

## A WORD FOR THE DAY

“Depart from me, you cursed.” He (Christ) does not say they are cursed by the Father, for the Father had not laid a curse upon them, but only their own works. He does not say that the eternal fire is prepared only for you but “for the devil and his angels.” For concerning the kingdom indeed, when he had said, “Come, inherit the kingdom,” he added, “prepared for you before the foundation of the world.” But concerning the fire, he does not say this but “prepared for the devil.” I prepared the kingdom for you, he says, but the fire I did not prepare for you but “for the devil and his angels.” But you have cast yourselves in it. You have imputed it to yourselves.

“For I was hungry, and you gave me no food.” For even though you should meet your enemy, is not his suffering enough to overcome and subdue your resistance to being merciful? And what about his hunger, cold, chains, nakedness, and sickness? What about his homelessness? Are not these sufferings sufficient to overcome even our alienation? But you did not do these things for a friend, much less a foe. You could have at once befriended and done good. Even when you see a dog hungry you feel sympathy. But when you see the Lord hungry, you ignore it. You are left without excuse.

*St. John Chrysostom, The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 79.2*

Abba Macarius was once coming from the marsh to his own cell carrying reeds when here the devil met him on the way, carrying a scythe; he wanted to strike him but could not. He said to him: “There is a great force about you, Macarius, for I cannot get at you. See, whatever you do, I do it too. You fast, I do not eat at all. You keep watch, I never sleep. There is only one thing in which you have the better of me.” “What is that?” Abba Macarius said to him, and he said: “Your humility. Because of that, I cannot get at you.”

*Sayings of the Desert Fathers, Macarius the Egyptian, 11 [15:40]*

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church In America

**Feb. 19, 2017**

### **SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 2. Sunday of the Last Judgment.**

Apostles of the Seventy Archippus (Arkhipp) and Philemon, and Martyr Apphias (1st c.). Martyrs Maximus, Theodotus, Hesychius and Asclepiodota, of Adrianopolis (305-311). Ss. Eugene and Macarius, Presbyters and Confessors, at Antioch (363). Ven. Dositheus of Palestine, disciple of Ven. Abba Dorotheus (7th c.). St. Rabulas of Samosata (ca. 530). Ven. Theodore of Sanaskáry (1791).





## Divine Services

Wednesday, Feb. 22nd .....Daily Vespers .....6:30 p.m.

*(followed by Study Group) (*

Saturday, Feb. 24th .....Panikhida (Madzy, Parhizgar, Vassos) .....5:15 pm

Great Vespers .....6:00 p.m.

*(followed by Confessions)*

Sunday, Feb. 25th.....Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.....10:00 am

**Forgiveness Sunday** *(Hours 9:40 a.m.)*

### Today's Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8 - 9:2

Gospel: Luke 25:31-46

### For Next Week, Feb. 25th

Hours and Thanksgiving Prayers .....Tanya Bogaevskaya

Epistle: .....Emilie Goudey

Coffee Hour .....Galina Zeygerman

### Memory Eternal:

**Maria Magdalena** (Jan.16, mother of Lucian Radulescu),

**For the health and well-being** of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, Mercy, Michael, and Shahrokh.

### February Birthdays

**Birthdays:** Paula Colbert (04), Irina Pozniakova (07), Irene Vassos (13), Elanor Chelukhova (21)

### Announcements

**Many Years!** Elanor Chelukhova who celebrates her birthday this week!

**Parish Council Meeting:** Today after Coffee Hour.

**Meatfare Week.** In accord with the practice of the Orthodox Church, this week we take meat out of our diet. However, we can have dairy products (cheese and eggs) all week. This is the last week before Great Lent—before we begin the Great Fast. Remember, as we make an effort to abstain from certain foods, we also make an effort to abstain from

saying negative things about others and bad habits we may have. In place of abstinence from certain things that are such a part of our lives, we make an effort to fill that space with good deeds, with prayer, with scripture reading, and with peaceful quality time with others. Also, we keep in mind that this upcoming fast is a joyous and refreshing time. We thank God for it. The Fast makes up 10% of the year—in other words, it is a tithe. We offer ourselves to God with greater intention, focus, and structure that the Church provides for us. But let's not miss the point of fasting. We fast not because certain food is bad. We fast, in Fr. John Behr's words, "to allow ourselves to be weaned from our dependency on everything that might separate us from God—not because it is bad in itself, but because of how we relate to it or depend on it." St. Paul even says today that food is not the problem! So, let us not think in legalistic ways as we approach the Great Fast.

**IOCC.** For the month of February, our parish is collecting monies for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities). This is a trusted organization. Let's encourage one another to donate towards this cause. IOCC helps Orthodox Christians around the world in so many different ways. IOCC especially helps those who are sick and suffering by providing medical attention. They have saved many lives. Our donations will save lives!

**Canned Goods:** A reminder that we still collect canned goods for the Pittsfield food pantries. The basket is in the back of the church. Thank you for your donations.

### Upcoming Events

**Panikhida on Saturday** at 5:15pm sponsored by Len Madzy, Barbara Parhizgar, Irene Vassos, and we will also remember Lucian's mother. If you have loved one's you would like to pray for, please submit names to Fr. Joseph asap. There will be pizza after Vespers for those who wish to stay. Thank you.

**Kids Movie Night.** Next Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, Emilie, Lisa, Tanya, and Fr. Joseph will host a movie night for the children of our parish at the rectory. We will order pizza, have sweets, ice cream, and watch the fun movie, "Muppets from Space". This is a great way to have a good time with our children before the Great Fast begins. Parents, please plan on bringing your children to this fun event.

**Forgiveness Vespers next week on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.** Forgiveness is essential as we begin our journey to Pascha. Please prioritize your presence here at church for the rite of forgiveness which we will celebrate right after the Divine Liturgy next week on February 26<sup>th</sup>. May we begin the Great Fast having forgiven one another every petty offense.

Last Sunday's Collection .....\$914  
Budget 2017 .....\$96,142  
Progress Towards Budget .....\$7,896

Syrian Fundraiser .....\$12,430  
*(checks still continue to come in!)*