

Scripture Readings

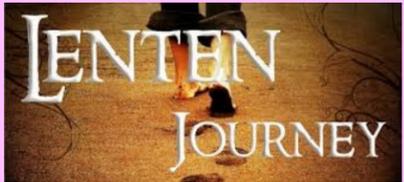
EPISTLE First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20 Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The 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.

GOSPEL Luke 15:11-32 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.'"



First Saturday of Souls
February 18, 2017
Orthros 8:30 AM,
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

The first of three Saturday of Souls, as the Church reminds us that for those who have been faithful life is not ended, only changed - is this coming Saturday. Prayer sheets for those for whom you wish to be remembered are on the candle stand. One day, we and they will share the brightness of the Resurrection!



Preparing for the Great Fast

Next Sunday (the Sunday of the Last Judgment) is Meatfare Sunday, the last day meat or meat products may be eaten until Holy Pascha. This is a good week to supply your kitchen with "fasting foods." Remember, fasting is a discipline that not only cleanses our bodies, but reminds us of the most important priority of our life: the purification of our heart and soul. Plan to keep the Great Fast as the Church prescribes it. It is a powerful spiritual tool.

Gospel Reflection: Taking that Long, Hard, Look Into Our Soul



The parable of the prodigal son offers a number of important spiritual lessons about sin, forgiveness, the love of a father, and a regretful older brother. It is also a metaphor for the healing and cure of the human soul. The prodigal started out where he belonged, with his father in a blessed place, wanting for nothing. Foolishly, he willfully left home to satisfy his own ego needs and pleasures. This is the paradigm for every person, who by sin leaves the union with God in Paradise, to pursue his own pleasures, fantasies, and wants. After a period of utter waste that left him broken, filthy, and among pigs, the prodigal son "came to himself" and finally realized that he squandered his blessings, and that there was nothing the world could give him that compared to the happiness and oneness he had enjoyed with his father. When St. Luke uses the phrase "came to himself," he means the son took a deep, long and honest look into his heart and soul -

and made the decision to return home. Such is the nature of sin, which fractures our relationship with God, takes us away from oneness with Him, and reveals that all is not well with our soul. The father sees his son returning from afar and runs to greet him, with no questions, no lectures, and no recrimination - just outstretched arms and a loving embrace. This is how it is with the healing of our own soul. We must, like the prodigal, realize how we are broken, tending to squander the good and beautiful gifts from above in the pursuit of pleasure, power, or ego. We must look around and come to the realization expressed by St. Augustine: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee!" The healing and cure of our souls is our ultimate work as Orthodox Christians. We must look honestly into our hearts and actions, and see that daily, in so many ways, we "leave home from God" to follow our own egotistical pursuits. In so doing, we estrange ourselves ever more from Him, and follow the certain path to sadness, regret, discouragement, and eventual spiritual numbness. As in the parable, the Father stands ready to receive us back, lovingly and mercifully. His indwelling image deep in our hearts calls to us again and again: "Come home, my son!" "Come home, my daughter!" "Come home, my child!" Let us use the coming Lent to look seriously, deeply, and with honesty into our hearts and at our actions, for all the many places we run away from God. Let us look to the aching, the hunger, and the nameless yearning in our hearts. What does it tell you? Pick yourself up from the ground and run with all your might back to the Father, whose mercy yearns to enfold you.

For Their Blessed Repose



Evangelia Vittas (1 Year)
John Nicholas Deoudes (3 Years)
Konstantinos Athanasopoulos (4 Years)
Lambros Lois (5 Years)
Chrysoula Tiwari (6 Years)
Dionysios Zisimos (11 Years)
Ioannis Zisimos (15 Years)
Georgia Athanasopoulou (19 Years)

Offered by their loving families.
Eternal be their memosy!

For Their Health and Salvation

His Eminence Metropolitan +Panteleimon; His Eminence Archbishop +Pavlos of Aleppo and His Eminence Mar +Gregorios Ioanna of Aleppo, who were kidnapped; persecuted Christians of the Middle East, the Nun Theodora, Sally Katson, George, Betty Jean Dubard, Aris Peterson, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Despina Bayz, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Joy Kizzie, Lori, Peter, Marie Burpeau, Bill Pastis, Frosso Malavakis, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, George, Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; Lynne; Selena Pappas, George, Andrianna, Michalis, Kosma, Yianni, Alfred Q., Staff Sergeant Nicholas Comas.

