

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

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Protodeacon George Moubayed, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

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Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri

THE PRODIGAL SON



FEBRUARY 20, 2022

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

**LEO, BISHOP OF CATANIA IN SICILY; VENERABLE VISSARION THE GREAT
OF EGYPT; AGATHON, POPE OF ROME**

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection, in the Second Tone: When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion to St. Mark in the Fourth Tone: From thy childhood the light of truth enlightened thee, O Mark, and thou didst love the labor of Christ the Savior. Wherefore thou didst follow Peter with zeal and didst serve Paul as a fellow laborer and didst enlighten the world with thy holy Gospel.

Clergy: **Kontakion of the Prodigal Son in the Third Tone:** When I disobeyed in ignorance Thy Fatherly glory, I wasted in iniquities the riches that Thou gavest me. Wherefore, I cry to Thee with the voice of the prodigal son, saying, "I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; receive me repentant, and make me one of Thy hired servants.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 32.22, 1) Tone 1: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading from Saint Paul's First Epistle 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.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 17.48, 51) Tone 1: It is God who grants me vengeance; and has subdued peoples under me. God magnifies the salvation of his king and shows mercy to His anointed one!

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke 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 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.'"

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Holy Oblations are offered today Michael and Charlotte Khoury for the soul of her departed father, Salim and for the health and salvation of their family.

Coffee Hour today is given by the Coffee Hour Committee

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Please remember in your prayers: Yuri Sidorenko, Therese Joubran, May Dabbah, Sylvia Saba, Tarek Fakhouri, Adib and Nabila Zabaneh, Fouad and Mary Farraj (kidney transplant), Laura Anter (brain surgery), Tony Rodriguez (shoulder surgery) and the suffering people of Haiti, India, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted by violence and disease, especially those affected by the Coronavirus.

Today

Confession for Church School grades 1 & 2 today after Liturgy.

Please make sure to pick up your 2022 calendar from the table by the bookstore.

House Blessings: If you would like your home blessed, please contact Fr Michael at frmlaffoon@gmail.com, or in person during coffee hour to make an appointment.

This Week

We fast on Wednesday and Friday (regular fastng week)

Tuesday February 22, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education

Wednesday February 23, 7:00 p.m. Little Compline

**Saturday February 26, Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
(Orthros 8:45 a.m.)**

Next week

Sunday February 27, Meat Fare Sunday: the last day to eat meat, and meat products. **Confession for Church School grades 9 - 12.**

February 28 – March 6 Cheese Week. *In the last week before Great Lent we are to fast from meat and all meat products every day. All other foods are allowed.*

Tuesday March 1, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education

Wednesday March 2, 7:00 p.m. Little Compline

Quote from the Saints

"Try to fill your soul with Christ so as not to have it empty. Your soul is like a cistern full of water. If you channel the water to the flowers, that is, to the virtues, you will experience true joy and all the thorns of evil will wither away. But if you channel the water to the weeds, these will grow and choke you and all the flowers will wither."

Elder Porphyrios

Today's Commemoration Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Saviour has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition -- inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries --

we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.

BUY SCRIP: *Our Ladies Guild buys scrip from many and various stores and restaurants (see list included in this bulletin) at a 3 to 10% discount. When you buy the scrip, which is accepted just like cash at the issuing store, the parish benefits. You pay no more for these goods and services and are making a donation to our parish. You can purchase this scrip from Saeda Turk on Sundays or use the new mobile app, RaiseRight by ShopWithScrip, is simply the right way to fundraise. Just make sure to choose "E-Gift Card" and you will have it in your email in less than a minute. Let's start shopping and earning money for your favorite church, St Mark Irvine! Get the app: <https://www.raiseright.com/> USE THE ENROLLMENT CODE LFA187LD11116*