

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland & MidAtlantic

The Very Reverend Father Samuel Haddad, Pastor

Deacon Matthew Benefield

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Tone 3

February 15, 2026

Eothinon 3

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

APOSTLE ONESIMOS OF THE SEVENTY; VENERABLE EUSEBIOS OF SYRIA;
MARTYR MAJOR OF GAZA

Today's Reader: Dan Hardway

Next Sunday– February 22, 2026

Reader: Isaiah Benefield

Commemorations/Bread Offering for the Holy Oblation: The Meiggs Family

The Luncheon next Sunday will be prepared by the Benefield Family

Bread for the Holy Oblation is Offered for the health and salvation of Nathaniel, Grace, Mike, Holly, Michael, Kelsie, Alice, Rebecca, Clark, Robert, Mary, Rebecca, Stacy, Shawna, Eli, Kaylin, Noah, Kyler, Eli, Ezara, Eve, Johan, Gideon, Hubert, Judy and Ann.

It is also offered in loving memory of Junior, Aubrey, Sylvia, Sue and Whitney.

"the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)

Please note that **Holy Communion is reserved for members of the Holy Orthodox Church** who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession. However, all are welcome to partake of the blessed bread at the dismissal.

Please join us during our fellowship at the **Coffee Hour** immediately after the Divine Liturgy.



May God grant Many Years to

Nathaniel & Grace Keath

Who Have Been United in Holy Matrimony

May God shower them with His Choicest Blessings!

Fasting in the Coming Weeks:

- ◆ Today (February 15th) we observe **Meat-Fare Sunday**. After this evening, we eliminate all meat from our diet
- ◆ On Sunday, (February 22nd, we observe **Cheese-Fare Sunday**. That evening, after Vespers, we eliminate all dairy products from our diet
- ◆ Monday, March 3rd ~ The Great Fast begins

Next Sunday is Forgiveness Sunday

At the end of the Divine Liturgy we will observe the Rite of Forgiveness, where we will offer to each other our sincere and heartfelt forgiveness for any and all of our offenses.

"Blessings Box" Collection Update



Beloved in Christ,

This year, we are collecting non-perishable food for our new **BLESSING BOX!** PLEASE KEEP BRINGING FOOD so that we may continue to stock our shelves and have food to stock adequately. We need to continue our efforts in providing food for those who are truly Hungry. God bless everyone for your holy efforts!

Troparion of the Resurrection, in the Third Tone

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. Nicholas, in the Fourth Tone

Thy righteous acts have manifested thee to thy flock as a model of faith, a reflection of humility, and a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Therefore, through humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and through poverty riches. Intercede thou with Christ to save our souls.

Kontakion for the Sunday of the Last Judgment, in the First Tone

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the River of Fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge.



Epistle

I Corinthians 8:8—end; 9:1-2

Prokeimenon: The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



Sunday of the Last Judgment

Meatfare Sunday

Synaxarion



When Thou shalt sit to judge the world, O Judge of All, Count me worthy of Thy summons to Thy right hand.

On this day we commemorate the inescapable second coming of Christ, ordained by the most divine Fathers to be observed after the second parable of the Prodigal, so that no one who has learned of the love of God for mankind from it will live in laziness saying, "God loves mankind, and when I am separated from Him by sin, all is prepared for my restoration."

This fearsome day of judgment has been designated for commemoration at this point in time, that through fear of death and the expectation of future torment, those who live in laziness may be encouraged to the virtues, not trusting only in the love of God, but also realizing that He is the righteous Judge who will judge all men according to their deeds. In other words those souls who have passed over are obliged to undergo judgment.

And this present feast is a type of symbol of this in that it is presented now as a final celebration just as it will be the last event after our death. For it behooves us to contemplate that as the beginning of the world and Adam's fall from Paradise are commemorated on the following Sunday, so this day is the end of all days and of the world itself.

The commemoration is appointed for this day of Meatfare, that in awe of this event we should limit our intake of earthly food, not giving ourselves over to gluttony, and be encouraged to love our neighbor. In other words, since we were banished from Eden, cursed and condemned through eating of the fruit, so the present event has been ordained at this time, as next Sunday we will be banished through Adam, until Christ comes again to raise us up to Paradise.

It is called the second coming, since Christ appeared to us at His first coming in the flesh and delivered the human race, and He will come again to judge whether that which He commanded us has been observed.

And when will this second coming occur? No one knows; for although He mentioned several preceding signs, the Lord concealed it from His Apostles. Before His coming the antichrist will appear. He will live his life after the manner of Christ, performing mira-

cles like those which Christ performed, and raising the dead. Yet all that he does will be an illusion.

After this suddenly like lightning from heaven the Lord will come, going before His holy Cross, and a river of boiling fire will go before Him, cleansing the earth of its defilement. The antichrist will be seized immediately along with his servants and will be committed to eternal fire.

