

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

Hayden and Savannah Golden on their birthdays, offered by the Dawson family.

Audrey Searfoorce on her birthday, offered by her family.

Andrew Romanofsky on his birthday, offered by the Romanofsky family.

Emily on her 3rd birthday, offered by her family.

David Searfoorce on his birthday, offered by the Searfoorce family.

Readings:

I Corinthians 6:12-20 (*Prodigal Son, 3rd Sunday before lent*)

Luke 15:11-32 (*Prodigal Son, 3rd Sunday before lent*)

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 – 6:30 PM

(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)

(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

All classes will meet every Sunday.

Grades 5-8 – 9:30 am

Preschool and Grades K through 4 – immediately after communion.

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

Announcement:

- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2020. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- The **annual meeting of the parishioners will be today**, after coffee hour. The meeting is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, and for the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting. Although all are welcome to attend the meeting, only parishioners who have paid their 2019 dues and assessments, can vote, nominate, or run for office.
- The Sisterhood is sponsoring **two pre-Lenten luncheons** for **Meatfare** Sunday, February 23rd and **Cheesefare** Sunday, March 1st. The cost of each luncheon is \$5.00 per adult, payable on the day of the luncheon. Children 12 and under are free. Anyone wishing to contribute a dish for the luncheons should use the sign-up sheets in the community room.
- The **annual Paschal basket raffle will be held on April 5th**. Tickets for the raffle are \$1.00 each and can be obtained from Maribeth Romanofsky. Each parishioner is asked to sell ten tickets. If you'd like to contribute an item for the basket, there is a sign-up sheet on the community bulletin board.
- **Two Paschal baskets for children** will be raffled off on April 12th. Children can earn tickets for this raffle by attendance at church and Sunday School during Lent.

Reminders:

- We offer general confession the first Sunday of each month, and Private Confession after Vespers by appointment on Saturday evenings. It is important that every Orthodox Christian go to confession.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.
- Prospora (bread) is available at the candle stand. Before the Divine Liturgy, while the Hours are being read, the faithful can have the bread sent into the altar with a list of names for prayers of health and salvation for the living and for the repose of the departed servants of God. (Bread must be purchased a week in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.)

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.

To read more about the saints remembered today, see: <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2020/02/16>

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

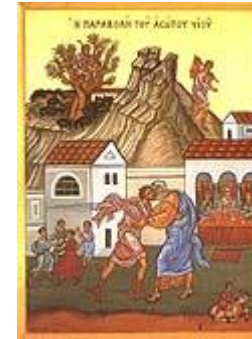
Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Glory to
Jesus Christ

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 - Tone 3

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 Caesarea in Palestine (307-309) • St. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (422) • Persian Martyrs in Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (4th c.)

February 16, 2020

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Triodion week 2

Tone 2 of the Octoechos