

February 16th, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Kontakion — Tone 3

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me. / Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal: / "I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; / receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants."

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Tanya and John Francis and Pamela.

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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Father Michael - Priest-in-charge

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/> <https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
**HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

February 16th, 2025

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.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 15th of February
Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 16th of February
Divine Liturgy at 10 am
PARISH YEARLY MEETING

Following Divine Liturgy and brief Coffee Hour

Friday 21st of February
Great Vespers at 6 pm

Saturday 22nd of February
MEMORIAL SATURDAY
Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 23rd of February
Meatfare Sunday
Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitor Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy you are invited to join us for light refreshment in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation and ask any question you may have.

Blessing of the homes

We are again with the opportunity to bless the homes of all our parishioners. If you would like your home to be blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact Father Michael at pejovicveljko@gmail.com. Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

Memorial Saturday 22nd of February 2025

Divine Liturgy will be served on Saturday, March 22nd at 9 am. A Memorial Service will follow to remember the departed family and friends of Holy Spirit Orthodox Church parishioners and friends of the parish. Please provide Father Michael, via email pejovicveljko@gmail.com or prior to the service, a list of your departed. You are invited to worship with us to honor our departed family and friends.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This Sunday, February 16th, 2025, after a brief coffee hour, we will have our Annual Parish Meeting. At this meeting, we will vote for acceptance of the Budget Proposal for 2025. We will also reflect on Parish life throughout the year 2024. We will remember all the achievements of our Parish as well as point out all our shortcomings that hopefully, we will address during 2025. Parish Annual Meeting is the congregational event and as such we are all expected to be present.

Archbishop Michael's Holy Land Power Point Presentation

This Sunday, February 16th, 2025, at 4 pm, Archbishop Michael will present a PowerPoint presentation on the Holy Land at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 830 Jefferson Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey, 07065. Everyone is welcome.

Sussex Help Center Announcement

Sussex Help Center is in need for soups, stews and items for school lunches for children. This is an ongoing HSOC outreach program and thank you for your support and contribution.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com.