

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For Health of:****Robert** Freed on his birthday, brother-in-law of Lore Stefy.**Andrew** Romanofsky on his birthday, offered by his family.**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.'"

Saturday service: Vespers – Will resume in March..**Sunday service:****Hours** – 9:40 AM**Divine Liturgy** – 10:00 AM**Private Confession** – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.**General Confession** – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month**Pannikhidas** – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month**Coffee hour** – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room**Church School** - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.****Announcements:**

- **There will be a meeting of the Parish Council today after coffee hour.**
- **Reader Charles** has accepted the call to serve with an **OCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 16 to July 1, 2014. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. The cost of the trip is \$3,500. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so.
- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God is sponsoring two upcoming luncheons. **A Meatfare luncheon** will be held on **February 23rd**. The luncheon will feature Italian specialties. **A Cheesefare luncheon**, featuring dairy specialties including blini, will be held on **March 2nd**. Cost of each luncheon will be \$10.00. Children under 12 are free.
- **Home Blessings** – There is a sign-up sheet at the candle stand to inform Father that you wish to have your home blessed. Home blessings will be done in March. Father will contact you to arrange a date and time.

Special Announcements:

- 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
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2014. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.

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).

(From the Rainbow Series)

Gospel parables:

Since the time of the primitive Christian Church, parable has been the term for a story told by the Lord Jesus Christ to illustrate His teaching. The Greek root-word, *parabole*, means *comparison*. So a parable is a spiritual lesson of a story developed by comparison to everyday life. The Lord's parables draw memorable details from nature, human, social, economic, or religious life of His time. Characteristically, all oral teachers of the eastern east of mind teach by comparisons and riddles, using homely images to stir curiosity and reflection. So His parables use images from life in this world to discover spiritual truth.

The Savior also told sacred insights in parables for three practical reasons:

- First, His parables were hard for many listeners to grasp, but His listeners could recall the vivid details from ordinary life long enough to discover the wisdom behind the allegory.
- Second, the Lord Jesus Christ told parables to make men expect a double meaning, and to make them want to discover the fullness of the divine plan for their conversion. Because the Church and Kingdom that our Lord founded differ so sharply from the Jewish expectation of the Messiah at that time, that the Lord's teaching had to be cautious and indirect. His parables use allegory to compare the recognizable world to the start, development, mixed character, and final triumph of Church and Kingdom. What may seem simple to us, of course, was a intriguing riddle to His contemporaries.
- And third, the Lord used the parable format because His followers could not readily forget or misinterpret the commonplace images. The parable format preserves the purity of Christ's teaching in distinct but evocative images.

(From: Gospel parables, an Orthodox commentary by Fr. Victor Potapov)



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Sunday Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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**Glory to
Jesus Christ!**



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**Glory
Forever!**

*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 -

Today the Church remembers:

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

- **St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan** (1912) • Martyrs Pamphilius—Presbyter, Valens—Deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Cæsarea in Palestine (307-309) • **St. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis in Mesopotamia** (422) • **Persian Martyrs in Martyropolis in Mesopotamia** (4th c.)

February 16, 2014

**34th Sunday After Pentecost
Triodion week 2**

Tone 1 of the Octoechos
3rd Sunday before Lent