those serving in the Armed Forces: Brycen, Jonathan, David, Jacob, Gregory, Daniel, Don, Scott, Michelle, Noah.