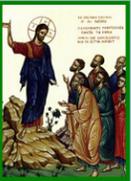


Fasting is An Expression of Love

Fasting is an expression of love and devotion, in which one sacrifices earthly satisfaction to attain heavenly glory. Altogether too much of one's thoughts are taken up with care for sustenance and the enticements of the palate, from which one wishes to be free. Fasting is the necessary step on the road of spiritual emancipation, and an indispensable support in the struggle against selfish desires. Together with prayer, fasting is one of humanity's greatest gifts, carefully cherished by those who once have participated in it. Here we find the reason that fasting is often used as a measuring stick by the Holy Fathers: He who fasts much is he who loves much, and he who has loved much is forgiven much (Luke 7:47). He who fasts much also receives much. (The Way of the Ascetics)



BIBLE STUDY: Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. We are examining the second half of the Gospel of St. Luke (Chapter 12 and following). All are invited, even if you missed the first half! It's an excellent way to prepare for Great Lent.



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS 2016-2017: "Modern Trials to Our Ancient Faith: The Challenges to Living Orthodoxy in America," is offered every Sunday through May 14 starting 11:30 AM in the Church library. Contact Michael Haldas at Michael.haldas@verizon.net for additional information.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

GODPARENT/GODCHILD LUNCHEON: Today, in the Grand Hall, following Divine Liturgy. Music and dancing! Adults \$20; children 3-12, \$12; children under 3 eat free. If you have not reserved seats in advance, please see Fran Solovieff or Maria Campbell for any available seats.

PHILOPTOCHOS: February Chapter meeting, Feb. 13 at 7:00 PM, in the Church Library. Please note date/night change from our typical 2nd Tuesday of the month due to various scheduling issues. Philoptochos is Philanthropy - Fellowship - Faith in Action! 2017 Membership Drive is underway! Information has been mailed to all parish households. Stewardship/Membership Forms are available on our Bulletin Board. Philoptochos will be hosting our Sunday fellowship coffee hours during the month of February. On Feb. 26, we will host a special fellowship hour in honor of our membership drive.

APOKRIATIKO GLENDI: Feb. 24, 7:00 PM. Hosted by the St. George Greek School. This wonderful family event includes DJ music, dinner, soft drinks; and cash bar – and a costume contest at 8:30 PM. Children 2 and under eat free, all others \$15. Purchase your tickets now at https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=134;new_individual

GREEK PRESCHOOL: St. George Greek Preschool will soon open for registration for 2017-2018. This year, the school is proud to offer a wide variety of classes to children from 18 months to 5 years of age. The hours are 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Registration for current families will take place between February 13-24; new families from February 27-March 3.

GOYA: Sights and Sounds Arts Festival, March 11 & 12. All 7th -12th grade youth are encouraged to share their talents through a wide use of creative media, including painting, photography, music, dance, drama, writing and much more. Register online and indicate for which categories you are submitting, and whether as a group or individual: http://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=111 – For more information contact Nicole Averinos at stgsightsandsounds@gmail.com



**Kindly do not discard this Bulletin in the pew when you leave.
Take it home to remind you during the week of the spiritual teachings of this Sunday,
the Lord's day!**



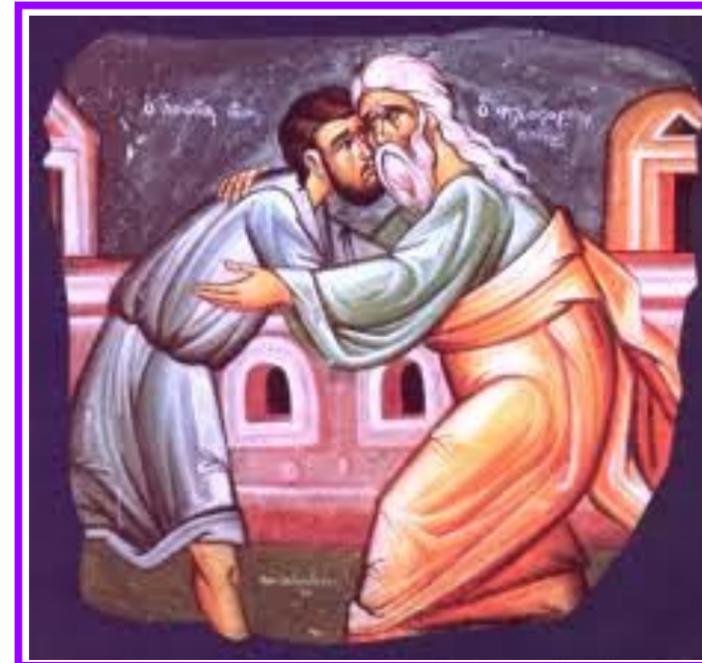
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SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

**ST. MELETIOS
ARCHBISHOP OF ANTIOCH**

“O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants. “

(Kontakion of the Prodigal Son)

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 1

Though the stone of Thy Tomb was sealed by the Judeans, and while the soldiers were guarding Thy sacred body. On the third day, O Saviour, Thou didst rise granting to the world the gift of life. Wherefore Thou o giver of Life, the Hosts of heaven did laud Thee. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ; Glory to Thy Kingdom; Glory to Thy Providence; Thou alone art friend of man.

Apolytikion of St. George

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

Ἀπολυτίκιον

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.