

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CHURCH

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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2025 | Ἑωθινόν Α΄ 1st Morning Gospel | Ἦχος α΄ Tone 1

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Today's Gospel reading presents us with one of the most moving parables of our Lord, the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). It is a story of repentance, mercy, and the limitless love of God. A young man, blinded by pride and self-indulgence, demands his inheritance and departs from his father's house. He wastes everything in reckless living and soon finds himself destitute, feeding pigs, starving, and alone. In his brokenness, he remembers the goodness of his father and makes the most important decision of his life: he will return home.

What happens next is extraordinary. While the son is still far off, his father sees him and runs to meet him. This single moment reveals the very heart of God. The father does not wait for his son to reach him, nor does he demand explanations or restitution. He runs, embracing him before a single word is spoken. In the culture of that time, for an elderly man to run was considered undignified, but love does not consider appearances. The father, filled with joy, clothes his son in the finest robe, places a ring on his finger, and orders a feast to be prepared. This is not just a return; it is a full restoration. It is the divine message of hope that no matter how far we have fallen, our Father in Heaven is always ready to welcome us home.

Saint John Chrysostom tells us: "Do not let the weight of your sins drag you into despair. The devil's greatest deception is to make us believe that we are beyond God's mercy. But our Father is not only willing to forgive—He runs to embrace us!" How often do we allow shame or fear to keep us away from God? How many times do we delay repentance because we believe we are unworthy? Yet, the message of today's Gospel is clear: no one is beyond the mercy of God. True repentance is not about earning back God's love—it is simply the decision to turn back toward Him. Saint Basil the Great teaches, "Repentance is not just regret for the past but a transformation of the heart and life."

Yet, there is another figure in this parable who speaks to us: the older son. He has remained faithful, working for his father all these years, but when he sees his lost brother being welcomed with such joy, he is filled with resentment. He refuses to enter the house and share in the celebration. How often do we, too, fall into this trap? How often do we forget that salvation is not about what we have earned but about the generosity of God's grace? The father goes out to this son as well, pleading with him to understand that love and mercy should always bring joy, never resentment. If we truly wish to have the heart of the Father, we must rejoice whenever a soul returns to Him.

This parable is a direct invitation to each of us. Some of us are like the prodigal son, in need of repentance and the courage to return. Others may be like the older brother, struggling to embrace the fullness of God's mercy. Wherever we find ourselves, the call is the same: the Father is waiting. The doors of His house are open. The Church, through the Sacrament of Confession and the Holy Eucharist, is ready to embrace all who turn back with sincerity. The season of Great Lent is approaching—a time of renewal, a time of homecoming.

Our Lord gives us this parable so that no one may despair. No matter how lost we feel, God's love is greater than our sins. The Father says of the prodigal son, "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:24). This is the joy of repentance, the miracle of restoration. No one is too far gone. No one is beyond hope. The only question is: will you arise and return?

Η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή μάς φέρνει αντιμέτωπους με τη βαθιά και συγκινητική Παραβολή του Ασώτου Υιού (Λουκ. 15:11-32). Είναι μία ιστορία επιστροφής, συγχώρεσης και της άπειρης αγάπης του Θεού. Ο άσωτος υιός, παρασυρμένος από την υπερηφάνεια και την επιθυμία της ελευθερίας, ζητά την περιουσία του και φεύγει μακριά. Σπαταλά τα πάντα στην αμαρτία και σύντομα βρίσκεται εξαθλιωμένος, πεινασμένος και μόνος. Στη δυστυχία του, θυμάται την καλοσύνη του πατέρα του και αποφασίζει να επιστρέψει.

Τότε βλέπουμε τη μεγαλειώδη εικόνα της αγάπης του Θεού. Ο πατέρας του τρέχει να τον προϋπαντήσει. Δεν τον αφήνει να εξηγήσει, δεν του ζητά να πληρώσει το τίμημα των λαθών του. Τον αγκαλιάζει, του φορά την καλύτερη στολή, του δίνει δαχτυλίδι εξουσίας και ετοιμάζει γιορτή. Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος λέει: "Μην αφήνεις το βάρος των αμαρτιών σου να σε κρατά μακριά από τον Θεό. Ο Πατέρας μας όχι μόνο συγχωρεί—τρέχει να μας αγκαλιάσει!" Ο διάβολος μας θέλει στην απόγνωση, αλλά ο Χριστός μας θέλει στη μετάνοια.

Από την άλλη, υπάρχει και ο μεγαλύτερος αδελφός. Ενώ ήταν πάντα δίπλα στον πατέρα του, όταν βλέπει τη χαρά για την επιστροφή του αδελφού του, αρνείται να συμμετάσχει. Κλείνεται στην πικρία του. Μήπως κι εμείς πολλές φορές ξεχνάμε ότι η αγάπη του Θεού είναι δώρο και όχι ανταμοιβή; Ο Άγιος Βασίλειος ο Μέγας μας διδάσκει: "Η αληθινή μετάνοια δεν είναι μόνο θλίψη για το παρελθόν, αλλά μεταμόρφωση της καρδιάς και της ζωής."

