

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



Icon of the Prodigal Son

January 31, 2010
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Tone 1

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1 – FEBRUARY 7

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS WITH LYRIA FOR THE FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY – FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6—FIRST ALL SOULS SATURDAY

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY WITH PANAKHYDA

6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7—SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

**SATURDAY / SUNDAY
9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY**

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS



Remember in your prayers





Please remember in your prayers those members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community. Remember especially the following: Katherine Andrus, Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Susie Boyko, Sonya Cronin, Helen Davis, Kimberly Hartman, Stephen Hricko, Bohdanchik James, Lorene Lagrone, Maria Laszok, Lesya Loznycky, Alice Melnyk, Gregorio Ortiz Peña, Sophia Skop and Sonya Villa Señor, Ariadna Wall. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone else who should be remembered.

“The Future Of Our Church Begins Today”

We are in the midst of St. Nicholas Eparchy's Ukrainian Catholic Appeal 2009-2010. Please receive this appeal warmly and kindly consider Bishop Richard's request. Our parish goal is \$5000.00. If each household were to donate 1% of its annual income or even \$250.00 we will be well on our way to achieving this goal.

Remember Those In The Armed Forces

Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving their countries in the Armed Forces: Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Elizabeth Heltsley, Oksanna Hirniak, Andrew Hrynkiv, Zenon and Susan Keske, Michael Lopes, Vasyl and Volodymyr Lylak, Paul Richelmi and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the Liturgies to Fr. James.



1st All Souls Saturday

This Saturday, February 6th is First All Souls Saturday. On that day, there will be a Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM for all our beloved departed followed by a Panakhyda. Please write the names of all those you wish to be remembered and place in the basket in the back of the church today.

Storage unit

"Thank You" to all the hard working volunteers that helped empty the storage unit. Fr. Joe's Villages is very greatful for the donation.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Preparations are underway for the celebration of our Parish's 50th anniversary. There is lots of work to be done in the way of planning, sending out of invitations and various other tasks.

Forgiveness Sunday

On Sunday, February 14th there will be a "Cheezy Potluck" following the 9:30 AM Liturgy. This is the last opportunity to enjoy dairy products before the Great Fast begins. Please bring a dish (ideally meatless) to share with others. (Please note: there are people in our community with severe and life-threatening allergies so please no nuts or mushrooms.) Immediately following the potluck we will celebrate Forgiveness Vespers in the church to open the Great Fast. This is a beautiful opportunity to begin the fast with mutual forgiveness.

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

During the Great Fast which begins on February 15th, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be offered on Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM. Each Friday following the Presanctified Liturgy there will be a Lenten Meal and a Spiritual Talk. We need volunteers to prepare the soup for the dates of 2/26, 3/12, 3/19, and 3/26. Please talk to Olena Bankston in order to volunteer.

Choir Practice

The Great Fast begins in 2 weeks and, as you know, our music rule changes. This is a good opportunity to have a few practices to better learn this music and to introduce some new easy music we can sing during the Great Fast. Our second practice will be this Saturday, Feb. 6 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. There will possibly be one more, perhaps on a Thursday. Music and binders will be provided. I do hope all of you can make them so we can be prepared for our Liturgies. This music will be easy to learn.

On Hatred of Sin

"Who hated sin more than the saints? But they did not hate the sinners at the same time, nor condemn them, nor turn away from them. But they suffered with them, admonished them, comforted them, gave them remedies as sickly members, and did all they could to heal them."

– St. Dorotheos of Gaza

Recognizing Temptation

Money! Power! Honor! These are the temptations which, unfortunately, many people are unable to resist. This is the source of all the disputes, disagreements and divisions among Christians. This is the root of people's forgetting the "one thing needed" which is proposed to us by the true Christian faith and which consists of prayer, acts of repentance, and sincere, unhypocritical charity to our neighbors.

