

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
2200 Irwin Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001
Rev. Branislav Golic, Parish Priest

e-mail: stelijah@comcast.net
webpage: stelijahaliquippa.com

Parish Office: 724-375-4074
Center Office: 724-375-9894

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

+++++
Sunday of the Last Judgement

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).

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.

Scripture Readings 1 Corinthians 8:8 - 9:2 Matthew 25:31-46

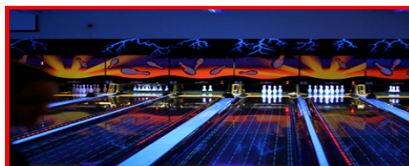
+++++
FUNERAL: Give rest O Lord to thy departed servant MARY MARAVICH and make her memory to be eternal. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her family, kumovi and friends. **VJECNAJA PAMJAT!**

+++++
HOME BLESSINGS- Fr Branislav will always call a few days ahead to schedule a visit. If you have not been contacted by Fr Branislav in the past and you would like your home to be blessed - please share your contact info with him by calling the parish office and he will schedule a visit. **This week** – He will be in the Sewickley, Ambridge and Cranberry area

+++++
Fellowship and Ministry Committee Fellowship Trip: Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 8, 2020 - The Fellowship Committee will be arranging transportation for those who would need it to attend Lenten vespers at the **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church** in the North Hills at 4:30pm. We will need to know by March 1st if you are planning to join us. Please see Maria Yaramus, Yvonne Megaludis, Dawn Kosanovich or Diane Knapp if you wish to attend.

Fellowship Trip: We are planning a coordinated visit to the **Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration** in Ellwood City on **Saturday, March 28, 2020**. We will leave from our church promptly at 8am. Divine Liturgy starts at 9am followed by a Memorial Service for the departed. After, there will be a meal, a tour and a short presentation about the monastery. The Fellowship Committee will arrange transportation. Therefore, we need to know no later than March 8th if you plan on attending and if you need transportation or not so that they are prepared. Please see Maria Yaramus, Yvonne Megaludis, Dawn Kosanovich or Diane Knapp if you wish to attend.

+++++
ST. ELIJAH CHOIR'S 18th ANNUAL BOWLING "BALL" fundraiser was held yesterday at Sheffield Lanes then everyone went back to the hall for music and dinner



Thank you to everyone who joined us in this fun filled memorable day! See you next year!

+++++
COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE- The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit our church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>

