

February 5, 2023  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! - Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*  
*Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Proprs for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 2: pg. 130 - 132 and for Prodigal Son: Pg. 216

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., FEB. 5**      **SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ Ron Huchko, 19<sup>th</sup> year after passing, offered by Carol Huchko
- SAT., FEB. 11**      **FIRST ALL SOULS SATURDAY**  
**9:00 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY, Panachida, Hramoty, Koliva**
- SUN., FEB. 12**      **MEATFARE SUNDAY**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ Mark Wooddell, 7<sup>th</sup> year after passing, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh

**I Was Lost but Now I Am Found**

As we draw closer to the Great Fast, today we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son. Hearing Christ's parable about God's loving forgiveness, we are called to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves in a "far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the 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.



**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

February 5: Darlene Simunick, February 7: John Poiarkoff, February 10: David Klacik

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

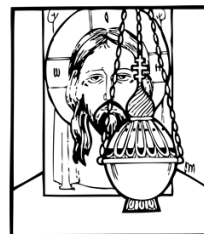
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

**Epistle Readers – Feb. 5: Jo Ann Hersh – Feb 12: Louisa Hersh**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – Feb. 5: Francis Hersh – Feb. 12: M. Bobanic**

**If you would like to be a Trioca Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.**  
**We could always use the help!**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

February 5 - 11, 2023

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

**Our Parishioners,  
Living and Deceased**

**Get up and Run**

Christ chooses those who stand. **Rise and run to the Church.** Here is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He who hears you pondering in the secret places of the mind runs to you. When you are still far away, He sees you and runs to you. He sees in your heart, He runs, perhaps someone may hinder and He embraces you. His foreknowledge is in the running, his mercy in the embrace and the disposition of fatherly love. He falls on your neck to raise you when you are prostrate and burned with sins. He brings you back when you have turned from the earth to heaven. Christ falls on your neck to free your neck from the yoke of slavery and He hangs his sweet yoke upon your shoulders. (*St. Ambrose*)

***This Week!***

**Pirohi Sale Returns this Friday, February 10**

Our next pirohi sale will be this Friday, February 10. We encourage all who are able to please come and help and to order from our sale. Work days will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 AM. Friday we begin at 6:30 AM. We can't do this project without your help and support. Orders should be called in by Thursday at noon at (724) 375-6652.

*Thank you!*

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**Free Adult Formation Opportunity:**

Live Webinar from [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org) detailed below:

**ORTHODOXY & LIFE**

**A Patristic Approach to Life Issues**

**Thursdays, February 9th & 16th 8:00 – 9:00 PM**

Christians are unequivocally called to be champions of life. We often become mired in political discussions about what it means to be “pro-life” but this distracts from the profound Christian understanding of the value of life, which transcends any lines made by society. In this study, the Church Fathers will guide us into a deeper understanding of what it means to champion life, and why it is an essential, non-negotiable, part of the Christian life. Presented by Archpriest Josiah Trenham, PhD.

Father Josiah Trenham was ordained an Orthodox priest in 1993, and has pastored St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside, California since 1998. Father has a Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Durham, England, and has taught theology and history at the university since 2004. He has published numerous articles and two books, and lectures widely on many theological topics. He is the founder and director of Patristic Nectar Publications, has more than 700 homilies on his audio-podcast The Arena and YouTube channel Patristic Nectar Films. He serves as Chaplain both to the national ministry Orthodox Christians for Life, and to the St. Andrew Academy. Father Josiah has been married for 33 years, and has ten children and three grandchildren.

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**Fellowship Hour**

Parishioners, visitors, and friends, we are thankful that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our Divine Liturgy will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served in our Church Center. ***Please stay and join us!***

**Dates to Remember:**

February 10 – Pirohi Sale  
February 11<sup>th</sup> – First All Souls Saturday  
February 12<sup>th</sup> – Meat-fare Sunday  
February 19<sup>th</sup> - Cheese-fare Sunday  
February 20<sup>th</sup> – First Day of the Great Fast

**A Note from Fr. Geoff**

On the Third Sunday before Great Fast, the Gospel focus is on the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). But the Epistle reading is from First Corinthians and focuses on our *bodies*. St. Paul begins by saying that "all things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial" or helpful. He goes on to say that he "will not be brought under the power of anything." Then he goes on to talk about two aspects of our physical bodies: food and sexuality, two areas that can be difficult for human beings to keep under control.

The thing about our physical bodies is that they are *good*. They were created good and are to be used for good. Eating is essential. And the rich and diverse flavors of food and drink are to be enjoyed! Likewise, our sexuality is a good thing, to be expressed and enjoyed within the relationships that God ordained and for the purposes to which it is oriented. While we've not always been good at communicating it, the Church has always taught the goodness of the created order and the proper use and enjoyment of our bodies.

