

Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

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Schedule for the Week of February 22 – March 1, 2009

Sunday Feb 22	Meat-fare Sunday Judgment Sunday / Нед. о страшном суде
Saturday Feb 28	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Mar 1	Cheesefare Sunday / Сыропустная Forgiveness Sunday / Прощеное Воскр. 8:30 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Liturgy / Литургия with Vespers
Monday Mar 2	Beginning of Great Lent Начало Великого Поста 6:30 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew Of Crete

God is not only a loving Father but also a righteous Judge. In the appointed Gospel reading, we hear about how the Son of Man will come at the end of the world to judge all men, when He will divide the righteous from the wicked “as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.” Each man will receive recompense for his deeds: those who have done good -- who have shown compassion on their neighbor, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and imprisoned, clothing the needy -- will inherit everlasting life, while those who have neglected works of charity, who have not shown love to their neighbor, will go away into everlasting punishment. It is not enough to repent in our thoughts or with our feelings, or even to express it in words. The fruit of real repentance is a change in our way of life. During the Vespers for that Sunday, we chant: *Knowing the commandments of the Lord, let this be our way of life: Let us feed the hungry, let us give the thirsty to drink, Let us clothe the naked, let us welcome strangers, Let us visit those in prison and the sick. Then the judge of all the earth will say even to us: 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you.'*

On the very threshold of Great Lent, we commemorate the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. This is an example of what happens when we do not fast, when we do not repent. Shall we remain outside the gates of Paradise, weeping in the darkness of our sins, far removed from God, or shall we hearken to the voice of the Church inviting us, urging us to “set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat,” that cleansed by fasting and the works of repentance, we may be led back into Paradise, into the everlasting joy of our Resurrected Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (*excerpted from Pravoslavnaya Rus, 1994*)

Враги, зная, что Господь обетовал нам великие блага, весьма гневаются на нас из зависти, ополчаются срамными и подлыми страстями и стараются до крайности расслабить людей, стремящихся к добродетели. (*Преп. Нил Синайский*)

Неделя о Страшном Суде

Вам известно, как Господь изображает будущий Суд, на который мы явемся должны. Там не спорят нас, какое положение мы занимали в свете, какими гражданскими подвигами отличались, какой успех имели на житейском поприще, а спросят о том, что мы сделали для Бога и для ближних. Господь обещает наследие Царства Небесного тем, которые напители алчущего и напоили жаждущего, одели нагого, принимали странника в дом, посещали больного и принимали участие в положении заключенного в темнице, принимая эти дела любви как долг; оказанный Ему Самому. А тех, которые забывали о таких делах благотворения, Он отсылает от Себя прочь, и они пойдут в огонь вечный, уготованный диаволу и ангелом его. (*Б.Ф.Певницкий, Проф. Киевской Духовной Академии*)

The Sunday of the Last Judgment

We cannot, take God's mercy for granted, and the Church makes this clear to us this Sunday, when it speaks to us about the Last Judgment, reminding us that