SUNDAY OF MEATFARE
February 20, 2022

Icon of the Last Judgment

Saints Cyril and Methodius
Byzantine Catholic Church
2510 Piney Plains Road
Cary, NC 27518-6870
919-239-4877
Reverend Father Vasyl Sokolovych
Parochial Administrator
(908-404-0777)
Deacon Ryan Liebhaber

Sunday
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy
First Sunday of the month: One Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM
(If unable to attend in person, our 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy is streamed via our Facebook page.)

E-Mail: sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com
Web Site: sscyrilmethodius.org
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Scripture References</th>
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<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td><strong>SUNDAY OF MEATFARE</strong></td>
<td>1 Cor 8:8-9:2, Mt 25:31-46</td>
<td>8:30 AM Confession, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
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<td>Tone 6</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Timothy - Venerable</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Finding of the Relics of the Martyrs of Eugenia</td>
<td>Jude 1-10, Lk 22:39-42 &amp; 45-23:1</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Polycarp - Bishop - Martyer</td>
<td>Joel 2:12-26, Joel 4:12-21</td>
<td>6:00 PM Vespers</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>First &amp; Second Findings of the Head of John the Baptist</td>
<td>2 Cor 4:6-15, Mt 11:2-15</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Tarasius - Patriarch</td>
<td>Zech 8:7-17, Zech 8:19-23</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>All Holy Ascetical Fathers and Mothers</td>
<td>Rom 14:19-26, Mt 6:1-13</td>
<td>4:00 PM Divine Liturgy (St. Nicholas)</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
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<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td><strong>SUNDAY OF CHEESE FARE</strong></td>
<td>Rom 13:11-14:4, Mt 6:14-21</td>
<td>8:30 AM Confession, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Outdoors), 10:30 AM Parish Meeting, 12:00 Forgiveness Vespers</td>
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<td>February 27</td>
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<td>Tone 7</td>
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Call the parish office (919-239-4877) to make an appointment or to speak with Fr. Vasyl (908-404-0777).

**SSCM CHURCH/HALL SCHEDULE**
The St. Nicholas Mission celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church every Saturday at 4:00 PM.
The Eritrean Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.
The Coptic Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**
One Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM: First Sunday of each month
School of Religion: Second Sunday of each month starting at 10:15 AM
ByzanTeens: Second Wednesday of each month after 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy
Altar Server Training/Review: Last Sunday of each month immediately following 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**
Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting, please contact one of the members: Will Leatherwood, Mike Carpenter, Paul Tooley, Paul Cwik, Dan Pope, Mike Sapsara and Patti Kinger.
SUNDAY OF MEATFARE
February 20, 2022

If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family. If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at:

sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!   GLORY FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!   SLAVA NA VIKI (SLAVONIC)

Please remember in your prayers:
Margie’s mom, Mary Elizabeth; Bob Taylor; Augustine Griffith; Mary Jo and Bill Smith; Jerry Kingery; Sophia Rose; John Patrick Rose; David Hoover; Cameron Shuey; Dale Blair; Bernadette’s parents and aunts: Andrew, Etta, Martha and Yolanda; Father Mark and family; Father Vasyl and family.

Please pray for the repose + of the souls of our faithful departed:

In Blessed Repose, Grant O Lord, Eternal Rest to the Soul of Your Departed Servants and May their Memory be Eternal.

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills must be paid. Thanks to all who continue to serve our church with their time, talent, and treasure. Thanks to all who continue to support our church.

Do you want to share the Catholic faith? Would you be interested in participating in street evangelization? Marie Taylor and Karen Quintero have been going out on a Saturday afternoon, asking the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of people walking by and start a conversation about the Catholic faith by distributing free rosaries, medals, and pamphlets. They are looking to add another person (or two?) to increase the possible opportunities. Email Karen at karennquintero@gmail.com if you’d like to know more.

