

Sunday 3rd of March 2024

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Kontakion – Tone 4

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 Archpriests Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Lanie, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, 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, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and irene.

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

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

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

The WEEKLY BULLETIN

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

March 3rd, 2024

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 2nd of March

Panikhida for +Carol Lynn Benda at 4:10 pm

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 3rd of March

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Blessing of Marriage of Maritsa and Anthony Farren

Friday 8th of March

Great Vespers at 6 pm

Saturday 9th of March (Memorial Saturday)

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 10th of March (Meatfare Sunday)

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

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

Thank you!

HSOC Parish Council Members and Father Michael Pejovic would like to thank everyone who participated at the Annual Parish Meeting which took place on Sunday, February 25th of 2024. You can find a copy of the Agenda and the 2024 Budget in the narthex.

Panikhida for +Carol Lynn Benda

On Saturday, March 2nd before the Great Vespers we will serve the Panikhida for ever-to-be-remembered +Carol Lynn Benda. The Panikhida will start approximately at 4:10 pm.

Blessing of Marriage – Maritsa and Anthony Farren

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday March 3rd, the marriage of Maritsa and Anthony Farren will be blessed. The blessing is reserved for Orthodox Christians who were not originally married in the Orthodox Church and would now like to have their marriage blessed. You are invited to remain following Divine Liturgy to bear witness to this event.

Memorial Service

Divine Liturgy will be on Saturday, March 9th 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. This service is to pay tribute and to honor our departed loved ones. Please provide to me, 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.

Saint Tikhon's Monastery 2024-2025 Music Residency Program

Saint Tikhon's Monastery is now accepting applications for their forthcoming 2024-2025 Music Residency Program. For more information please follow the link: [St. Tikhon's Monastery now accepting applications for their forthcoming 2024-2025 music residency program - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](http://St.Tikhon's Monastery now accepting applications for their forthcoming 2024-2025 music residency program - Orthodox Church in America (oca.org))

Blessing of Homes and Blessed Water

The blessing of homes has been a joy to bring the Holy Theophany into many homes this year. If anyone still has not had their homes blessed, but would like the blessing of your home, please contact Father Michael at pejovicveljko@gmail.com

Coffee Social

If you are able, please bring something for coffee social to share with your church family. Anything you bring is greatly appreciated. The bagels are complimentary from Bagel Station, Sparta. Participating in the clean-up is helpful and appreciated.

Have an item for the bulletin?

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