

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

SAINT BASIL THE CONFESSOR

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 6. Verses 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.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 13-20.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 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.'"

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 15, ἐδάφ. 10-14.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES: These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, remotely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alex Kozak. If you are new to the parish or you are considering being received into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation, as an adult, we invite you to speak with Alex about your wishes and the possibility of joining the Introduction to Orthodoxy class. Please contact him at <https://agkozak.com/intro>. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via zoom.

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNA: Memorial services are being held today for the repose of the soul of our brother **Louis Haras**, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago, and for the repose of the soul of our sister **Efthimia** and her husband **Giorgos Georgiadis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 2 years and 20 years ago, respectively. Ἀώνια ἡ Μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2021 STEWARDSHIP: Most of our Stewards have already sent in your Stewardship pledge cards for 2021, and we thank you. Your names will appear in our Honor Roll Stewards, in our April-May *Herald*. Meanwhile, we ask you to reach out to your children, age 18 and above, so that they may also declare their support for the ministries of the Cathedral by submitting their own Stewardship pledge card. A 2021 stewardship pledge card may be downloaded at <https://annunciation.org/pledge-card>.

LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE: Thank you for lighting a virtual candle every Sunday, thus keeping hope alive. Whether you donate \$1 or \$1,000, your gift is one of faith. It helps keep the Cathedral solvent during this universal upheaval. More importantly, it connects us to Him who is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and reminds us of our calling to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). To light your virtual candles, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter <https://annunciation.org/candle>

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: As announced, our reopening Task Force met recently, virtually, to plan for our reopening for in-person worship. The Task Force is hoping we can safely reopen in March, specifically, on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25. Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services, remotely, through streaming. To do so, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link. Thank God for our Technology team, who are making the continuation of our liturgical life, even in this way, possible.

PERMIT TO OPERATE THE GARAGE: Our permit to operate the garage has been signed. As of this writing, it is being presented to our local police station, along with a copy of our lease with Golden Gate Parking, which will manage the lot for us. In turn, the Mission Station will take the steps needed to acknowledge use of our lot in accordance with our conditional use permit. At this point, we're waiting for the Mission Station to get back to us with an appointment to submit our application, and to schedule a hearing. It's been a challenging process, but it's done. Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ. We're looking forward to opening our lot for our own needs, as well as for public parking.

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB: A month ago, we launched a virtual Young Adult Book Club in the interest of keeping our Young Adults connected during their time apart. The group meets the third Tuesday of every month and holds a discussion around a book which they have agreed to read. For the next meeting, we will be discussing C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, letters 11-20. For more information, please contact **Andrew Miltiades** or **Christo Pappademos**. Andrew may be reached at Andrew..miltiades@annunciation.org. Christo may be reached at Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org.

OTHER YOUTH GET-TOGETHERS: This Wednesday, March 3rd our Youth Strategic Plan team will meet again to discuss online registration and the implementation of our coming virtual Hope, Joy, and Goya programs slated to begin in accordance with Lent. Stay tuned for updates and more information as Lent draws near.

THE PANDEMIC HAS SLOWED US DOWN BUT NOT STOPPED

US. The pandemic has slowed down everything building-related. Nevertheless, things are moving along. Granite along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues have been addressed. The gates are now virtually complete. The lobby doors are in. Stonecraft is laying the remaining pavers. Meanwhile, our permit for use of the garage has been issued. Recently, the Architects have finalized the drawings, known as the bid set, for phase 2 (completion of the interior), for an estimated cost of \$3.8 million.... As a community, we've been through much, especially when we lost everything to the earthquake, back in 1989. But, we've bounced back. It wasn't easy, but we did it, because we have faith, we have hope, and we have unity. So, too, we will weather this pandemic and return to a so called "new normal," – i.e. a community where we may do things a little differently, but with the same strong faith in God. After all, it is for Him, in Him, and through Him that we continue to exist at all. Praise God for the Gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church.



"The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified."