



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 (609) 393-1234

Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi V. Rev. Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus

Website: [saintvladimir.org](http://saintvladimir.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666](https://www.facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666)

February 12, 2023

### Sunday of the Prodigal Son

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### Troparion – Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

##### Kontakion – Tone 3

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

##### Prokeimenon – Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

*V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*

#### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

##### 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.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

#### EPISTLE & GOSPEL 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.'"

## **SERVICES**

### **Service Schedule for the week of February 12**

**Sunday February 12** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by FOCA Club Breakfast Fundraiser in Daria Hall

**Saturday February 18** – *NO VESPERS WILL BE SERVED*

**Sunday February 19** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

### **Upcoming Holy Days**

**Monday February 27** – Beginning of Great Lent

## **DONATIONS**

### **Weekly Giving**

February 5 – 67 adults, 22 youth, \$2,117

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for House Blessing. If you would like Father to bless your home, please sign up and Father will contact you to schedule an appointment. House Blessings must be done prior to the start of Lent, which is February 27.

The Ladies Altar Society will have a meeting today in Daria Hall.

Please note that Father will not be serving Vespers next Saturday, February 18.

**Donations for the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska:** During the four Sundays in February, a collection basket will be behind the pews to collect donations for the struggling Alaska Diocese. Cash or checks (payable to St Vladimir Orthodox Church) will be accumulated, and one check for all donations collected will be sent to the Diocese at the end of the month from the parishioners of our church. **Envelopes for your donation will be available at the candle desk.** After February, parishioners may donate directly to the Diocese. Any questions please see Father Volodymyr or a member of the Parish Council.

Today is the last day to shop the Ladies Boutique in Daria Hall! Stop by to shop for Valentine's Day for the special lady in your life!

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! A camera will be set up in Daria Hall, and when you are in attendance with your family members please make a point to get your picture taken. John Cassar and Awet Tesfa are leading this project.

Gallons of spring water are needed for Coffee Hour. Please bring your donation of water to Daria Hall. The water is used for tea and coffee. Thank you!

Catechism classes are being held every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM in the church basement through March 16. Classes will be taught on a rotating schedule by Father Volodymyr, John Cassar, Herman Meyer, and Alan Berck. Everyone is invited to attend, but classes are mandatory for those wishing to convert to Orthodoxy. Classes will be finished before Pascha, at which time the Catechumens will schedule services to become Orthodox.

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Aidan Godun – February 14

Blake Kilgore – February 17

Luwam Tsegay – February 18

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

If you do not see your birthday listed above during your birthday week, please let Darice know and she will add it to the schedule!

## **COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE**

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not normally bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. The host/hostess is responsible for bringing whatever refreshments they wish to serve – if desserts are needed please let the Helper know ahead of time as there are desserts in the freezer that can be used. Host/Hostess is responsible for setting up in the morning starting at 9:00 AM, with guidance from the Helper, and for cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing and drying dishes, and taking out the trash. If you have any questions please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your Coffee Hour date. Thank you!

Feb. 12 FOCA Club Breakfast Fundraiser  
Feb. 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Darice Keyes  
Feb. 26 NO MEAT Sami Bachir, Awet Tesfa  
March 5 FAST Matthew & Nana Barrett, Darice Keyes  
Mar. 12 FAST Awet Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa  
Mar. 19 FAST Alan & Mimi Berck, Francine & Herman  
Mar. 26 FAST John Cassar, Nina Laushell  
April 2 FAST Anne Cheslock, Nancy Mitsos  
April 9 FAST Francine Brady, Herman Meyer, Alla Strauss  
April 16 PASCHA – No Coffee Hour  
April 23 Madeleine Sekulich, Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos  
April 30 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Awet Tesfa  
May 7 Betty Kavchok, Nancy Mitsos  
May 14 Nina Schmidt, Alla Strauss  
May 21 Aftan Chowansky, Nina Laushell  
May 28 Christina DiDonato, Francine Brady & Herman Meyer  
June 4 Darice Keyes, Nancy Mitsos  
June 11 Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell  
June 18 FAST Timothy & Valeria Srock, Awet Tesfa  
June 25 FAST Alla & Perry Strauss, Christine Waite  
July 2 Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Melody Stavisky