



Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

2030 Old Alabama Road · Roswell, Georgia 30076

Parish Office: 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

Fr Steven Galuschik • Deacon James Smith, Administrator • Deacon Michael Tisma

Email: epiphanybyzantinechurch@gmail.com

Website: www.epiphanybyzantinecatholic.org

February 19, 2017 + Sunday of the Last Judgment "Meatfare"

Divine Liturgy	Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM
Confessions	Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM
Collection	Last week: \$2,088.00 . God bless you for your generosity.
Capital Campaign	Pledges to Date: \$16,612.00 · Received to Date: \$15,777.00



Thought for the Week...

"In a world full of so much ugliness, liturgy must be a rest for the soul, a repose where the soul can breathe. It is a glimpse of God's glory and a glance upon the Face of God. But we shouldn't stay with just a glimpse . . . what is behind beauty is the glory of God revealed to us. Heaven opens in liturgy. Beauty in liturgy costs time, love, care, commitment. We must take time for preparing the liturgy, looking for the beauty of the flowers, the songs, the space, the incense, the candles. All this is an expression of love and beauty is one way to God. It can never be separated from goodness and truth."

Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna

Meatfare and Cheesefare Sundays. As is our custom here at Epiphany, we prepare ourselves as a family and Christian community for the holy season of the Great Fast.

Today we observe the **Sunday of "Meatfare"**, traditionally the last day we eat meat products until Pascha. Please stay and join us for our pot-luck "meat" luncheon after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. This observance is to be understood in the light of the meaning of preparation. The Church begins now to "adjust" us to the great effort which she will expect from us during the season of the Great Fast. She gradually takes us into that effort - knowing our frailty, foreseeing our spiritual weakness.

Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!

Next week after the Sunday Liturgy we will observe the **Sunday of Forgiveness, "Cheesefare"**, the last day we traditionally partake of dairy products. Please plan to stay and join us for our pot-luck luncheon. **Be sure to sign-up in the narthex to bring your favorite cheese dish to share.**

While the complete abstinence from meat and dairy products is no longer required for every day of the Great Fast (except on those days when it is prescribed), we are encouraged to fast, to give alms, to avail ourselves of spiritual exercises, and to make special acts of repentance as often as possible.

Regulations for the Season of the Great Fast

Simple Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products. All faithful who receive the Eucharist are obliged to **observe simple abstinence on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.**

Strict Abstinence (fasting) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products. All faithful who receive the Eucharist are obliged to **observe strict abstinence on Pure Monday, February 27 (the first day of the Great Fast) and Great and Holy Friday.**

Calendar for the Great Fast. To assist all of us as we journey through the Great Fast to the glorious day of Pascha, numerous spiritual exercises and liturgies have been scheduled for this season of repentance and introspection. Be sure to take a special Lenten Calendar home so we can come together as a parish family to do our best for our Lord in giving up a little extra time from our busy schedules to be with Him during these weeks of preparation.



A Reflection on Today's Gospel ...

On the past two Sundays, our focus was placed on God's patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but the God of love is also a God of righteousness; when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our Judge.

This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of the Second Coming of the Savior. But judgment is not only in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts toward others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves.

This Sunday is also a reminder of love. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable of the Last Judgment answers this with just one word: love—not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous "poor," but concrete and personal love for the human person—the specific persons that we encounter each day in our lives. Christian love is the "possible impossibility" to see Christ in another person, whoever he or she 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. *Protropresbyter + Alexander Schemmann*