On the other hand, the *misuse* of both food and sex are seen to be very dangerous. We have words for both: gluttony and lust. What happens in gluttony and lust (or any other sin, for that matter), is that we take something *good* that God has given us and we become *enslaved to it*. "Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food," St. Paul writes. And "The body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body." (1 Cor. 6.13)

Some people think that the Church has a negative view of the human body. But it is just the opposite! St. Paul tells us: "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?" (1 Cor. 6.15) And "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you?" (1 Cor. 6.19)

"Therefore," he says, "Glorify God in your body."

We are not far from the season of Lent, when we focus particularly on the food that we put *into* our bodies. Let us use this time also to meditate on the goodness of our created, physical bodies and how we use them to serve and glorify God.

God has created us good in both body and spirit. And as we grow in the grace of the Lord, as we become more and more like him, we learn to use our bodies in ways that show forth his glory.

Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Geoff*



## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

“You are not your own.” “Independence” is one of the great “rights” of man that is held to be sacred and inviolable for Americans. The Epistle proclaimed in the Church today, however, challenges our modern notion of independence when it proclaims Saint Paul’s teaching that we were “purchased with a price” and that we are not our own, but that we belong to the Lord. On the day of our baptism, each one of us was incorporated into the church and made members of Christ’s body, and sharers in his eternal life. Just as the parts of the body are interdependent, and ultimately totally dependent the soul and spirit for life, so it is with Christ and the members of his Church. Each of us derives our spiritual life from Christ and receives that life through other members of the body of the Church. As such, none of us is “independent,” but rather we are totally dependent upon one another, and all of us are dependent upon Christ. From the important biblical concept of spiritual dependence, we can understand the need for us to live a life in conformity with him from whom we received it, and on whom we depend for everything. Applying the parable of the prodigal son to the above explanation helps this truth take flesh in our imagination and allows us and those whom we teach to better understand what life is like away from our source of life, and what it is like to return in our hearts to our King and our God.



*Jacob led out his sheep and brought them to his father’s home; a symbol for those with discernment, a parable for those with perception is to be found in this homecoming: Let us too return to our Father’s house, My brothers, and do not become captivated with desire for this transient earth — for your true city is in Eden.*

*St Ephrem the Syrian*

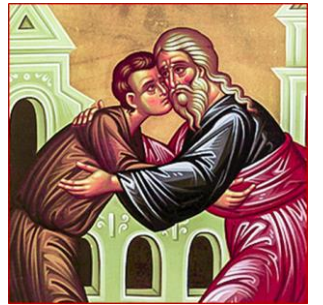
***We are all prodigals in our own way, but let us be like the younger prodigal Son, let us realize that we live in a strange land full of sin, and we need to return and live in our Father’s kingdom where love and peace rule. Remember the hymn for this Sunday: “Therefore before the end cry out to Christ our God: receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God, and have mercy upon me.”***

- James Iliou

*He was lost and has been found*

## Pre-Lenten Sundays

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of pre-Lent, the weeks of preparation preceding Great Lent. It is the Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee and the Sunday before Meatfare Sunday. This pre-Lent is the start of the Easter cycle of worship in the Byzantine Catholic Church. On this Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent, Eastern Christians are read Christ’s parable about God’s loving forgiveness (Luke 15:11-24). They are to see themselves as being in a foreign country far from the Father’s house and to make the movement of return to God, where we truly belong. The parable gives assurance that the Father will receive them with joy and gladness in their journey through Great Lent, their journey home.



## All Souls Saturdays

The first All Souls Saturday is this **Saturday, February 11**. Divine Liturgy, Panachida with Hramoty and Koliva will be at **9:00 A.M** On these All Souls Saturdays, it is tradition in our Holy Church to prayerfully remember our beloved departed family members, loved ones, etc. Members of the family are **encouraged** to attend these services on the All Souls Saturdays for by their presence and by their personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and indeed keep their memory everlasting!

**Hramoty:** This venerable custom was transmitted to us by our ancestors as a part of our beautiful spiritual heritage. Every year, just before Meat-Fare Saturday, the families give the lists of their departed loved ones (Hramoty) to the pastor with the request that they be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturday. And St. John Chrysostom assures us that: “*It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on.*” (Homily on the Acts 21, 4)

**“The Holy Fathers were convinced that the commemoration of the departed by alms and sacrifices (Divine Liturgies) brings great comfort and benefit to them.”**

***Eternal Memory! Vičnaja Pamjat’!***

**Koliva**, or Kutia, is traditionally prepared for the All Souls Saturdays. Koliva is made of boiled wheat mixed with sugar and spices to be blessed during the All Souls Liturgy and distributed to the congregation. The offering of Koliva is an ancient custom. It symbolizes the eternal cycle. People, like wheat, must be buried to grow and have new life. We make it for memorial services in remembrance of those who have fallen asleep.



ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik      Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for Stewardship ... ..Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,  
Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month.

*"Let your prayer be completely simple, for both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase."*

*- St. John Chrysostom*