



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

8:30am: Orthros, 10am: Divine Liturgy

12pm: Youth Church School & Adult Ed

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. ᾠχος πλ. β΄.

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσχύλευσας τὸν ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθῇς ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ.

ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ
τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode

An example of the faith and a life of humility: * as a teacher of
abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, * and through
the truthfulness of your deeds * were exalted to greatness
through your humility, * uplifting all, and by poverty gaining
wealth. * Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, * intercede with
Christ our God * that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion of the Prodigal Son in the Third Mode

I revolted senselessly * out of Your fatherly glory; * I have
squandered sinfully * all of the riches You gave me.* Hence to
You, using the Prodigal's words, I cry out,* I have sinned be-
fore You, merciful loving Father.* O receive me in repentance,
* I pray, and treat me * as one of Your hired hands.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

St. Pauls' First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things
are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be
enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and
the stomach for food" —and God will destroy both one and
the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the
Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord
and will also raise us up by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them.

"Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly 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, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat

me as one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father.

"But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

The Lord's Prayer

Ελληνικά:

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, * ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου.
* ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου. * γεννηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου * ὥς

ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς· * τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον
δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον· * καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὥς καὶ
ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν· * καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς
εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Español:

Padre Nuestro, que estás en el cielo, * santificado sea tu nom-
bre; * venga tu reino; * hágase tu voluntad, * en la tierra
como en el cielo. * Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; * per-
dona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a
los que nos ofenden; * no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y
líbranos del mal.

English:

Our Father, who art in the heavens * hallowed be Thy name;
* Thy Kingdom come; * Thy will be done * on earth as it is
in heaven; * give us this day our daily bread, * and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; *
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil
one.

Saints and Feasts

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Saviour has set
forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule
of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The
divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable
of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of
the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition— inasmuch as
we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries— we

might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin— no matter how great it may be— that can overcome at any time His love for man.

Eutropios, Kleonikos, Vasiliskos, Zenos, & Zoilis the Martyrs

The Holy Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos and Vasiliskos suffered in Asia Minor in about the year 308. After the martyric death of Saint Theodore, these Saints wound up in prison and by their preaching brought many of the pagans in prison with them to the Christian Faith. The governor Asclepiodotus commanded that they be brought to him, and the Saints firmly confessed their faith in Christ. They were mercilessly beaten, so that their bodies were entirely bruised.

As he was being tortured Saint Eutropios prayed loudly to the Savior, "Grant us, O Lord, to endure these wounds for the sake of the crown of martyrdom, and help us, as You helped Your servant Theodore." In answer to this prayer, the Lord Himself appeared to the martyrs with His angels and the holy Great Martyr Theodore, saying to them: "Behold, the Savior has come to help you, that you may know life eternal." Seeing this, the people urged Asclepiodotus to halt

the tortures. Since those present were distraught and ready to believe in the true God, the governor commanded the martyrs to be taken away. The governor then invited Saint Eutropios to supper and urged him to offer public sacrifice to the pagan gods, yet remain a Christian in soul. Eutropios refused.

On the following day they brought the martyrs to a pagan temple, to force them to offer sacrifice. Eutropios entreated the Savior: "Lord, be with us, and destroy the raging of the pagans. Grant that on this place the Bloodless Sacrifice of the Christians be offered to You, the true God." An earthquake began, the walls of the temple collapsed, and the statue of the goddess Artemis was smashed to bits. Everyone fled to avoid being crushed among the rubble. When the earthquake ended, the governor Asclepiodotus ordered that boiling tar be poured over the Martyrs. The tar did not touch the Saints, but rather burned their torturers. Then the governor gave orders to rake their bodies with iron hooks and to sting their wounds with mustard mixed with salt and vinegar. The saints endured these torments with remarkable firmness.

The night before their execution the saints spent their time at prayer, and again the Lord appeared to them and strengthened them. On the morning of March 3, Saints Eutropios and Kleonikos were crucified, but Vasiliskos was left in prison in the hope that with time he might change his mind and sacrifice to the idols. He was executed on May 22.

Parish Information

Church School

Church School meets on Sundays following Divine Liturgy, at approximately noon. Our two Youth Church School classrooms meet downstairs.

Orthodox Christianity 101

Our Orthodox Christianity 101 class meets in the Church hall following coffee hour. Anyone who is interested in learning the basic teachings and practices of the Orthodox Christian faith is welcome to attend! We will read and discuss the book *Welcome to the Orthodox Church* by Frederica Mathewes-Green.

Men's Breakfast Group

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, April 6** at 8am. Bring your favorite breakfast foods, and feel free to invite a friend!

Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, March 14** at 12pm.

Byzantine Chant Classes

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

This Week at Saint Nicholas

Following Divine Liturgy this morning, we will offer Catechumen prayers for several of our new members.

- Wednesday, March 6: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Saturday, March 9 **Saturday of Souls**: 9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy, 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers