

Today's Scripture Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with 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, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

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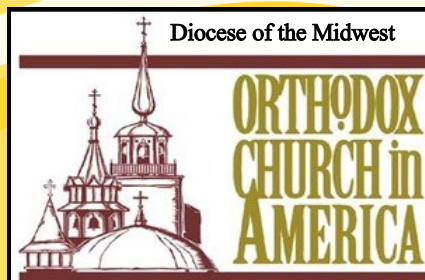
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Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

March 3, 2024

Tone 6



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

*Ss. Eutropius, Cleonicus, and
Basiliscus of Amasea*

Divine Liturgy Readings

(Readings on Back)

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6:12-20
- ◆ Luke 15:11-32

Announcements:

Lenten Pierogi Dinners Prep

We will be making pierogis tomorrow Monday, March 4th at 2pm. Hopefully we get enough help to make this our only prep day for our dinners on March 8 & 22. If you can help we would appreciate it.

Mazlenitsa

Mazlenitsa is a celebration meal on the last day that meat is allowed until Pascha, known as Meatfare Sunday. Every year we have a lunch following liturgy. This years culinary theme is Mexican. Sunday, March 10. Cost is \$15 per person. Please see Sam Jacob or Fr Joseph to RSVP

Sunday of Orthodoxy

We will once again participate in a Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 24th. The Sunday Liturgy will take place at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 2000 Tower Blvd in Lorain. 9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy. At the conclusion of the Liturgy we will have the Procession of Icons and a Lenten meal. This is a great opportunity to see our fellow Orthodox Christians in Lorain! (This will be in place of Liturgy here at Ss Peter & Paul)

Flowers

The flower arrangement is given in memory of

Martin & Olga Levak

by their children Barb, John and Pat.

May the Kingdom of Heaven be theirs and may their memory be eternal!

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 4

2:00pm - Pierogi Making

Saturday, March 9

NO VESPERS

Sunday, March 10

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Mazlenitsa

**There is more mercy
in God...**



**Than there are sins
in us. Confess your
sins at once, whatever
they may be.**

~ St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

On Today's Gospel Reading

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee through Great and Holy Saturday. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads Orthodox Christians to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

In the words of our Lord, we learn three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope. The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

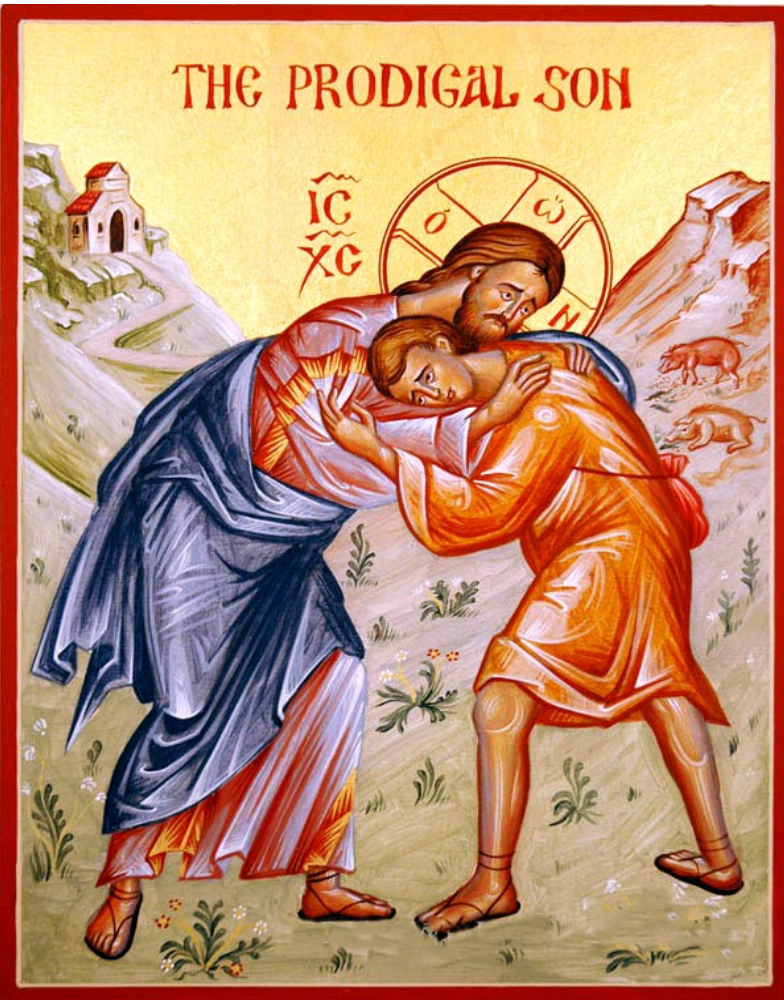
Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God's divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland. This is why in the Slavic tradition of the Orthodox Church the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles states: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137).