Η Εκκλησία μάς καλεί να μην αναβάλλουμε την επιστροφή μας. Ο Θεός μάς περιμένει πάντα, οι πόρτες της μετάνοιας είναι ανοιχτές και η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή είναι η μεγάλη μας ευκαιρία να γυρίσουμε κοντά Του. Όσο χαμένοι κι αν νιώθουμε, ο Πατέρας μας λέει: "Ο υιός μου ούτος νεκρός ήτο, και ανέζησε· και απολωλός ήτο, και ευρέθη." (Λουκ. 15:24). Μην αφήσεις την ευκαιρία να χαθεί. Ο Πατέρας σε περιμένει. Θα επιστρέψεις;

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ: Κυριακῆ τοῦ Ασώτου

Παμφίλου Μάρτυρος καί οἱ σύν αὐτῶ Άγιος Φλαβιανός Πατριάρχης Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Ά<u>γιος Ρωμανός ο νέος Οσιομάρτυρας</u>

Άπολυτίκιον Άναστάσιμον. Ήχος α΄.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπο τῶν Τουδαίων, και στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων το ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ την ζωήν. Δια τοῦτο αὶ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῆ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῆ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῆ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Απολυτίκιον τῶν Κεκοιμένων. Ἡχος πλ. δ΄ Μνήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθος τοῦ (τῆς, τῶν) δούλου (δούλης, δούλων) σου, και ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἤμαρτεν (ἤμαρτεν, ἤμαρτον) συγχώρησονούδεις γαρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μη Συ ὁ δυνάμενος, και τῶ (τῆ, τοῖς) μεταστάντι (μεταστάση, μεταστᾶσι) δοῦναι τήν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Απολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. Ἡχος δ΄

Τῶν οὐρανίων στρατιῶν Ἀρχιστράτηγοι, δυσωποῦμεν ὑμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἴνα ταῖς ὑμῶν δεήσεσι, τειχίσητε ἡμᾶς, σκέπη τῶν πτερύγων, τῆς ἀΰλου ὑμῶν δόξης, φρουροῦντες ἡμᾶς προσπίπτοντας, ἐκτενῶς και βοῶντας· Ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξιάρχαι τῶν ἄνω Δυνάμεων.

Κοντάκιον. Τοῦ Τριωδίου ήχος γ΄.

Τῆς πατρώας, δόξης σου, ἀποσκιρτήσας ἀφρόνως, ἐν κακοῖς ἐσκόρπισα, ὃν μοι παρέδωκας πλοῦτον· ὅθεν σοι την τοῦ Ἀσώτου, φωνην κραυγάζω· Ἡμαρτον ἐνώπιόν σου Πάτερ οἰκτίρμον, δέξαι με μετανοοῦντα, και ποίησόν με, ὡς ἔνα τῶν μισθίων σου.



SUNDAY: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Pamphilios the Martyr & his Companions Flavianos, Patriarch of Constantinople Romanos the Younger

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 1.

The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, and Your all-immaculate bodybeing guarded by soldiers, You rose on the thirdday, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto theworld. Then the powers of the heavens cried outto You, O Giver of Life, and shouted, "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your eternal rule! Glory to Your plan for saving us, only benevolent God!"

Apolytikion for the Departed. Tone Plagal 4th

Remember, O Lord, as Yor are Good, your servant(s), and forgive every sin he (she,they) have committed in this life. For no one is sinless, except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

Apolytikion of the Church. Tone 4

O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, guarding us who run to you and fervently entreat you: As the Commanders of the hosts on high, rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind.

Kontakion.From TriodionMode 3.

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 before You, merciful loving Father. O receive me in repentance, I pray, and treat me as one of Your hired hands.



Προκείμενον. Ήχος α΄. Ψαλμος 32. Γένοιτο, Κύριε, το ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, καθάπερ ήλπίσαμεν ἐπι σέ.

Στίχ. Άγαλλιᾶσθε, δίκαιοι, έν Κυρίω τοῖς εὐθέσι πρέπει

Προς Κορινθίους Α΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου Α΄ Κορ 6:12 – 20