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Many thanks to our church cleaning volunteers which means no one is cleaning more than once every two or three months. Volunteers may do the cleaning anytime during the week when the church is not in use. Please contact Marie Taylor at marie@8taylors.com if you want to participate in this very important ministry for our church. Thank you to our current volunteers!

| Feb 13-19 | Heidi Cwik/Joe Deaton | March 27-April 4 | Mary Carpenter |
| Feb 20-26 | Marie Taylor | April 5-11 | Nathan Tooley |
| Feb 27-March 5 | Travis Kingery | April 10-18 | Lance Morgan |
| March 6-12 | Margie Tooley | April 19-25 | Will & Sam Leatherwood |
| March 13-19 | Karen Quintero | April 26-May 2 | Heidi Cwik/Joe Deaton |
| March 20-26 | Lisa Rose | May 3-9 | Marie Taylor |

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website. "Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)
Who among us is without sin? Who has never made a mistake? Who will say that he is perfect? Each of us has dark places in the history of our lives, times which were far from the best. Some imperfections haunt us even today. Let’s look at our past and see that nothing has passed without a trace. Good deeds have brought us good fruits, and bad deeds have resulted in bad consequences.

We can see that in life we have learned through such simple logic. When we saw a good result, we wanted to repeat that outcome. And, when there was a bad result, we learned not to repeat what harmed us. The opportunity to correct or improve ourselves is truly a gift from God, which is a manifestation of His love for us. We should be grateful to Him for this and use this opportunity properly.

The main idea of the Gospel this Sunday is the importance of good deeds in the life of a Christian, not God's punishment. Jesus focuses on good works. In almost every sentence of his teaching, Christ speaks of man's good works, or lack thereof. In today's Gospel, the Holy Church wants not to intimidate and frighten us, but to warn and warn us not to sin, not to be indifferent to God's commandments and good deeds. The Apostle James writes in his epistle, "As the body without the soul is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (James 2:26)

We want concrete manifestations of kindness, love in life, and not only good words or promises. We want good jobs, appropriate salary, and housing. We expect good for ourselves from others, and others also expect good from us in return. But what good do I bring to other people by my actions? Good does not arise by itself. It flows from our soul and is manifested in concrete actions, and its roots are in our soul. It is love, mercy, forgiveness, truth, justice, compassion and many other good qualities.

Often people only want to receive, to accumulate, to consume various things, but they do not want to create or give good to others. In this way we fill the world with the spirit of selfishness, self-interest, self-benefit, and not the common good. But, who will do that good, give it in their life, their family, and their society?

The problem with modern society is that our friends are often perceived as things to be collected and consumed, not the very person of God and neighbor. Our love is manifested in things, we give others things, but we do not give ourselves, because our love does not come from the heart. And it is not there, because God is not in our heart, which is the source of love. Only He can fill our hearts with love.

Through the teaching of the Last Judgment, Jesus Christ calls us to take responsibility for our own good. He calls us to perform all our duties in good faith, including sanctification and salvation of the soul, and thus to care for the good of others. Then we can confidently apply the words of Christ to ourselves, "Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Mt 25:34) Amen.

**BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL** - An excerpt from the November ECL from Bishop Kurt follows: "I ask once again, take care of your own needs and/or your own parish first. If you have extra and would like to help me with my work for the Eparchy, and for the weaker parishes, please consider a gift to the Bishop's Appeal this year. God will not be outdone in generosity. However, money will not fix our clergy shortage. It is much more important that we pray. May God grant that young men give their lives to Him as priests + Kurt." As a parish we have been generously blessed to have a priest and deacon from our Eparchy. Bishop Kurt is supporting our needs. Please give as generously as possible. We will reap much more than we sow when we put our trust in the Lord. Please visit the Eparchy's website for more information: https://www.eparchyofpassaic.com

Thanks to all for your generous contributions to the St. Nicholas Tree. Together, we raised over $2,000 of which $1,500 will be donated to the St. Nicholas Village of Mercy in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. The balance is going to Fr. Iouri Koslovskii and his family, who have already expressed their great gratitude. This is the most we have ever raised through the St. Nicholas Tree, and it comes at a particularly difficult time for Ukraine. Again, thank you so very much! If you wish to make a donation at any time during the year, please see Dan Pope who can arrange to have the money sent through Fr. Iouri.

NCs largest Catholic radio station, Catholic 540-AM Divine Mercy Radio has added a new radio show from EWTN to our local Catholic radio station's weekday line-up. The SonRise Morning Show (with co-hosts Matt Swaim and Anna Mitchell) will air weekdays from 6-8 a.m. Listen on-air OR on the FREE Divine Mercy Radio App.
The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. The commemoration for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning his Second Coming and the Last Judgment of all, both the living and the dead. In Matthew 25:31-46, Christ speaks about what will happen at this specific point in time when He will "come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him" (v. 31).