And when the angels sound the trumpets, all the nations of mankind will gather from all places and from all the ends of the earth in Jerusalem, for it is the center of the earth. And there the thrones will be set for judgment. Then all souls will be reunited with their bodies and clothed in incorruptible beauty, transformed into one likeness.

And with one word the Lord will separate the righteous from the sinners. Those who have done good will receive eternal life, and the sinners will be once more sent to eternal and everlasting torment.

Let it be noted that Christ will not ask who fasted, or who was naked, or who performed miracles, for although these things are good, mercy and compassion are far better. He will question both the righteous and the sinners on six commandment-like virtues, of which everyone is capable: "For I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink. I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me. I was sick, and ye visited me. I was in prison, and ye came to me. Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to me." Then all will confess the Lord Jesus Christ in the glory of God the Father.

Now the torments, according to the Holy Gospel are weeping and the gnashing of teeth, where their worm dies not and the fire is not quenched, and he shall be cast into outer darkness. For all the Church of God will joyfully delight in attaining the Kingdom of Heaven, being close to God in His holy place, and receiving everlasting glory and exaltation. But those who are separated from God through wasting the life of their souls in laziness and temporal nourishment will receive torment and darkness, and be eternally deprived of the divine radiance.

In Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, make us worthy of Thy voice, which we long to hear, number us among those at Thy right hand, and have mercy on us. Amen.

This parable may be applied to us as well, which is why the holy Fathers have prescribed it for today. We who have sinned as the prodigal are encouraged to weed out despair and fear through repentance, confession and good deeds. For this is a great aid and a powerful weapon against the assaults of the adversary.

In Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

2026 Triodion and Great Lent		
2/15/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)
2/22/26 (Sun)	O,DL 12:15 pm	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday) Forgiveness Vespers and Rite of Forgiveness (After Divine Liturgy)
Great Lent Begins 2/23/2026		
2/23/26 (Mon)	6:00 pm	Great Compline w/quarter from Canon of St Andrew of Crete
2/24/26 (Tue)	6:00 pm	Great Compline w/quarter from Canon of St Andrew of Crete
2/25/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
2/26/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline w/quarter from Canon of St Andrew of Crete
2/27/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (1st Stasis)
2/28/26 (Sat)	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) The Miracle of the Kollyva
3/1/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of Orthodoxy (followed by procession of the Icons)
3/4/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/5/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
3/6/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (2nd Stasis)
3/8/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of St Gregory Palamas
3/11/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/12/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
3/13/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (3 rd Stasis)
3/15/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross – Procession w/Decorated Cross
3/18/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/19/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
3/18/2026 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (4th Stasis)
3/22/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of St John Climacus
3/23/26 (Mon)	6:00 pm	Little Compline w/Life of St. Mary of Egypt & Full Canon of St. Andrew
3/24/26 (Tue)	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Festal Orthros for the Feast of the Annunciation Festal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation
3/25/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Great Vespers for the Leavetaking of the Feast of the Annunciation
3/26/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/27/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (Full)
3/29/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of the St. Mary of Egypt
4/1/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
4/2/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
4/3/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Little Compline w/Canon of the Raising of Lazarus
4/4/26 (Sat)	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) for Lazarus Saturday
4/4/26 (Sat)	5:00 pm	Festal Great Vespers for Palm Sunday
4/5/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Palm Sunday

Please check the schedule published in the Bulletin each week.

Calendar for the Week of February 15, 2026		Saints of the Day
Sunday—February 15, 2026	Sunday of the Last Judgement	Sunday of the Last Judgement Onesimus the Apostle
9:10 am - Orthros 10:10 am - Reception of CJ Rymes (Chrismation) 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy 1:30 PM - Youth Activity		
Meat-Fare Sunday		
Monday—February 16, 2026	Meat Fast	Damphilus the Martyr and His Companions
Tuesday—February 17, 2026	Meat Fast	Theodore the Recruit of Tyre, the Great Martyr
Wednesday—February 18, 2026	Meat Fast	Leo the Pope of Rome
5:00 pm Daily Vespers		
Thursday—February 19, 2026	Meat Fast	Archipus the Apostle
Friday—February 20, 2026	Meat Fast	Leo, Bishop of Catania
Saturday—February 21, 2026	Meat Fast	Timothy of Symbole; and Eustathius, Bishop of
5:00 pm Great Vespers Confessions Afterward		
Sunday—February 22, 2026	Forgiveness Sunday	Forgiveness Sunday Sinding of the Relics of the Saints that were in Eugenius
9:25 am - Orthros 9:30 am - High School 10:00 am – Youth Ministry 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy 12:00 am - Forgiveness Sunday Lenten Vespers Rite of Forgiveness following Vespers		
Cheese-Fare Sunday		
<i>Please note</i> that Confessions are heard at the time noted above in the coming week's schedule, or by appointment by calling Fr. Samuel at: (304) 541-8550.		