

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:****Pauline** Prinz, mother of Lore Stefy and Nelly Freed**For health of:****Robert** on his birthday, son-in-law of Lore Stefy**Nicole** on her birthday, offered with love by her Godmother Aunt Tammy and cousins Nick and Elizabeth**Readings:**

- **1 Corinthians 6:12-20** (Sunday of the Prodigal Son)
- **Luke 15:11-32** (Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

Brethren, "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on 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, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might

make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!" And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM
 (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Memorial Saturday - On Saturday, February 18, we will be serving Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.** Saturday is the day which the Church has set aside for the commemoration of faithful Christians departed this life in the hope of resurrection to eternal life.
- **Today, after coffee hour, the annual parish meeting will be held.** All members of the parish are invited to attend.

Special Announcements:

- **Meatfare Sunday**, the last day meat is allowed before Lent begins, is on **February 19th**. The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be sponsoring a luncheon after the Divine Liturgy that day. Cost is \$5.00 per person, payable at the luncheon. Ethnic foods will be featured. If you wish to bring in a dish, there is a sign-up sheet downstairs.
- **Cheesfare Sunday is February 26th**. This is the last day that dairy products are allowed before Lent. The Sisterhood will be sponsoring a luncheon on that day as well and the cost will again be \$5.00 per person.

Reminder:

- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012, Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.

Pre lent:

Sunday of the Prodigal Son:

Today 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).

Memorial Saturday:

Next Saturday we will be serving Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM. This is a time to remember our departed family and friends. Please come with a list of names to be remembered at this service.

Saturday is the day which the Church has set aside for the commemoration of faithful Christians departed this life in the hope of resurrection to eternal life.

Memorial services for the dead may be traced back to ancient times. Chapter 8 of the Apostolic Constitutions recommends memorial services with Psalms for the dead. It also contains a beautiful prayer for the departed, asking that their voluntary and involuntary sins be pardoned, that they be given rest with the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Apostles in a place where sorrow, suffering, and sighing have fled away (Isaiah 35:10). St John Chrysostom mentions the service for the dead in one of his homilies on Philippians, and says that the Apostles established it. St Cyprian of Carthage (Letter 37) also speaks of our duty to remember the martyrs.

The holy Fathers also testify to the benefit of offering prayers, memorial services, Liturgies, and alms for the dead (St John Chrysostom, St Cyril of Jerusalem, St John of Damascus, etc.). Although both the righteous and those who have not repented and corrected themselves may receive benefit and consolation from the Church's prayer, it has not been revealed to what extent the unrighteous can receive this solace. It is not possible, however, for the Church's prayer to transfer a soul from a state of evil and condemnation to a state of holiness and blessedness. St Basil the Great points out that the time for repentance and forgiveness of sins is during the present life, while the future life is a time for righteous judgment and retribution (Moralia 1). St John Chrysostom, St Gregory the Theologian, and other patristic writers concur with St Basil's statement.

The Church's prayer cannot save anyone who does not wish salvation, or who never offered any struggle for it himself during his lifetime. In a sense, one might say that the prayer of the Church or of individual Christians for a dead person is but another result of that person's life: he would not be prayed for unless he had done something during his lifetime to inspire such prayer after his death. We pray for them because we love them. By praying for others, we bring benefit to them, and also to ourselves, because "God is not so unjust as to forget your work and the love which you showed for His sake in serving the saints..." (Heb. 6:10).

*Only Creator, with wisdom profound, You mercifully order all things,
and give that which is needed to all men:*

*Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Your servants who have fallen asleep,
for they have placed their trust in You, our Maker and Fashioner, and our God*

Troparion - Tone 8

*With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Your servants,
where there is neither sickness nor sorrow, and no more sighing,
but life everlasting.*

Kontakion - Tone 8

See us on the web at:

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Sunday Bulletin

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Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

*I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me.*

Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal:

*"I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father;
receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants."*

Kontakion - Sunday of the Prodigal Son

On this day the Church remembers:

Sunday of the Prodigal Son • St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381)

- St. Aleksey (Alexius), Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1378)
- St. Meletius, Archbishop of Kharkov (1840) • Ven. Mary (who was called Marinus), and her father, Ven. Eugene, at Alexandria (6th c.) • St. Anthony, Patriarch of Constantinople (895) • St. Kristo the Gardener (Albania—1752) • The "IVERON" (IBERIAN) Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.

February 12, 2012

Tone 2 of the Octoechos.
Triodion week 2

35th Sunday after Pentecost