



Sunday of the Last Judgement

Today we remember the Second Coming and the Last Judgement. On previous Sundays, God has been shown to be desirous of reconciliation with all people. This Sunday, with Lent set to begin in 2 weeks, Christians are reminded not to ignore their own sins and shortcomings, and not to put off repentance to a later date, because no one knows “the day or the hour” of our Lord’s return (Matthew 24:36). In addition, the early fathers placed this remembrance here on the liturgical calendar, because they knew of the human temptation to over indulge before the fasting time of the Great Fast.

According to the Gospel Matthew, all will be judged according to six criteria.

1. Feeding the hungry
2. Giving drink to the thirsty
3. Showing hospitality to the stranger
4. Clothing the naked
5. Visiting the sick
6. Visiting those in prison.

Christ the Just Judge expects us to treat these, “the least of these My Brethren,” as if we were doing these works of mercy unto Him (Matthew 25:40). There are many who often charge that we are attempting attain salvation through works, but a faith void of works truly is dead (James 2:14-26).

True, salvation is not earned by works, but if we neglect the poor, the stranger, the sick and the prisoner, even the most hardened sinner could justly point a finger of judgement straight at us. Even the unchurched person understands, almost instinctively, that a person who proclaims a love for God will naturally, out of love for his or her fellow humans, minister to those in need. Today may we be reminded to look for opportunities to serve and bless the poor, the sick, and those in captivity during Lent as well as the throughout the whole year.