

WEEKLY BULLETIN

February 28, 2021

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son



St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*



...for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Today, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, is the 2nd Pre-Lenten Sunday. Like the Prodigal Son who “came to himself” and returned to his father, we are reminded that the purpose of Lent is to return to God in repentance.

2nd Pre-Lenten Sunday

38th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Saturday, February 27

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 28

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

SATURDAY OF MEATFARE

Friday, March 5

6:00 pm Vespers of Meatfare Saturday

Panakhida for All the Faithful Departed

3rd Pre-Lenten Sunday

MEATFARE SUNDAY – Tone 6 – Sunday of the Last

Judgment

Saturday, March 6

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

GOSPEL OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke15:11-32

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² 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. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with [Ⓛ]prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the [Ⓛ] pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*. ¹⁷ "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! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' "

²⁰ "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. ²¹ 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.'²² "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. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

25 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 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.' 28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 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. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' 31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 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.' "

From beginning to end the Lenten services of the Church call us to return to God our Father. Our hearts are made for God, St. Augustine has said, and we will forever be restless until we rest in Him. Our lives are made for God, and we will be unfulfilled and dissatisfied and frustrated until we go to Him. Nothing in this world will truly satisfy us and bring us peace. God alone can do that, because He alone is our home. And we are His.

The Lenten season is the time for our conscious return to our true home. It is the time set aside for us to come to ourselves and to get up and go to the divine reality to which we belong.

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING

1Corinthians 6:12-20

¹² All things are lawful for me, but all things are not ^ahelpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of ^bany. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. ¹⁵ 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! ¹⁶ 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." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is ^coutside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body ^dand in your spirit, which are God's.

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God, for I have profaned my soul with shameful sins, and I have wasted my life in laziness. But by your intercessions, deliver me from all impurity.

UNIVERSAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DEAD

This coming Saturday, March 6, is Meatfare Saturday and the Church invites us to a universal commemoration of all those who have “fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection and life eternal.”

On Friday evening, MARCH 5, Vespers for the deceased will be celebrated at 6:00 pm followed by a Panakhida for all the faithful departed this life.

“To understand the meaning of the connection between Lent and the prayer for the dead, one must remember - Christianity is the religion of love. Christ left with His disciples not a doctrine of individual salvation but a new commandment *“that they love one another,”* and He added: *“By this shall all know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”* Love, thus, is the foundation, the very life of the Church which is, in the words of St. Ignatius of Antioch, *“unity of faith and love.”*

Sin is always the absence of love, and therefore separation, isolation, war of all against all. The new life given by Christ and conveyed to us by the Church is, first of all, a life of reconciliation, of **“gathering into oneness of those who are dispersed,”** the restoration of love broken by sin

But then how can we even begin our return to God and our reconciliation with Him if in ourselves we do not return to the unique new commandment of love?

Praying for the dead is the essential expression of the Church *as love*. We ask God to remember those whom we remember and we remember them because we love them. Praying for them we meet them in Christ Who is Love and Who, because He is Love, overcomes death which is the ultimate victory of separation and lovelessness. In Christ there are no living and no dead, because all are alive in Him. Loving Christ, we love all those who are in Him; loving those who are in Him, we love Christ.”

“Great Lent” Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

“PRAYERS FOR DEAD”

“With the souls of the righteous departed, give rest to the souls of Thy servants, O Savior; preserving them in the blessed life which is with Thee, Who lovest mankind.

In the place of Thy rest, O Lord, where all the saints repose, give rest to the souls of Thy servants; for Thou only lovest mankind.”

To have your loved ones prayed for during the Panakhida on Friday evening, March 5, and if you have **never** handed their names in before, or if you have new ones to add, please give them to Father Don before the Vesper Service.

You can give their names to Father this weekend at Vespers on Saturday or Divine Liturgy on Sunday, or email them to him at **prophetelia@sbcglobal.net**

REMEMBER THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr .Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravcenco. Son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Metropolitan Herman

Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)

Sandra Dodovich (mother of Tony Dodovich)

Phyllis George (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)

Angelo Lambo and Florence Lambo

Larissa Freude Newman

Reader William Paluch

Martin and Rose Marie Vronick

Matushka Myra Kovaiak and Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak

Matushka Christine Zebren;

Matushka Laryssa Huntyan

Saint Elia Prayer Group

The Goal

To draw nearer to Christ and one another during this Lenten Fast by praying the Psalms together as a community, as we journey together toward holy Pascha.

How It Works

The Orthodox Church has divided the book of Psalms into 20 sections. In our St. Elia prayer group, we will all be praying a new section each day throughout the 40 days of the fast, beginning on **March 15**, so that we all will pray through the entire book of Psalms *twice* during the course of the fast.

Added Bonus

As we all join together in prayer, we can use this opportunity to pray for one another, for our parish, and for any special intentions that any of us may have by sharing prayer requests with one another via email.

What You Need

Nothing more than a Bible and a little bit of time to set aside each day.

How Do I Join?

To learn more and sign up, please

visit <http://saintelia.com/news/lenten-prayer-group/> .

Spread the Word!

This does not need to be limited only to members of St. Elia. Pass along this information to friends and relatives elsewhere and invite them to join.

One Last Thing

May God bless us as we pray the Psalms together, and may He draw us nearer to Himself and to one another during this Lent. Have a blessed 40 days!

St. Elia Prayer Group

A ministry of [St. Elia Orthodox Church](#)

Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services

All services will continue to be *live streamed* by visiting our website www.saintelia.com.

In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan guidelines we all must follow these simple steps when attending:

- 1) If you or your family member is sick please stay home.
- 2) All must wear masks in church (disposable masks are provided in the vestibule).
- 3) Sanitize your hands before entering the church (sanitizer is located in the vestibule).
- 4) All are required to keep 6 feet social distancing. Pews are marked for available and not available seating.

5) Please... **THERE WILL BE NO GATHERING IN THE VESTIBULE, OFFICE OR PARISH HALL**

So sorry to say... but we cannot kiss the icons, cross, chalice, gospel book, and/or Father's hand.

Lastly, due to limited seating to ensure safe distancing and Diocesan Guidelines, parishioners must pre-register to attend liturgical services. Please call Fr. Don at 330-724-7009