– Archbishop Averky of Syracuse

AN ATTEMPT AT SEEING THE BIG PICTURE			
FIVE SUNDAYS OF PRE-LENT PREPARATION FOR REPENTANCE		The grace of Baptism is ineffective without true and simultaneous repentance that is open to acquiring some basic virtues	
Sunday of Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10	No repentance unless desire to overcome obstacles is greater than everything else. We cannot be wishy-washy or wimpy and be real Christians	Be deeply desirous of Christ
Sunday about Tax Collector and Pharisee	Luke 18:10-14	No repentance unless you are humble. Christians do not boast of qualities they simply do not have, nor do they neglect to place the talents they do have at the service of the church	Be humble
Sunday about the Generously Merciful Father and the Prodigoiusly Wasteful Son	Luke 15:11-32	No repentance unless you are merciful. Christians know that perfection lies in practicing the mercy of God Who is in control without being domineering and challenging without being cruel	Be merciful to everyone
Sunday of the Fearful Judgment	Matthew 25:31-46	No repentance unless you are willing to see Christ in everyone around you. Christians know that as you repent you begin to realize the difference between discernment and condemnation as two ways of judging: the first (discernment) is obligatory while the second (condemnation) belongs to God, one in the Holy Trinity, alone.	Be discerning of presence of Christ in everyone and treat them accordingly; let God be God
Saturday and Sunday of Forgiveness	Matthew 6:1-21	No repentance unless you pray, unless you fast, unless you give alms, unless you are willing to forgive. If we don't know how to forgive, we ask God to give us this gift and act upon it.	Be forgiving of self and others, expressing it in a life of prayer, fasting and almsgiving

FIVE SUNDAYS OF GREAT FAST (LENT): PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM		In the early church if you were willing to accept and start practicing the things just listed above, then you were considered ready to take the leap and get specific training for baptism. Thus we have the sundays of lent that build on this foundation.	Along with repentance there must follow five ways of being
Sunday of Orthodoxy	John 1:43-51	A love for and desire to sacrifice everything for the sake of Truth itself which is not a philosophy or a teaching but a person that we are supposed to learn to have a relationship with; the image or icon of Christ is placed on the tetrapod to remind of this for the forty days of Lent	Be committed to TRUTH
Sunday of St Gregory Palamas	Mark 2:1-12	Holy apostle Peter teaches in his first epistle reading that we are supposed to become real “partakers of divine nature.” St Gregory Palamas helps to explain how this can happen. God, like a light bulb, produces energy by his very nature. This energy (since it arises in God by the very fact of his nature) cannot be created. A human being can never know, nor share, the uncreated nature (the light bulb), but can share the uncreated energies (the light, the heat). It is a little like putting something over a light bulb that eventually makes it hot: it shares the energy but not the essence.	Be committed to GROWTH
Sunday of the Cross	Mark 8:34-9:1	It's not enough to discover or see the cross, you have to be willing to live it out	Be committed to SACRIFICE because truth and growth do not come naturally to us
Sunday of St John of the Ladder	Mark 9:17-31	As we grow and sacrifice for the sake of truth, we will discover that the process is healing and cleansing us. But it is long process and full of little steps that must build on one another.	Be committed to PATIENCE and HEALING
Sunday of St Mary of Egypt	Mark 10:32-45	A steady commitment to acquiring the virtues eventually leads to dominion over capital sins and purity of life.	Be committed to MORE REPENTANCE, that is ongoing; and expect it to be difficult.
Saturday of Lazarus and Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem	John 11:1-45 and John 12:1-18	We find it easier to see and acknowledge that Jesus indeed has power over life and death and that He is “Ruler of all”.	Be committed to living a “Life in Christ”: the true King, the greatest Prophet, and the High-Priest

