

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Dimitrie	John
Priest James	Vivian
Priest John	Jung Sook
Reader Aleksei	Thomas
Reader Sergei	Cheyenne
Monk Philaret	Nancy
Matushka Mary	Randall
Matushka Mary Sara	Rose
Matushka Priscilla	Don
Marie • John • Euphrosynos	Norma
Virginia • Thomas	James
John • Luke • Katherine	
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Bishop Mark (January 8)
John (January 10)

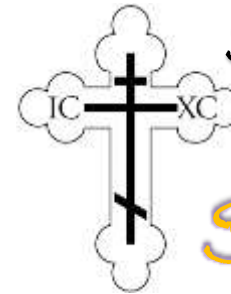
Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

**Next Sunday, February 18, after Divine Liturgy
and coffee hour – Forgiveness Vespers**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19-22, 6:30 PM – GREAT
COMPLINE WITH GREAT CANON OF ST ANDREW**

**Friday, February 23, 6:30 PM – Presanctified Liturgy
followed by Lenten Potluck**

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Sunday of the Last Judgment



The Last Judgment from the Book of Kells (c. 800 AD)

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day
Other services as announced

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Sunday of the Last Judgment

Today's Gospel reading 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 (Ezekiel 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins. "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" (Romans 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

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 (Matthew 25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Matthew 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.

The Priest-Martyr Blaise

Blaise was born in the Province of Cappadocia. From his early childhood, he was God-fearing and meek. Because of his great virtues, he was chosen as bishop of the city of Sebastea [in Armenia]. Blaise was a great spiritual and moral beacon in this pagan city. At the time of a grave persecution of Christians, St. Blaise encouraged his flock and visited the martyrs of Christ in prison, especially among them was the eminent and glorious Eustratius. When the city of Sebastea was completely depleted of Christians - some were slain, and others fled - the Elder Blaise withdrew to Mt. Argeos and settled there in a cave. Wild beasts recognized the holy man, gathered around him and he tenderly caressed them. But the persecutors found the saint in this remote place and brought him to trial. Along the way, Blaise cured a young boy who had a bone caught in his throat. To

the plea of the poor widow whose pig had been snatched by a wolf, the saint, by the power of his prayer, commanded the wolf to return it. The sinister judges tortured Blaise severely: flogging him and scrapping him with an iron comb. By his steadfastness in the Faith of Christ, Blaise converted many pagans to the Faith. Seven women and two children languished in prison with him. The women were beheaded first and, after that, the wonderful Blaise with these two children was beheaded. He suffered and was glorified in the year 316 A.D. People pray to St. Blaise for the well-being of their domestic livestock and for protection against wild beasts. However, in the west, he is also invoked for diseases of the throat.

Also this week: *St Meletius, Abp. of Antioch; Iveron Icon of the Most-Holy Theotokos (February 12); Ven. Martinian of Caesarea (February 13); Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia (February 14); St Onesimus, Apostle of the Seventy (February 15); St Nicholas, Equal of the Apostles and Archbishop of Japan (+1912) (February 16); Greatmartyr Theodore the Tyro (February 17).*

*** eggs, cheese, fish allowed every day this week *
no meat or poultry until Pascha!**

Epistle: I Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Sunday)

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 (Sunday)

Troparion – Tone 3 (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! /
For the Lord has *shown* strength with his arm! /
He has trampled down death by death! /
He has become the first-born of the dead! /
He has delivered us *from* the depths of hell, /
And has granted to the world /// Great mercy!

Kontakion – Tone 1 (Triodion)

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!