



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### **FACEBOOK PAGE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666>

## Sunday of the Prodigal Son February 16, 2020

### **Troparion – Tone 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

### **Kontakion – Tone 3**

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

### **Prokeimenon – Tone 2**

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

*v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*

### **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.

### **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.'"

### **Service Schedule for the week of February 16**

**Today** – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Saturday, February 22** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession (Archbishop Michael will be in attendance)

**Sunday, February 23** – 9:00 Sunday School, 9:30 Greeting of Archbishop Michael, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Dinner in Daria Hall (sign-ups for dinner required)

### **Weekly Giving**

February 9 – 44 adults, 10 youth, \$1,614

### **Parish Announcements**

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM.

The Senior R Club is hosting the Colonial District Bowling Tournament at the Morrisville Bowling Lanes on West Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA on Saturday, February 22. Registration begins at noon; three games of bowling begin at 1:00 PM; followed by the Awards Banquet at Daria Hall at approx. 4:00 PM. Cost is \$15 for bowling and shoes, \$2 registration fee, and \$18 for the banquet, continental breakfast, and snacks that will be available at the bowling alley. If anyone is interested in bowling and the banquet, or the banquet only, please contact Paul Kavchok. Archbishop Michael will be here on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, but due to the bowling banquet prior to Vespers on Saturday, there will not be a potluck dinner after Vespers.

On Sunday, February 23 the parish is holding a Roast Pork dinner fundraiser; there will be a vegetarian dinner option available. If you require vegetarian, please write this on the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please sign up so we know how much food to prepare. Remember, if you do not sign up ahead of time we may not have prepared enough food to accommodate last-minute requests. There will not be a regular Coffee Hour on this date.

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society is looking for members! If you are interested in joining, please contact President Nadja Nowicki or Secretary Melody Stavisky. Our ministry is charitable work and we meet two or three times a year. Thank you!

Please remember to turn in your blue Stewardship pledge cards as soon as possible to either Nina Laushell or Herman Meyer. These cards simply allow the Parish Council to better budget expenditures for the year.

A sign-up sheet for house blessings is on the table at the back of the church. Please sign-up and request your date – Father Volodymyr will confirm the date with you. All house blessings must be complete before the beginning of Great Lent on March 1.

Bible Study classes are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 PM. The next classes will be held on February 26 and March 11. All are welcome.