



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

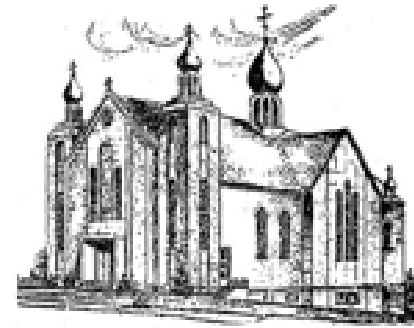
Speaking Freely. St John Chrysostom: Paul means by this that he talks to the Corinthians freely, as he would to people whom he loves. He holds nothing back and suppresses nothing. Nothing is wider than Paul's heart, which loved all the believers with all the passion which one might have toward the object of one's affection. **Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 13.1.**

Bray, G. L. (Ed.). (1999). [1-2 Corinthians](#) (p. 260). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

15:11-24 The Prodigal Son and His Merciful Father

The Parable Calls the Pharisees to Rejoice Over the Repentance of Sinners. St Cyril of Alexandria: What is the object of the parable? Let us examine the occasion that led to it so we will learn the truth. The blessed Luke had said a little before of Christ the Savior of us all.... The Pharisees and scribes made this outcry at his gentleness and love to people. They wickedly and impiously blamed him for receiving and teaching people whose lives were impure. Christ very necessarily set before them the present parable. He clearly shows them that the God of all requires even him who is thoroughly steadfast, firm, holy, and has attained to the highest praise for sobriety of conduct to be earnest in following his will. When any are called to repentance, even if they have a bad reputation, he must rejoice rather and not give way to an unloving irritation because of them. **Commentary on Luke, Homily 107.**

Just, A. A. (Ed.). (2005). [Luke](#) (p. 247). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH,
OLD FORGE, PA

Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

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Sunday, February 11th, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 2.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for February

Birthdays: Barbara Sevensky (2/14)

Nameday:

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: Please sign up to bake prospora.

February. Thank you to Matushka Emilia for this week's Prospora!

Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR DOWNSTAIRS

Agape Meal: Thank you to all who have donated and contributed to our Agape Meal.

All are encourage to sing the “Lord Have Mercy” & “Amen” responses. And please sing along if you know the other verse, troparions, and kontakions as well.

Service Attendance: 39 Last weekend Divine Liturgy:

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by fasting and a recent (monthly) confession..If you have questions please ask Fr Michael!*



Service Schedule
WEEK of 13Feb-19Feb

SAT, Feb 18th: Soul Saturday - Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM
(Please give Fr names of the departed for us to pray for)

SAT, Feb 18th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Feb 19th: Hours @ 9:20 Hours, Meatfare - Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

UP COMING

SAT, Feb 25th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Feb 26th: Hours @ 9:20 Hours, Cheesefare - Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

SUN, Feb 26th: Hours @ @ 5:00 PM Forgiveness Vespers

27Feb-03Mar: @ 5:00 PM Compline w/ Canon of St. Andrew

SUN, Mar 19th: @ 5:00 PM Sunday of the Cross Lenten Mission Vespers



Announcements

& Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Silent Prayers: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help!

Catechumen Class: Every Saturday 3:30 PM Catechumen Class - All are invited

Theophany Home blessings continue. Please Schedule with Fr Michael

Annual All Parish Meeting - 26Feb23 after Liturgy. PLEASE SPEAK TO FR ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP/VOTING STATUS

Lenten Mission Vespers Choir Concert - St Michael's will be hosting a Lenten Choir Concert after our deanery mission vespers led by Fr Mikel Hill.

Proskomede Class: 19Feb23 8:30 For our Catechumens but all are invited!

Please coordinate with me who would like to do another proskomede class. Several people have spoken to me about one but we need to find a date so we all can attend. Need volunteers for a lenten pierogi sale.

Kontakion, Synaxis of Archangel Michael & all the Bodiless Hosts

Commanders of God's armies and ministers of the divine glory, princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind, ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

Holy Archangel Michael Pray unto God for us!

Proposed Budget

Reminder Full services Started in April

2022 Exenditures

	2022 Exenditures	2023 Proposal
Priest Salary:	\$31062.16	\$46,741
Housing/Utilities:	\$5500	\$24,000
Pension Plan:	\$	\$8,488.92
SECA:	\$2498.96	\$5,411.69
*Diocesan/OCA Meetings:	\$	\$3000
*Life Insurance:	\$466.64	\$700
*Health Insurance:	\$6400	\$0
*Travel Allowance:	\$3200	\$4800
Electric:	\$6456.09	\$7500
Water:	\$854.73	\$1000
Gas:	\$8069.22	\$9000
Comcast:	\$905.77	\$2500
Candles:	\$	\$
Trash/Recycle	\$	\$
Grounds/Maint.	\$	\$
Evangelism:	\$	\$
Sunday School:	\$	\$
Clergy Enrichment:		
Office Supplies:		
Church Supplies		
Liturg. Supplies		
Charity: 10% of our proposed budget/ideally 10% of monthly collections		

Est. \$65,413.57 \$113,141.61

***If we have 80 tithing units - \$1414.27 per tithing unit yearly. That's if your yearly salary is \$14,142.70 and tithe 10%. The latest PEW report shows that the average tithe to a church is .03%. Note .03%, not 3% but .03%! Please look at what you tithe and round up to the next whole decimal. Start there.

***Required Non-Compensation**

** This list will grow as I continue to research 2021/2022 expenditures. So far this is a quick search of expenditures that are on auto pay that I can pull.

