



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON FEBRUARY 16, 2025

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Kontakion – Tone 3

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou hadst given me. Therefore I cry to Thee like the Prodigal: “I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; // receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Prokeimenon – Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
V. *Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!*

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God’s forgiveness calls us to “come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn “By the Waters of Babylon.” It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today’s Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark’s account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday’s Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ’s crucifixion and death.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

For the Sick / Caregiver

Liam (1/26)

Kelly (1/26)

Alexandra (1/26)

Father Paul (1/26)

Matushka Mary (1/26)

Deborah (1/26)

Betty (2/2)

Tamara (2/2)

Trudy (2/2)

Anthony (2/9)

Carmine (2/9)

Marianne (2/9)

Julie (2/9)

Thomas (2/9)

Alexandra (2/16)

Dorothy (2/16)

Michael (2/16)

Charlotte (2/16)

Subdeacon Sergius (2/16)

Melody (2/16)

For the Deceased

John (2/9)

Donald (2/16)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of February 16

Sunday February 16 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by FOCA Soup Sale and Coffee Hour in Daria Hall
Saturday February 22 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and **Catechumen Class in the church basement**
Sunday February 23 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

February 9 – 52 adults, 17 youth, \$1,144

ORTHODOXY 101

Entering the Church

The Orthodox Divine Liturgy begins when the priest intones, “Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” We need to arrive early enough to receive this blessing. It is always appropriate to arrive in a timely manner, before the service begins. Doing so gives one time to get settled, to acclimate themselves to their surroundings, and to prepare oneself to offer themselves wholly in prayer.

Arriving late without due cause is always inappropriate. Arriving late causes distraction and is inconsiderate to the rest of the faithful, to the celebrant and to God. The same can be said for leaving services early. Experience testifies that coming to Church late is more a matter of “habit” than circumstance: there are those who come late, and those who don't.

Some rules of thumb: Those who arrive late should generally refrain from partaking of the Eucharist that day as “proper preparation” for Holy Communion assumes the ascetical effort of arriving on time to the service and one should refrain from venerating icons or lighting candles in the front of the church so as to not distract others from prayer nor draw undue attention to oneself.

If an occasional problem occurs and you have to come in late, enter the church and take your place among the faithful reverently without drawing attention to yourself. The times in which you should wait in the back of the church, or the narthex, before entering include: when the Little or Great Entrance is taking place, when the priest is censing or giving the homily, and when the Epistle or Gospel is being read. If you are unsure when is the best time to enter the church, ask one of the greeters for guidance.

We come to the church on time as if to a “Great Banquet,” with reverence because we are partaking of the very Body and Blood of Christ, our Savior. Coming to the Hours before the Divine Liturgy will ensure that you will be settled in plenty of time to pray without distraction.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FOCA Club Soup Sale will be held today in Daria Hall during Coffee Hour. If you will not be staying for Coffee Hour, please stop by to buy soup before you leave for home! Cost is \$5 for a container of homemade soup with a roll. We appreciate your support!

Catechumen classes will be held every Saturday after Vespers. Everyone is invited to attend the classes, but those who wish to convert to the Orthodox faith must attend.

There will be a Parish Council meeting this Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM in the church basement. Election of Officers for the next year will be held during the meeting.

Reminder - Great Lent begins in two weeks on Monday March 3. February 23 is Meatfare Sunday, the last day to eat meat until Pascha. March 2 is Forgiveness and Cheesefare Sunday, the last day to eat dairy until Pascha. The Lenten Service Calendar will be included in the bulletin next week.

Attached is a flyer regarding a Diocesan Lenten Women's Retreat being held March 28 – March 30 at St. Andrew's Camp, Jewell, NY (in the Syracuse area) on Lake Oneida.

Reminder to please clean up Christmas decorations at the parish cemeteries. There are still over 50 graves with holiday decorations on them. Per the Cemetery By-Laws, all decorations are to be removed three weeks after the holiday. There is no trash collection at the cemeteries, so please take your items home with you. Thank you.

There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the back of the church for house blessings. Please sign up if you would like your house blessed, and Father Volodymyr will contact you to schedule a time. There are only two more weeks for house blessings as they must be completed before Great Lent.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Blake Kilgore – February 17

Mimi Berck – February 20

Valeria Srock – February 20

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

*** If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.**

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall -

Let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Feb. 16 Paul & Patty Denko, Valeria and Timothy Srock

Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel

Mar. 2 **NO MEAT** Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson

Mar. 9 **FAST** John Cassar, Christina DiDonato

Mar. 16 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova

Mar. 23 **FAST** Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell

Mar. 30 **FAST** Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt

Apr. 6 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla Strauss

Apr. 13 **FAST** Alex Godun, Melody Stavisky

Apr. 20 **PASCHA – No Coffee Hour**

Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado

May 4 James & Olga Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey

May 11 Nina Schmidt, Monia & Jim Pitra
May 18 Anne Cheslock, Darice Keyes
May 25 Inna Lebedeva, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
June 1 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina
June 8 Grace Ramus, Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa
June 15 Sami Bachir, Tyler Burger
June 22 **FAST** Matthew Anderson, Ramazi Shubitidze
June 29 Nancy Mitsos, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky
July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay
July 13 **FOCA Club & Ladies Altar Society** – Enhanced Coffee Hour for St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration
July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones
July 27 Amber Touch, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick

Have a healthy, blessed week!

Orthodox Church in America • Diocese of New York and New Jersey



Lenten Women's Retreat

A time set apart for prayer, reflection, and fellowship of Orthodox women.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28 - SUNDAY MARCH 30, 2025

Register at:

http://portal.campnetwork.com/Register/Register.php?camp_id=397695

Or scan this
QR code



\$125 for the Weekend

\$50 for Saturday only
(All inclusive!)

"Be Who You Are in the Body of Christ"



Keynote Speaker: Mother Melania

Mother Melania is the abbess of the community of Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, California.

She has written several series of children's books (including *The Twelve Great Feasts for Children*; *The Three-Day Pascha*; the *Old Testament Stories for Children* series; and the *Good Neighbors* series – a series of animal fables designed to teach children Christian virtue in an engaging way).

Mother Melania has made a particular study of St. John Chrysostom's writings. Because he was writing not primarily to monks but to people living in the world, he has much practical advice to offer for today's Christian.

Also visiting: Archbishop Michael

For more information

Email: kristy@saintandrewscamp.org