EIGHT SUNDAYS OF PASCHA: Preparation for receiving the holy spirit		Anyone who has tried to live out the meaning of either 5 sundays of preparing for lent or 5 sundays of lent on their own can easily say: unless i get outside help, this simply is not going to happen. So the eight sundays of pascha teach us about the need to learn how to look for and rely upon the holy spirit.	We learn how to ask for and receive and activate the visible & tangible signs (gifts and fruits) that, in fulfilling the will of the father, jesus does indeed send the holy spirit to descend upon us.
Pascha – Passover of Jesus Christ from death to Life	John 1:1-18 and Acts 1:1-8 Matthew 28:1-20 and Romans 6:3b-11	Jesus has done the major work; he has destroyed death. Fear of death should no longer distract or frighten us. We now have the freedom to carefully-vigilantly stop, look and listen to see how the Holy Spirit acts in our lives through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.	Ask for 7 Gifts of H.S.: Isaiah 11:2-3 So that 9 Fruits of H.S.: Galatians 5:22-23 May become real in us
Thomas Sunday	John 20:19-31; Acts 5:12-20	A spirit-filled person knows that their doubts can be replaced by ever-greater and ever-deeper faith	Ask for fear (deep reverence and awe) of God and about things
Myrrh-bearing women and Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus	Mark 15:43-16:9; Acts 6:1-7	A spirit-filled person knows that service-diakonia to others can carry them through, when all else fails; the epistle for this Sunday reminds us that reading and studying the Catholic Church's interpretation of the Bible (scriptures) must go hand-in-hand with service.	Ask for service (which is prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, piety and knowledge all put together)
Healing of Paralytic	John 5:1-15; Acts 9:32-42	A spirit-filled person knows that healing cannot exclude any part of our being; healing is holistic; it is not just our body, but our soul (thoughts and feelings), and our spirit (heart) that need healing.	Ask for understanding, which fosters a fuller healing of body, soul (thoughts-feelings) and spirit (heart). (<i>See Synaxarion Reading about healing of five senses in the May 3, 2009 church bulletin</i>)
Wednesday of Mid-Pentecost	John 7:14-30; Acts 14:6-18	In case we got distracted or forgot what Pascha was all about, Mid-Pentecost and Ascension remind us that (thanks to Jesus) we now have the freedom to stop, look and listen...	The Wisdom of the Father and the Creator of all things, seated eternally at the Father's right hand, wants to send His Holy Spirit upon you. Are you willing & participating so as to receive?
Healing of Samaritan Woman	John 4:5-42; Acts 11:19-26, 29-30	A spirit-filled person knows that morality is neither relative nor optional. If truth, growth, sacrifice, patience & healing and repentance leads you up against the wall of discovering certain sins in yourself, over which you have no power, guess what? You have to be willing to admit it and you have to be willing to put it all into God's hands completely .	Ask for total surrender to God: fortitude

Healing of Man Born Blind	John 9:1-38; Acts 16:16-34	A spirit-filled person knows Christ because they know that faith can see things which others cannot see. Just as Jesus made eyeballs out of nothing for the blind man so – by the power of the H.S. - He can take whatever is missing or empty in you and make something out of it.	Ask for fullness of life, which is the ability to know from inside of you: how to have faith, how to hope and how to love
Sunday of First Ecumenical Council	John 17:1-13 Acts 20:16-18, 28-36	A spirit-filled person is level-headed: they never fall into the trap of thinking that they will never be attacked by their own unredeemed self, by the devils' attempts to derail us, or by the world. They also know that in this spiritual warfare we are not on our own, we have the Body of Christ, the Catholic Church, to help us.	Ask for counsel and wisdom
Pentecost Sunday is the Eighth Sunday of Pascha	John 7:37-53 Acts 2:1-11	In the Bible, eight stands for the last day, the day when the sun will rise but never set, the banquet in heaven will begin and never end, etc.. Maybe it's not by accident that we have eight domes on our church, which is a very unique and uncommon feature.	Eight means that if we engage this whole process (5 Sundays of prep for lent, 5 Sundays of lent, 7 Sundays of Pascha,) with our whole being and to the best of our ability, then the joy and blessed happiness of the EIGHTH and FINAL DAY is what we have to look forward to.

Святкуємо 50-ріків!

Celebrating 50 Years!

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Return from Exile

Repentance is often simply identified as a cool and “objective” enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of “pleading guilty” to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked-without which neither confession nor absolution have any real meaning or power. This “something” is precisely the feeling of alienation from God, from the joy of communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or become angry. It is quite a different thing, however, to realize suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty, that I am far away from my real home, my real life, and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this, and only this, is repentance, and therefore it is also a deep desire to return, to go back, to recover that lost home.

I received from God wonderful riches: first of all life and the possibility to enjoy it, to fill it with meaning, love, and knowledge; then-in Baptism-the new life of Christ Himself, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the peace and the joy of the eternal Kingdom. I received the knowledge of God, and in Him the knowledge of everything else and the power to be a son of God. And all this I have lost, all this I am losing all the time, not only in particular “sins and transgressions,” but in the sin of all sins: the deviation of my love from God, preferring the “far country” to the beautiful home of the Father. But the Church is here to remind me of what I have abandoned and lost.

Fr. Alexander Schmemann