



February 20, 2022

**SUNDAY OF MEATFARE**

**Parish Schedule**

**Feb. 19 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**  
*+Robert Butella req by Bill & Denice Wasko*

**Feb. 20 (Sun) SUNDAY OF MEATFARE**  
**Divine Liturgy 10:30am**  
*+Ralph DiBridge, Sr. req by Kevin & Karen Ianni*

**Feb. 26 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**  
*+Susan Sabol req by family and friends*

**Feb. 27 (Sun) SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE**  
**Divine Liturgy 10:30am**  
*For our Parish Family*

**Our Tithe to our Parish - February 13, 2022 - \$2,333.00**

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Feb. 20 thru Feb. 26 for the health and well-being of Fr. Petro.



*Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.*



Tillie Abraham, Ron Bishop, George Bodnar ,  
Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick, Kevin Ianni,  
Fr. John Petro, Ted Race, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr.

**Tax time is drawing near.**

If you would like your total donation amount for the year 2021, please drop a note in the collection basket. Also, please specify if you would like to pick it up or would you like it to be mailed.

Our parish has been fortunate to have Seminarian Joshua assisting with the liturgical duties on Sundays. The seminarians are assigned to parishes only once per month on Sunday mornings, but Seminarian Joshua has chosen to make St. Stephen the parish of record for him and his family (wife Regina and three-year old twin daughters Ana and Linnea) which means they attend more frequently. He is in his first year at the seminary and his family is from Tucson, Arizona.



On January 19, Joshua and Regina welcomed a new baby, Xenia Josefina. In celebration of this new arrival, our parish will be taking a collection for the family. During the next couple of weekends, you can place any contributions in the basket in an envelope marked "Special Collection" on the front. If the gift is by check, please make it payable to Joshua Johnson. Please do not make it payable to St. Stephen. In addition, there will be a special collection box in the education wing if you also would like to give a gift to baby Xenia.

Xenia is going to be baptized at St. Stephen and details will be made available.

Thank you,

Fr. John and the Parish Advisory Committee

## HARAMOTY REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEPARTED



Each year we remember the departed members of our families, loved ones and parish in a series of commemorations in and around the Great Fast season. These are called the Saturdays of the Departed.

In your box of church envelopes, there is one marked for the "Hramoty," the Remembrance of the Departed.

If you have listed names in the past, we have those on record. If you wish to add to or change your list, you may do so at this time. If you would like to make your donation by check, please pay to the order of Father John Petro.

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## MEATFARE

*The last week before the Great Fast reminds us that it is time to prepare. Traditionally, Meatfare Sunday is the last day on which meat is to be eaten until the Resurrection. For us it is a reminder that whatever type of fasting we choose, it is time to gradually let go of what ever has a hold on us.*

*This week we should begin some part of our fasting. This is our Church's way of gradually leading us into the Great Fast. We do not party up to the last minute (a la Mardi Gras) and then slam the door on eating and drinking. Rather, we adopt a gradual approach to the season of the Great Fast, a much more sensible and humane way of life.*

## MEATFARE SUNDAY

When was the last time you heard a sermon on ... *Hell ... fire ... and brimstone* !!! I mean ... one that really scared the wits out of you!

At least in our collective memory, this seems to have been a large part of the standard fare of preaching in the past. Most everyone has some memories of a pastor ... or a missionary ... or a retreat director ... really putting the fear of God into them.



From time to time, we hear comments that the "church has just become too lenient." There is not enough stress on fear and judgment.

There is too much talk of love ... and peace ... and joy ... and not enough about the wrath of God.

Well ... the Scriptures do speak about God's wrath ... and judgement ... and they speak of his compassion and forgiveness and love also. In fact, it seems that much more of Jesus' ministry is focused on showing us the compassionate face of God ... rather than a fear of God.

Yet, judgment is a reality. Today's Gospel speaks about the Last Judgment ...and it give us the rules according to which we shall all be judged.

We shall be judged by the way we treat each other ... especially those in need ... the hungry and thirsty ... those who are sick or in prison ... the lonely and needy.

You see, God chooses to be identified with the lowly and the needy in our midst. And the mark of a Christ-like person is the one who can see the face of God in the needy.

It is not so much a matter of preaching fear ... or love. It is more a matter of touching the hearts of people ... so that we may be emptied of our self-preoccupations ... the cares that blind us to those in need around us ... and be able to *see* the face of God in each other.