*** This will grow as the Budget is expanded

RETURN FROM EXILE
The Lesson of the Prodigal Son
by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (+1983)

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (LK 15:11-32). Together with the hymns on this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's return from exile. The prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had.

A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man who has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what is repentance.

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.... One liturgical peculiarity of this "Sunday of the Prodigal Son" must be especially mentioned here. At Sunday Matins, following the solemn and joyful Psalms of the Polyeleion, we sing the sad and nostalgic Psalm 137:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, and we wept when we remembered Zion...

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!
If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I
prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy...

It is the Psalm of exile. It was sung by the Jews in their Babylonian captivity as they thought of their holy city of Jerusalem. It has become forever the song of man as he realizes his exile from God, and realizing it, becomes man again: the one who can never be fully satisfied by anything in this fallen world, for by nature and vocation he is a pilgrim of the Absolute. It reveals Lent itself as pilgrimage and repentance – as return. ~ Amen

Do not be a non-communicant member! Return to the life Christ has prepared for us. Return like the Prodigal Son! All of us have been invited to partake of His heavenly banquet but some refuse to partake. Mt 22:1-14.

A. Non-Communicants (Non-Communicant Members)

Membership in the Body of Christ, His Holy Church, is defined by participation in the Holy Eucharist. Inasmuch as a person, by refusing to partake of the Divine Body and Blood of Christ during his/her lifetime, has chosen freely not to be incorporated into the Body of Christ, unless there is reason to assume that the person has returned to Christ at the end of his/her earthly existence, that person will not be buried from the temple. The burial service of such a person should only be a Service for the Departed (*panikhida*), including scripture readings for the dead. The priest may be vested in the epitrachelion. <https://www.oca.org/files/PDF/official/clergyguidelines.pdf>

Beloved! We must consciously strive together for a life in Christ. For He first loved us, creating us as an extension of Himself – His Love – in this world and in this age. But this world, the holy ground on which we stand, which the Lord has created and sealed with His love and beauty (cf. Gen. 1:31), requires us to cooperate fully with the Triumphant God-Man, to receive His sacraments of confession and communion as often as possible, so that we can joyfully enter the abode of God and be His people and that He would be with us and we would live according to the will of our Heavenly Father.

Yearly Financial update

PEOPLES SECURITY BANK – 11Feb23 (*indicates updates from previous bulletin)		
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>February Credits</u>	<u>February Debits</u>
\$46,164.08	\$5,210	– \$6,151.85

<u>2022 Credits:</u> \$77,923.99	<u>2022 Debits:</u> – \$53,549.00
\$32,375 selling the lot	
\$15,600 Income from rentals	
\$47,975 received from sources other than from Dues or people who	

Approx.: \$15,019.05 in Donations
 We roughly have 80 members/non-voting members/non-communicant members on the census.

I am still working the numbers and will update this weekly so we have accurate numbers for the Annual Parish Meeting.

<u>EDWARD JONES – 25NOV22</u>		<u>Society of St Michael 01NOV22</u>	
Beginning Value:	\$165,345.58	Checking	\$2,826.93
Assets Added:	\$0.00	Savings	\$8,384.89
Assets Withdrawn:	\$0.00	12 month CD	\$6,501.71
Fees and Charges:	\$1980.50	60 month CD	<u>\$6,305.09</u>
Change In Value:	<u>\$15,186.67</u>		\$24,018.62
Current Balance:	\$148,178.41		

<u>*RBO – 24DEC22</u>		
Saving Fund	\$135,812.15	15Jan23 Total Assets: \$426,542.13
Cemetery Fund	<u>65,339.58</u>	29Jan23 Total Assets: \$419,254.18
	\$202,514.29	

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers LIVING
 Ill-afflicted Archpriests John Nightingale & Fr Theodore Orzolek

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: Mike Jadick, Bernie Elko, Margaret Pregmon, Marie Buranich, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Sandra Pritchky, Marie Pasternak, Sandy Batton, Paula Stavisky, Al Pritchky, Eli Stavisky, Evelyn Bunevitch, Nadia Macheska, John Pritchky, Paulette Ezbiansky, Andrew Lutzick, Daniel Jones, Charissa Voroziichak, Matushka Paula Soucek; Al Horek

Servants of God Fr Nathan, Mat. Katherine, Micaiah, Evangeline, Gideon, Zacharias, Ignatius, Basil (Clausson), Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina (Shepherd), Barbara Sevensky, Bev Elko, Sandra Condon, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmann, Walter Pritchky, Michael & Euphemia (Mia) (Keklak); Amaya Jackson; Robert Kane; Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky; Ekaterina & Anna; Kelly Cigna; Natasha & Rosa Coyoy

Catechumens: Jason, Emily, Judah, Nadia, & Silas

DEPARTED

Newly Departed: Helen Bezuhly 1/27/2023
Departed: Ellen Pasternak 1/24/1982; Stephen Pasternak 1/30/2009; Alexandra Toczko 2/3/1995; Anna Zupko 2/6/2014; Jean Wasco 2/7/2019; Femia Pasternak 2/14/1961; Ann Freeman 2/18/2015; Walter Pritchky Sr. 2/28/2015

PLEASE STOP GATHERING YOU BELONGINGS AND GETTING READY TO GO IN THE MIDDLE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS.

*Please sign up and help Marie Pasternak with the Agape Meal and Coffee Hour. She will be coordinating an Agape Meal every other week. However, we have Meatfare and Cheesefare Sunday coming up and this is the time to “Spring Clean” your pantry and refrigerator.