

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For eternal memory of:**

**Pauline** Prinz, offered by her daughters Nelly Freed and Lore Stefy

**Anthony** Jankowski, offered by his parents Paul and Linda

**Readings:**

- **1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Sunday of 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 – 6:30 PM****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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month**

**Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room**

**Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)**

**Pre-school class meets immediately after the Liturgy every Sunday.**

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

**Announcements:**

- **The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioners** will be held today right after coffee hour. The annual meeting of the parishioners is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, reports by the Rector and Council members, and for other business. Please contact Trudy Ellmore, the Council President, if you have an item that you want included on the agenda or if you plan to nominate someone for a Parish Council position.
- The Sisterhood is sponsoring **two pot luck luncheons this month, one on Meatfare Sunday, Feb. 15, and one on Cheesefare Sunday, Feb. 22.** The cost of the luncheons will be \$5.00 each. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs to let the Sisterhood know what you are bringing to the luncheons.
- **Home Blessings** – There is a sign-up sheet at the candle stand to inform Father that you wish to have your home blessed this year.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)
- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored;** this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.

**Venerable Romanus the Melodist, “Sweet-Singer”:**

Saint Romanus the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

St Romanus was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanus, which devastated him.

On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.

That evening at the all-night Vigil St Romanus sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: “*Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One...*” All the hymns of St Romanus became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin’s scroll. St Romanus was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, “oikos”).

For his zealous service St Romanus was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanus the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.

**Return to the Father (Sunday of the Prodigal Son) - 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF PREPARATION:**

The Gospel reading of this day (Luke 15:11-32) gives us the second theme of Lent and repentance: that of the **return to God**. It is not enough to acknowledge sins and to confess them. Repentance remains fruitless without the desire and decision to change life, **to go back to God**, to begin the movement of ascension and purification. We must realize that we have lost our spiritual beauty and purity and we must want to recover them: “... *I shall return to the compassionate Father crying with tears: Receive me as one of Thy servants.*” At Matins we sing Psalm 137: “*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion ... If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.*” The Christian remembers and knows that he has lost communion with God, the peace and the joy of His Kingdom, the purity of the new life. For he was baptized, introduced into the Body of Christ, but his sins have driven him away from God. Repentance, therefore, is this desire to **return to God**, a movement of love and trust.

See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God***"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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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 • Afterfeast of the Meeting**

- Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates (“the General”—319) • Prophet Zachariah (ca. 520 B.C.) • St. Sava II, Archbishop of Serbia (1269)

February 8, 2015

35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Tone 2 of the Octoechos

Triodion week 2