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual

beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

The icon of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son shows the prodigal being received by his father upon his return. We are presented with an image of a warm and loving embrace, the son showing his need for his father, an attitude that represents repentance, love, and hope for renewal and restoration. The father, sometimes portrayed as our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, is shown full of compassion for his son, having born the burden of his sin and suffering, but now filled with joy that he has returned.

For the week that follows the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, fasting is observed on Wednesday and Friday. This is the last week that meat is allowed on non-fasting days. The next Sunday is the Sunday of the Last Judgment, also known as Meatfare Sunday. It is the last day that meat can be eaten prior to the fast of Great Lent.



Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus of Amasea

The brothers Eutropius and Cleonicus, and Basiliscus (the nephew of the Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit) were comrades. After the martyrdom of St Theodore, they wound up in prison because of their Christian Faith.

Knowing the friends of St Theodore were all in prison, the governor commanded that they be brought to him. The 3 firmly confessed their faith in Christ before the governor, and were mercilessly beaten.

As he was being tortured St. Eutropius prayed loudly to the Savior, "Grant us, O Lord, to endure these wounds for the sake of the crown of martyrdom, and help us, as You helped Your servant Theodore." The Lord Himself appeared to the martyrs with His angels and St Theodore.

Soldiers and many of the people standing nearby were also granted to behold the Savior. They stopped the tortures because bystanders were distraught and ready to believe in the true God. The governor then invited Eutropius to supper and urged him to offer public sacrifice to the pagan gods, yet remain a Christian in soul. Eutropius refused this offer.

On March 3, Eutropius & Cleonicus were crucified, but Basiliscus was left in prison until he was executed on May 22 in the city of Komana. They beheaded him, and threw his body into a river, but Christians found his relics and buried them in a ploughed field. Later at Komana a church was built and dedicated to Saint Basiliscus.



Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Chris, Marianne,
Dan, Rick,
Mat. Nadean
Mat. Krystyna
Mat. Kathy

Departed:

Paula (Seraphima)

Tall Candles

Tall Candles are given by

Betty Yepko

In memory of

**Richard, Joseph
and Mary Yepko**

May their memory be eternal!

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday, March 4

St. James the Faster
1 John 2:18-3:10
Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday, March 5

St. Mark the Faster, of Egypt
1 John 3:11-20
Mark 14:10-42

Wed, March 6

Ven. Arcadius of Cyprus
1 John 3:21-4:6
Mark 14:43-15:1

Thurs, March 7

Ven. Paul the Simple
1 John 4:20-5:21
Mark 15:1-15

Friday, March 8

KURSK-ROOT Icon of the
Mother of God
2 John 1:1-13
Mark 15:22-25, 33-41

Saturday, March 9

40 Martyrs of Sebaste
1 Cor. 10:23-28
Luke 21:8-9, 25-36

FRIDAY NIGHT

LENTEN PIROGHI DINNERS

Friday March 8th & March 22nd | 4:30 - 7:00 PM



SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

2238 East 32nd Street | Lorain, OH 44053

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH

Eat In or Carry Out

- 6 Piroghis w/ Cabbage & Noodles and Cole Slaw: \$11
- Lenten Soup (Large Cup): \$4
- Baked Goods: Assorted Prices
- Cabbage & Noodles: \$5/container

FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND

Eat In or Carry Out

- 6 Piroghis w/ Cabbage & Noodles and Cole Slaw: \$11
- Lenten Soup (Large Cup): \$4
- Baked Goods: Assorted Prices
- Cabbage & Noodles: \$5/container
- Stuffed Cabbage (pre-order only): \$24/Dozen or \$2/each

To place an order for stuffed cabbage or to pre-order dinners:

Do not call the Church - please send email to orders@orthodoxlorain.org
You will get a confirmation.

PRE-ORDERS FOR
STUFFED CABBAGE
DUE BY 3-18-24

