

# SS. PETER AND PAUL

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**Gospel Reading ~ Luke 15:11-32**

**Epistle Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

***Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple***

*This Week at a Glance*

**Sat, Feb 10th**

6:00 pm - Great Vespers  
& Confession

**Sun, Feb 11th**

Meatfare Sunday

9:00 am - The Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Sunday School

Mazlenitsa

## **Lenten Pierogi Dinners**

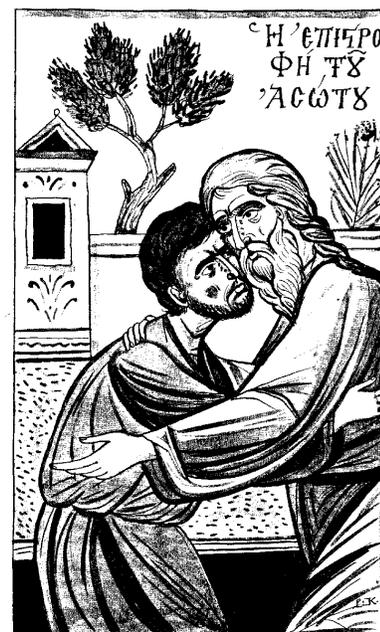
Our parish is offering Lenten Pierogi Dinners Friday Nights during Lent. February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th & 16th. 4:30-7pm. Dine in or take out. \$10 per dinner. Includes Pierogis, Cabbage & Noodles, Green Beans & bread. Soup, desert and a la carte items will be available as well. Tell your friends! If you're coming to Presanctified Liturgy on Friday Evening, be sure to stop downstairs to place your to-go order that you can pick up after the service.

## **Gospel Meditation**

Brethren! Today's Gospel reading reveals how the heavenly Father acts toward us. He does not bind us to Himself by force if we, having a depraved and ungrateful heart, do not want to live according to His commandments, but He allows us to depart from Him, and to know by experience how dangerous it is to live according to the will of one's heart, to know what an agonizing lack of peace and tranquility tries the soul, devoted to passions, by what shameful food it is nourished. For what can be more shameful than the food of the passions? God forbid that anyone remain forever in this separation from God. To be far from God is true and eternal perdition. They that remove themselves from Thee shall perish (Ps. 72:27), says the holy king and prophet David. It is necessary without fail to turn from the pernicious way of sin towards God with the whole heart. Let everyone be assured that God will see his sincere conversion, will meet him with love, and will receive him, as before, as one of His children.

Have you sinned? Say in you heart with full determination, I will arise and go to my Father, and in fact, go to Him. And just as you manage to say these words in your heart; just as you decide firmly to live according to His will, He will immediately see that you are returning to Him. He is always not far from every one of us (Acts 17:27), and will immediately pour His peace into your heart. It will be suddenly so light and pleasant for you, as it is, for example, for a bankrupt debtor when they forgive his debts, or as pleasant as it is to a poor man whom they suddenly dress in fine clothes or offer a seat at a rich table.

- St. John of Kronstadt



## **Mazlenitsa**

This year's Mazlenitsa will be held on Meat Fare Sunday, Feb. 11th after Divine Liturgy. Meal is Chicken Paprikash. \$15 per adult. Children are free and will have a children's menu. See one of the Sams to reserve your seats.

## **New Catechumens**

Next Sunday, God willing, we will make 3 new members into the rank of Catechumen. Annette Kunakowsky, Riah Yusoff and Andrew Sterling will each take this initial step towards full reception into the Orthodox Church. Great Lent is a special time each year to focus our prayers for the Catechumen and to ask God for His mercy on them and their reception into the Church. Prayers will start at 9:15. Please arrive a little early to be there and show your support for them.

## **Pierogi Making Sign-up**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for our upcoming pierogi making days. These pierogi will supply our Lenten Pierogi Dinners, which is a big fundraiser for our parish. Please sign up and help make this year a success.

## **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.

## **St. George, Great Prince of Vladimir**

Holy Great Prince George was a son of Great Prince Vsevolod, nicknamed "Big Nest." He was born in the year 1189, and he assumed the great princely throne of Vladimir in 1212. He was distinguished for his military valor and his piety. In the year 1237 the Tatar (Mongol) Horde of Batu descended upon the Russian land. Saint George was compelled to leave the capital city in charge of his sons, and went north to meet up with the other princes.



On March 4, 1238 the Battle at the River Sita was fought, in which the Tatars destroyed the small but valiant company of the Great Prince. The saint himself fell in this fight, and Bishop Cyril buried his body at the Rostov cathedral. Two years later, it was transferred to Vladimir's Dormition cathedral with great solemnity.

The Church glorification of the saint occurred in 1645.

