SATURDAY OF SOULS

The first Memorial Saturday of Souls falls this year on ***Saturday, Feb. 10***. When these days appear, we know that we are approaching Great Lent in preparation for Great and Holy Week. The first two Memorial Saturdays are celebrated the 1st and 2nd Saturdays preceding Great Lent; the 3rd and last one is celebrated on the 1st Saturday of Great Lent. On these Memorial Saturdays commemoration is made on behalf of all those who have fallen asleep. Our faith teaches that not until the Second Coming of our Lord and His Final Judgment, will final retribution be made to every man according to his works, and that meanwhile the souls of the faithful departed are benefited by the prayers of the living, especially when offered in conjunction with the Divine Liturgy.

Adjacent you will find a commemoration slip on which to write the first name (Christian name) of your deceased loved ones so that they may be remembered at the special Memorial Services to be held on the three Memorial Saturdays(**please print names clearly**). **NAMES MAY ALSO BE SENT BY EMAIL TO FR. DEMETRI** **frdcostarakis@gmail.com**

It is a tradition for the faithful to bring kolyva (boiled wheat) on these Saturdays as is done for Memorials. The kolyva are prepared and offered as a symbol of the resurrection of the dead, recalling the words of our Lord: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears fruit." (John 12:24) If you plan to prepare a small dish of kolyva for the Memorial Service please bring the kolyva to church by 9:30am. You may mail or bring the slips to the church office or leave then in the offering basket. Please do so, however, before the day of the Liturgy.

The following is a hymn for the **Saturday of Souls**: "*O you faithful, remembering today by name all the dead from all the ages who have lived in piety and faith, let us sing praises to the Lord and Savior, asking Him fervently to give them in the hour of judgment a good defense before our God who judges all the earth. May they receive a place at His right hand in joy, may they dwell in glory with the righteous and the saints, and be counted worthy of His heavenly kingdom.*"

May their memories be eternal!

For the repose of the souls of the servants of God.

Υπέρ αναπαύσεως των ψυχών τών δούλων τού Θεού.