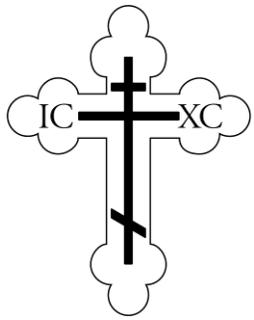
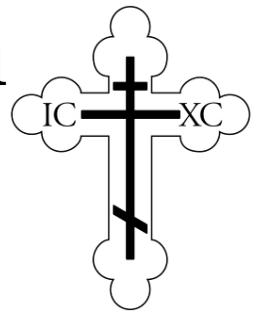


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before or
after Vespers or by appointment

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of the Triodion: 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).

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.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:
Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.
Deliver us from every form of evil
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//
that He may save our souls.

Tone 3 – Kontakion for the Prodigal Son

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

Tone 3 – Patronal Kontakion

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,
And with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.
Angels and bishops worship.
Apostles and prophets rejoice together,//
Since for our sake she prays to the eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)

You, O Lord, shall protect us
and preserve us from this generation forever!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6.12-20

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are 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. God 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 18.10-14

Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: “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. He was lost and is found.'

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Erin Brady

Nicholas Lile

Leo DuMoulin

Protopr. Daniel Hubiak

Vern Orr

Jeffrey Smith

Blythe

Darrell Hall

Ev.Mem. John Shawkun ('23)

Barbara Timchuk ('31)

Domenica Kosowan ('37)

Artemy Lewontuk ('52)

Mary Yankovich ('63)

Anna Dufallo ('86)

Health & Salv.	Christopher	Declan
Archpr. Peter	Nina	Hudson
Mat. Margaret	Renee	Ayden
Mat. Anne	Carissa	Hyland
Pr. Christopher	Cynthia	Jason
Mat. Jennifer	John	Ted
Andrew	Olga	James
Gideon	Mark	Pamela
Kevin	Jerry	Erin
Jon	Michael	Alexander
Tanya	Anthony	Ronald
Jovan	Janet	Theodore
Julia	Daryl	Robert
Warren	Diane	Craig
Tom	Carla	Chuck
Tina	Susan	Scott
Jennifer	Timothy	Mark
Gail	William	Christine
Stacy	Paul	Dale
Jeramie	Joseph	Pauline
Olivia	Linda	Mary
Parker	Claudia	Jessika & family
Christine	Elizabeth	Timothy
Larry	Snezana	Lisa
Rollie	Nathan	Lois
Joseph	Kara	Michael
Nadia	Ryan	Ivanka
Brendan	Thomas	Irina
David	Carol	Janice
Sharon	Christine	Ken
Michael	Jon	Debbie
Janie	Zoey	
Tanya	Dominic	

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks be to God, COVID has been retreating in our area and around the country for some time now. Because of this, Archbishop Paul has given his blessing for parishes in the diocese to resume indoor coffee hour **if they wish**. At its meeting this past Tuesday, the parish council decided it would be best to take a poll of parishioners to see how many would be comfortable resuming indoor coffee hour. As before, masks would only be removed to eat and drink when seated six feet apart from other groups. **Please be sure to fill out the form** in the narthex before you leave letting us know if you would like to resume indoor coffee hour.

We continue to take precautions during the health crisis. Everyone except celebrants and choir must be masked and maintain distance between groups. Those seeking to limit their exposure to large groups are encouraged to take advantage of weekday Liturgies with lower attendance. The next will be this **Saturday, March 6, which is the Memorial Saturday of Meatfare**.

Tomorrow begins **Meatfare week**, the last days of eating meat according to the fasting rule of Great Lent. After next Sunday will be Cheesefare week, and then we start the strict fast on **Clean Monday**.

For **Bible Study** Wednesday, read **1 Kingdoms (1 Samuel) 21-25**.

Mark your calendars:

Mar 3: **Bible Study** on Zoom @ 7pm

Mar 6: **Memorial Divine Liturgy** (at the Church) @ 10am

Mar 14: **Rite of Forgiveness** following Divine Liturgy

Mar 15: **Clean Monday** (Beginning of Great Lent)

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,580

Practice Virtue, Flee Pride

A Reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

Ode 5 Verse from the Triodion

Let us make haste to follow the Pharisee in his virtues and to emulate the Publican in his humility, and let us hate what is wrong in each of them: foolish pride and the defilement of transgressions.

This past Sunday marked the beginning of the Lenten Triodion. The gospel reading was from Luke concerning the Pharisee and the Publican. It is a simple and straightforward reading that warns us of how virtuous living can be corrupted by self-love and pride, leading to contempt of God and our fellow man. The Pharisee's prayer is not a prayer. The Pharisee prayed "with himself." He basically instructed God to look at him and all the good he had done, while also showing contempt for his neighbor, the Publican: "Thank God I am not like this man over there." His virtues were undermined by his prideful contempt of God and his fellow man. The Publican offered nothing of any self-righteousness in his petition. He was bowed down, almost kissing the ground, saying "Lord be merciful to be a sinner." What the Pharisee did not see in himself, the Publican did. The Publican acknowledged his enslavement to a life separated from God, crying out and lamenting his unworthiness.

The canon verse says it all. How do we embrace the virtue of the Pharisee *and* emulate the Publican in his humility? We hear the following from the epistle of James:

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.-Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. (James 1:16-18)

All that is good comes from the Father of lights. Let us not get deceived into thinking that the good that has its source in God the Father somehow becomes a possession of ours, for which we can take credit. I have remarked in many a sermon that one of the first words a child learns (probably after mom and dad) is the word

“mine.” Once that happens, that very young toddler is on the road to becoming a prideful Pharisee. So how do we overcome this? Only by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. We have to daily remind ourselves of the words from James’ letter.

- Remind your children daily that life is a gift from God and all that we have that is good comes from God. We have no rights to anything.
- Discipline your child when he starts to brag about his good deeds at the expense of making himself out to be better than others.
- Repeat the following verse from the gospel as often as possible. “He who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Explore with your children what this means to them. How do they live these words?
The blessing of the Lord be upon you,
The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for
all things!