

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

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Sunday February 28, 2021 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 5. Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750). Bl. Nikolai, Fool-for-Christ at Pskov (1576). Hieromartyr Proterius, Patriarch of Alexandria (457). Hieromartyr Nestor, Bishop of Magydos in Pamphylia (250). Ven. Marina (Marana), Cyra (Kyra) and Domnica (Domnina), of Syria (ca. 450). Venerable Domnica (ca. 450). John Cassian the Roman (435). Deopeteruv Icon of the Mother of God (14th c.).

This Week's Schedule

Thursday 3/4 Study Group 10:00 a.m.

Saturday 3/6 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3/7 Meat fare Sunday of the Last Judgement

Hours 8:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Please Note Services will also stream Online

Reader Schedule

| DATE | 3RD HOUR | 6th Hour | EPISTLE |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Feb-28 | SCHOMORUCHA | PECK | LEWIS |
| Mar-7 | LEWIS | BUNITSKY | CAREY |

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 5 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

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

Tone 5 **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

You, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation
forever.
(Ps. 11:7)

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)

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.

Tone 5

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)

V. For You have said: Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)

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.’”

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week's Announcements

Family Promise Thank you to all six of our St. Michael's volunteers (and a special shout out to young Nadia) who prepared and delivered meals to our families in need in the Family Promise ministry last week. Your caring and generosity are very much appreciated by the families! There will be three more upcoming opportunities to serve in 2021 so no worries if you missed serving this time. Thank you all!

Study Group This past Thursday eight of us continued with Matthew chapter 19. In the coming weeks, our study of St. Matthew will bring us to our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. It will be great timing with the study of these particular gospel lessons given the Lenten season. Consider joining us during the Lenten season for our Thursday study group. We will continue to meet on Zoom at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

Sacraments for Those Staying Home Recognizing the need for many to quarantine due to the deadliness of the pandemic, Fr. Barnabas is available to meet individually on Wednesdays and Fridays to offer Confession and Communion for those still at home. Fr. Barnabas is also willing to meet in other creative ways, like on your porch, to assure everyone remains connected. Please email or call the office to set up a time for the Sacraments.

Great Lent to Begin Our Lenten journey will begin with Forgiveness Vespers on **Sunday, March 14th** following Liturgy. All should make a sincere effort to begin the Lenten season with this service and the "Mutual Rite of Forgiveness". On Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity, and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us. If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14-18)."

Memory Eternal! This past Tuesday Fr. Deacon James' mother, Alma, fell asleep in the Lord. May her memory be eternal! Please keep Fr. Deacon James and his family in your prayers.

Questions Everyone Should ask themselves Before coming to In-Person Worship: Do you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, and or trouble breathing? Persistent pain, pressure or tightness in chest? Any recent loss of taste/smell or gastrointestinal upset? Any contact with anyone with C-19? **If you answer YES to any of these questions you should stay at home.**

The Wisdom of Jude

The Epistle or Letter of Jude is the second-last book of the New Testament.

Consisting of a single chapter with 24 verses, this letter has a powerful impact for so brief a document. It was inspired by a crisis, and is not the kind of letter the author had intended to write before the crisis arose. Jude states that he had planned to write about "our common salvation."

In other words, the letter was to be a general description of the beliefs that all Christians hold. He says that he was "very eager" to send such a letter. So it must have been quite a crisis that compelled him to write in an altogether different way, urging his fellow believers to "contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

He then names the cause of the crisis: There are false teachers who have made their way, secretly, into the Church. These are not enemies from outside, putting forth theories about life and salvation that are different from those of the Church. These are people who are living, working and teaching among the believers and who "deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Jude offers three examples of what happens to those who "pervert the grace of God" as these false teachers do. First he describes those who were saved out of the land of Egypt in Moses' time. That deliverance was no guarantee of eternal salvation for people if they did not continue in faithfulness; Jude writes that God "afterward destroyed those who did not believe."

Next he describes angels who rebelled against God. They fell from their lofty position and now await a fearful judgment in the "nether gloom."

The third example is Sodom and Gomorrah, where immorality and unnatural lust led people to actions worthy of "a punishment of eternal fire."

Jude sees the false teachers' arrogant behavior as being just as dangerous as the rebellion and immorality he has described. He writes

that the Archangel Michael, when disputing with the devil, didn't presume to pronounce a "reviling judgment" on him, but left it to God. Unlike the archangel, these men "dare to revile whatever they do not understand." At the Eucharistic feast, they carouse and look after themselves rather than being peaceful and showing consideration for everyone.

This letter contains harsh condemnations. But Jude has seen the terrible effects of rebellion against God among his own people, in the churches established by the apostles. He calls on church members to be loving, and to convince, save, or have mercy on anyone they encounter. But they must also take care for their own salvation through prayer, building on their foundation of faith, keeping themselves in God's love, and waiting patiently for Christ's mercy.

This path to salvation is open to anyone; those who rebel are freely choosing not to take it and they know the consequences. Jude uses strong language and powerful images to help his readers choose to stay on the path.

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"The person who lives in love reaps the fruit of life from God, and while yet in this world, even now breathes the air of the resurrection."

St. Isaac the Syrian

"You must learn to suffer and bear—but do not view this as something 'endless and dreary,' here you are wrong: God sends many consolations, and you will know them again. You must learn to find joy in the midst of increasing doses of sorrow; thus you can save your soul and help others."

Father Seraphim Rose

Prayers for the Departed: Metropolitan Theodosius, Archbishop David, Mitred Archpriest Eugene Pianovich, Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Daniel Kovalak, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke Wales, Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, Stephanie Hojnicky, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest, Paula Daubert, Elizabeth Clause, Jamie Clause, David Telep

Prayers for Catechmens Kristin Mackenzie,, Andrew Ashton

| Date | <u>Service Duty</u> | <u>Church Cleaner</u> |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 28-Feb | Hojnicki/ Najemy | Baldychev/Shatley/Sylvest |
| 7-Mar | Telep/Baldychev | Sulpizi |
| 14-Mar | Bunitsky/Morjana | Riley |
| 21-Mar | Riley/ Riley | Bunitsky/Finck |

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

- Great Fast Begins.....March 15th**
- Holy Pascha..... May 2nd**
- Ascension.....June 10th**
- Pentecost.....June 20th**