At His coming, "He will sit on the throne of His glory," and all of the nations will be gathered before Him. He will separate them "as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats" (v. 32). The sheep will be placed on His right hand, and the goats on the left. To the sheep, He will say "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (vv. 33-34). This kingdom is offered to the sheep because of their compassion and service to those in need. Jesus says, "...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." The sheep, who are the righteous chosen for the kingdom, will ask how this could be so. They will ask Jesus when was He hungry or thirsty, a stranger, naked, and in prison. He will answer them by saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (vv. 35-40).

The icon of the Sunday of the Last Judgment incorporates all of the elements of the parable from Matthew 25:31-46. Christ sits on the throne and before him the Last Judgment takes place. He is extending his hands in blessing upon the Theotokos on his right, and John the Baptist on his left. Seated on smaller thrones are the Apostles, represented by Peter and Paul, a depiction of the words of Christ in Matthew 19:28.

Proceeding from the throne are the scrolls pronouncing the judgment upon the sheep and the goats. The faithful are received with the words that are written on the scroll to the right of Christ the Judge, "Come, you blessed of My Father, and inherit the kingdom" (v. 34). The scroll on the left condemns the unfaithful with the words, "Depart from me you cursed, into the everlasting fire" (v. 41). Before the throne, the progenitors of the human race, Adam and Eve, bow before Christ. In the center of the icon is the Archangel Michael. He is holding the scales of judgment and is surrounded by the books that contain the works of each person (Revelation 20:11-13). Also shown are the angels with trumpets announcing the return of Christ and signaling the resurrection of the dead and the commencement of the Last Judgment (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). To the left of the Archangel are both the living and the dead who are approaching the throne and Christ the judge. Whereas Adam and Eve are representative of all of humanity, this part of the icon shows that both the living and the dead will stand before Christ. At the bottom right of the icon is the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and the demons, and also for those who are not found worthy to inherit the Kingdom of God. The icon offers a clear image of the theme of judgment with Christ on His throne, the Archangel with the scales and books, and the anticipation of the sentence of everlasting punishment for the unrighteous and the reward of eternal life for the righteous.

Join us as we study our Holy Father John of Damascus’ fierce and powerful defense of the importance of Holy Images, that we may approach the anniversary of the restoration of icons to the churches after the iconoclast heresy with renewed faith in their power to ingrain the truth in our souls.

https://godwithusonline.org/events/image-and-likeness/?fbclid=IwAR3XgsjcvTDqkCKcJWzRplbNml1Smtz13BZVoJp8W3JLu__P1VAF1SUoEs

Instructor: Rev. Nathan Symeon serves as parochial vicar at the Byzantine Proto-Cathedral of St. Mary in Los Angeles, California, and as vice-chairman of the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA with a Master of Arts in Theology (MAT). He completed a DTS with Youth with a Mission in Queensland Australia. He also received his Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Theology from Calvary Chapel Bible College, in Murrieta, CA; a Master of Christian Thought (MACT) from Reformed Theological Seminary, in Oviedo, FL; a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from the Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, CA; a certificate in Anglican Studies and a Master of Sacred Theology (STM) from Nashotah House Seminary in Nashotah, WI. He and his wife have been married for sixteen years and have five daughters.
Sacred Art Retreat: Pottery, Plaiting, and Poetry. Add something unique to your Lent and come to this one-night sacred art retreat March 18-19 hosted by the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. Make your own kiln-fired prayer bowl with personalized prayer stones, rediscover the healing art of poetry, and pray for God’s watchfulness as you create your very own “Eye of God”. Plus spend some time reflecting in the beautiful spaces indoors and outside. Attendance is limited so register early. Call 828.327.7441, email info@catholicconference.org, or visit www.catholicconference.org/art-retreat.
Father Carlos Martins, a Vatican-appointed expert on relics, will be in the Raleigh, North Carolina area with an extraordinary Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the “Little Flower”), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. Throughout history, many healings have been worked in the presence of relics; and thousands have occurred through this ministry. Do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please spread the word.

Monday, March 14 at 6:30 pm
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
804 High House Rd., Cary, NC

Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 pm
St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church
12333 Bayleaf Church Road, Raleigh, NC

Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30 pm
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
520 W Holding Ave, Wake Forest, NC

Thursday, March 17 at 6:30 pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church
2817 Poole Rd, Raleigh, NC

Saturday, March 19 at 1:00 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
2718 Overbrook Drive, Raleigh, NC