

Pre-Lent:

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is itself preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of *Pre Lent* comes with the Gospel reading about **Zacchaeus** the tax-collector who "*sought to see who Jesus was*"

Last Sunday was that of the **Publican and the Pharisee**, where we are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, and to beg for mercy.

This Sunday, in preparation for Great Lent, is the Sunday of the **Prodigal Son**. Hearing the parable of Christ about God's loving forgiveness, we are called 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 movement of *return to God*. We are given every assurance by the Master that the 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 (Lk 15:11-24).

(From the Rainbow Series)

See us on the web at:
ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin.html
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On this day the Church remembers:

Sunday of the Prodigal Son • St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily (ca. 780) • Venerable Agathon the Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (FarCaves 13th-14th c.) • Beheading of Ven. Cornelius, Abbot of the Pskov Caves (1570) • Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth) the Bishop of Persia (342-344) • 128 Martyrs in Persia (342-344) • St Agathon the Pope of Rome (682)

*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 - Tone 3. Prodigal)

February 20, 2011 **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

Triodion week 2 | Tone 6 of the Octoechos. | 39th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:**

Anna Berniche - who is very ill and is the sister of Bill Kuzemchak

Andrew Romanofsky - on his birthday as offered by his family.

Readings:

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

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:

9:40 AM - **Hours**

10:00 AM - **Divine Liturgy**

Church School - 9:45 am (9:30 starting next week)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

Saturday March 5, 10:00 - Liturgy, Commemoration of the Deceased

Announcements:

- **At the annual parish meeting, new officers were elected to the Parish Council.** We would like to congratulate:
Holly Dawson, Parish Council President
Paul Jankowski, Parish Council Vice-president
Tamara Zimmerman, Parish Council Secretary
Linda Dantine, Parish Council Assistant Secretary
Andrew Romanofsky, Parish Council Treasurer
- As we discussed at the parish meeting, **next Sunday we will begin Church School at 9:30, in order to have the Divine Liturgy begin at 10 am.** We will be doing this on a trial basis to see if it works out better for everyone involved. Please refer to the bulletin for further notice about this.
- **Dues and assessments** are starting to be collected for the year 2011, **Total is \$175.** (\$30 dues, \$145 assessment)
- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored;** this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- **Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Special Announcements:

- Today and throughout Lent, there will be a **special collection after the sermon.** This collection is for **Plaschinitza Flowers** and for Pascha basket raffle items.
- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will have a **luncheon on February 27, Meatfare Sunday. Cost is \$5 at the door.** Invite your friends and family.
- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will also have a **luncheon on March 6, Cheesefare Sunday. Cost is \$5 at the door.** Again, invite your friends and family.
- **Sign-up sheets for luncheon food donations are posted.**