



HOLY TRINITY EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH

830 Jefferson Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065
Orthodoxrahway.org
Father James Worthington
Meat-Fare Sunday

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February 27, 2011

Sunday of the Last Judgement Rest of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 and Hebrews 13:17-21

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-36 and John 10:9-16

Troparion (Resurrection) Tone 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!
For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping
into joy!
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou are risen,
granting the world great mercy!

Troparion (St. Raphael) Tone 1

Your proclamation has gone out through North
America,
calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the
Church.
Hearing your voice they respond to your teaching,
and through your writings you instructed them in
piety.
Now guided by your example, O Father Raphael,
we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God:
"Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a crown!

Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to
all!"

Kontakion (St. Raphael) Tone 8

You were a guardian and a defender of the
Church's teaching,
you protected your flock from false doctrines and
confirmed them in the true faith!
O holy Father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of
North America,
always intercede before the Lord that our souls may
be saved!

Kontakion (Lenten Triodion) Tone 1

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble
and the river of fire shall flow before Thy Judgment
Seat;
the Books shall be opened and the hidden things
disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire
and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O
Righteous Judge.

Prokeimenon (Tone 6): Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure.
Verse: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1): My mouth shall speak wisdom, the meditation of my heart shall be understanding

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

MEMORY ETERNAL

Frances – Newly departed

BIRTHDAYS

George Dinescu – February 27

Dan Hutanu – February 27

Mariana Wirzbicki – March 1

Vera Redziniak – March 3

Thomas Dovidio – March 3

Tudor Sturzoiu – March 3

Alain Lescarret – March 4

Kaitlyn Paserba – March 4

Coffee Hour: This week: Alina Moldoveanu and Cathy Dovidio

Next week: Jane Kutch and Mitzi Piscitelli

Church Cleaning: February 27 – March 12 – Paula Brush and Judy Lescarret

Alaska Basket: One dollar for the support of the Church of Alaska. Thank you!

Notes from Father James

Flower Fair: This continues this week. Please help to support the parish, and to beautify your homes. Thanks to Judy Lescarret for her plants last week.

Calendar: The Lenten Calendar is now available. There are many opportunities to worship our Lord and come closer to Him during this Lenten period. Please take advantage of these opportunities.

Forgiveness Vespers: Will be held immediately after the Divine Liturgy next week. Please make every effort to attend. It is important for a community to offer forgiveness to each other as we begin our journey of repentance. It is also expected that leadership of the Church will make this a priority.

Facebook Page: To increase our visibility to the world, and to provide other avenues for communication, a page has been set up on Facebook for the parishioners and friends of the parish. So, when you are surfing the web, become a fan of this Church!

The Parable of the Last Judgment – Matthew 25:31-46 – is read on the **third pre-lenten Sunday**, commonly referred to as *Meatfare Sunday*, since it is the last day on which we partake of meat before Holy Pascha. In this parable, Our Lord reveals that, while it is important for us to *desire* Him, to *repent* and *seek* His mercy, to see ourselves for who we *truly* are, and to *return* to Him, we also must *discern* His very presence in everyone around us, in the "least of the brethren," and *minister* to them as if we were ministering to Christ Himself – and for the sake of Christ Himself. Our Lord reveals that our salvation and judgment depend on how we put our desire, repentance, and the mercy we receive into *action*, in the midst of others, for their sake as well as for the sake of the One Who feeds *us*, clothes *us*, ministers to *us*, and ultimately calls *us* to the life of His Kingdom. "Good intentions," as Our Lord reveals, are insufficient; crucial as prayer, fasting and almsgiving indeed are, they certainly are not mere "religious exercises"

performed for their own sake, and surely not for the sake of acquiring a sense of "pride in accomplishment." Discerning Christ's presence in everyone – and especially in those who so often are ignored, forgotten, abandoned, or despised – while offering them the same loving kindness that He first offered to us is the ultimate "fruit" of genuine repentance.