

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2200 Irwin Street Aliquippa, PA 15001

Parish Office: 724-375-4074

Email: stelijah@comcast.net

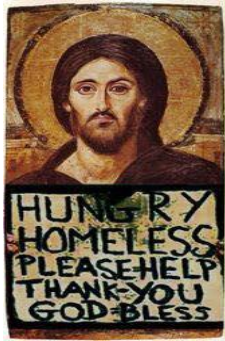
Center Office: 724-375-9894

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Branislav Golic

February 11, 2018

Webpage: stelijahaliquippa.com

JUDGMENT SUNDAY



Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It 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 (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

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" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), 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 (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

The Scripture Readings: **Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 **Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

TOMORROW Monday, February 12 - **Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs** Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30am

FUNERAL- Give rest O Lord to thy departed servant George Miljus and make his memory to be eternal. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family, kumovi and friends. **VJECNAJA PAMJAT!**

In order to enrich our Liturgical experience and celebrate the **Triumph of Orthodoxy** which our Holy Orthodox Church celebrates annually on the First Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, we invite ALL children and their parents to take part in the procession on Sunday, February 25th - You are advised to bring an icon of your choice from your home and to carry it with you in a procession that will take place after Divine Liturgy.

Beside the bulletin you will find the **SCHEDULE OF LENTEN SERVICES** for lent showing each week where **VESPER SERVICES** will be held. Please make sure you get one today.

ST. ELIJAH CHOIR'S 16th ANNUAL BOWLING "BALL"



THANK YOU ALL WHO ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED OUR CHOIR YESTERDAY WE GREATLY APPRECIATE IT! FREE...We have several dinners left from yesterday, please stop downstairs and pick one up to take home!

We are taking orders for **SARRIS CANDY**. Please place your order today.

NEXT SUNDAY is CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. A light lunch will be available following the Divine Liturgy. The last luncheon was very nicely supported. Please attend!