

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.

## St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

2220 Reeves Road NE

Warren, OH 44483

[www.stjohnswarren.org](http://www.stjohnswarren.org)

Friend of the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)



**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

**Sunday of the Last Judgment**

Fr. Brian Crivella, Rector.....330-372-3895 / [BrianCrivella@gmail.com](mailto:BrianCrivella@gmail.com)

Dn. John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator ..... 330-720-3541

Nina, Prayer List Coordinator.....[treasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com)

**Sunday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>** Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare) / Tone 2

9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

**Monday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** First & Second Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>** St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza

5:00 pm AA Meeting

**Friday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>** Ven Basil the Confessor, companion of Ven Procopius

6:00 pm Akathist followed by Catechuman Class

**Saturday, Mar 1<sup>st</sup>** Sat. of Cheesefare-Commemoration of Departed Monastics

5:00 pm Great Vespers followed by Game Night

**Sunday, Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>** Sun of Forgiveness/Expulsion of Adam & Eve / Tone 3

9:30 am Youth Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

**Attendance/Stewardship February 16<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance: 57 Adults and 24 Children	81 Total
Weekly Stewardship Offerings:	\$XXXXXXXX
Weekly Candle Offerings:	\$XXXXXXXX
Charity of the Month (Zoe for Life):	\$XXXXXXXX
YTD Budget Inflows:	\$XXXXXXXX
YTD Budget Outflows	\$XXXXXXXX
YTD Surplus/deficit	\$XXXXXXXX

**Prayer Corner**

Sbdcn Joseph (Clyde)	Sbdcn George Kaschack
Sarah Crivella	Ellen Malacky
Patty DiGiacobbe	James Livermore Jr.
David Campbell	Cassandra, Patrick, Elizabeth, & Patrick
Anna	Jeffrey
Laura & Roy	Greg, Clara, Jeanie
Azouria	Cara DeToro (Fr Dcn John's Friend)
Nancy	Debbie
Tristan Beil	Barb Leis
David McGee (David Wood's friend)	
The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy	
The Suffering Christians in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East	

**Newly Departed:** Phillip Johnson (2/20) & Also Ann Backiu (1/28) [Cheryl's Aunt] & Renee Dann (2/9) [Jennifer's Cousin]

**Traveling:** Ron & Nina Harvey

**Expecting:** Tom & Cadie Kirk, Natalie & Chase York, Erin & Paul DiGiacobbe & their unborn children

**Newborns:** Allegra & her parents Nick & Raquel Cironi

**Catechumens:** Lucian & Lilianna Vasil, Kayla, Donald, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Robert, Timothy, Melissa, Ian, Christopher, & William Cunningham, Matthew Rose, Nicky Lewis, Alexander Mackey, Tristan & Colleen Beil

**Birthdays:** Liev Corbett (24<sup>th</sup>) & Fred DiGiacobbe(26<sup>th</sup>)

**Anniversaries:** xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**Candle Commemorations**

Theotokos	For Helen Szakach
Altar	For the Health of God's Children Everywhere
Christ	For the Memory of Michael Stehnach

**Announcements**

**Forgiveness Vespers - Beginning Great Lent**

This coming Sunday evening we will enter into Great Lent with Forgiveness Vespers, one of our faith's most beautiful and moving services where we will ask for and give forgiveness to each of our brothers and sisters in the parish as Christ taught us. At the conclusion, as is customary, we will sing the Paschal Troparion - Christ is Risen from the Dead - granting us a foretaste of the joy of Pascha which we are preparing for. Every Orthodox Christian should plan to be in attendance.

**Game Night & Youth Liturgy This Coming Weekend**

The next coming Sunday will be a Youth Sunday where children are encouraged to sign up for jobs at the candlestand to more fully participate in parish life. If you haven't signed your children up before please consider doing so!

**Go Paperless - Giving Online With Tithely**

You can now support our parish online by going to our website (<https://saintjohnswarren.org/>) and clicking the word "DONATE" in the upper right corner which will take you to our parish's Tithely page. This convenient method of Christian Stewardship allows families to go paperless, choose which of our funds to give to specifically, and can also easily be set to give automatically on a weekly, bi weekly, or monthly schedule. If you use Tithely to support our parish and would like to stop receiving church envelopes, or want to use it and need help, please let Fr. Brian or Mark Malacky know.

**Liturgy for the Departed Names**

On St. Theodore Saturday (March 8th) we'll celebrate the Divine Liturgy with the Litany for the Departed and the reading of all the names of our departed loved ones. The list of names commemorated is on the candlestand, please take a moment to check it for accuracy and to write in any names that need to be added to update it.