Άδελφοί, πάντα μοι έξεστιν, άλλ οὐ πάντα συμφέρει πάντα μοι έξεστιν, άλλ΄ οὐκ έγω έξουσιασθήσομαι ὑπό τινος. τα βρώματα τῆ κοιλία και ἡ κοιλία τοῖς βρώμασιν· ὁ δε Θεος και ταύτην και ταθτα καταργήσει. το δε σῶμα οὐ τῆ πορνεία, ἀλλα τῷ Κυρίῳ, και ὁ Κύριος τῷ σώματι ὁ δε Θεος και τον Κύριον ήγειρε και ήμᾶς έξεγερεί δια τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ, οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι τα σώματα ὑμῶν μέλη Χριστοῦ ἔστιν; ἄρας οὖν τα μέλη τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποἰήσω πόρνης μέλη; μη γένοιτο. ἢ οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι ὁ κολλώμενος τῆ πόρνη εν σωμά έστιν; έσονται γάρ, φησίν, οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν ὁ δε κολλώμενος τῷ Κυρίῳ εν πνεῦμά έστι. φεύγετε την πορνείαν. πᾶν ἀμάρτημα ὁ ἐαν ποιήση ανθρωπος έκτος τοῦ σώματός έστιν, ο δε πορνεύων είς το ἴδιον σῷμα ἁμαρτάνει. ἢ_οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι το σῷμα ὑμῷν ναος τοῦ ἐν ὑμῖν Ἁγίου Πνεύματός ἐστιν, οὖ ἔχετε ἀπο Θεοῦ, και οὐκ ἐστε ἐαυτῶν; ἠγοράσθητε γαρ τιμῆς· δοξάσατε δη τον Θεον ἐν τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν και ἐν τῷ πνεύματι ὑμῶν, ἄτινά ἐστι τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατα`Λουκᾶν 15:11-32 Εὐαγγελίου το

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος την παραβολην ταύτην ἄνθρωπός τις εἶχε δύο υἰούς. και εἶπεν ὁ νεώτερος αὐτῶν τῷ πατρί πάτερ, δός μοι το ἐπιβάλλον μέρος τῆς οὐσίας. και διεῖλεγ αὐτοῖς τον βίον. και μετ' ού πολλας ἡμέρας συναγαγων άπαντα ὁ νεώτερος υἰος ἀπεδήμησεν εἰς χώραν μακράν, και ἐκεῖ διεσκόρπισε την οὐσίαν αὐτοῦ ζῶν ἀσώτως. δαπανήσαντος δε αὐτοῦ πάντα έγένετο λίμος ἰσχυρος κατα την χώραν έκείνην, και αύτος ήρξατο ὑστερείσθαι. και πορεύθεις έκολλήθη ένι τῶν πολιτῶν τῆς χώρας έκείνης, και ἔπεμψεν αὐτον εἰς τους άγρους αὐτοῦ βόσκειν χοίρους. και έπεθύμει γεμίσαι την κοιλίαν αύτοῦ άπο τῶν κερατίων ὧν ἤσθιον οἱ χοῖροι, και οὐδεις ἐδίδου αὐτῷ. εἰς ἐαυτον δε ἐλθων εἶπε πόσοι μίσθιοι τοῦ πατρός μου περισσεύουσιν ἄρτων, έγω δε λιμῷ ἀπόλλυμαι! άναστας πορεύσομαι προς τον πατέρα μου και έρῶ αὐτῷ. πάτερ, ημαρτον είς τον οὐρανον και ἐνώπιόν σου. οὐκέτι είμι ἄξιος κληθῆναι υίός σου ποίησόν με ώς ἕνα τῶν μισθίων σου. και άναστας ήλθε προς τον πατέρα αὐτοῦ. ἔτι δε αὐτοῦ μακραν ἀπέχοντος εἶδεν αὐτον ὁ πατηρ αὐτοῦ και ἐσπλαγχνίσθη, και δραμων ἐπέπεσεν ἐπι τον τράχηλον αὐτοῦ και κατεφίλησεν αὐτόν. είπε δε αὐτῷ ὁ υίος πάτερ, ήμαρτον είς τον ούρανον και ένώπιον σου, και οὐκέτι είμι άξιος κληθηναι υίός σου. είπε δε ο πατηρ προς τους δούλους αὐτοῦ έξενέγκατε την στολην την πρώτην και ένδύσατε αὐτόν, και δότε δακτύλιον είς την χεῖρα αὐτοῦ και ὑποδήματα είς τους πόδας, και ενέγκαντες τον μόσχον τον σιτευτον θύσατε, και φαγόντες εὐφρανθῶμεν, ὅτι οὖτος ὁ υἱός μου νέκρος ἦν και ἀπολωλως ἦν και εὐρέθη. και ἤρξαντο εύφραίνεσθαι. Ήν δε ο υίος αύτοῦ ο πρεσβύτερος έν άγρῷ και ὡς ἐρχόμενος ἤγγισε τῆ οἰκία, συμφωνίας και χορών, και προσκαλεσάμενος ένα τών παίδων έπυνθάνετο τί είη ταῦτα. ὁ δε είπεν αὐτῷ ὅτι ὁ άδελφός σου ἤκει και ἔθυσεν ὁ πατήρ σου τον μόσχον τον ͺ σιτευτόν, ότι υγιαίνοντα αύτον απέλαβεν. ώργίσθη δε και ούκ ἤθελεν είσελθεῖν. ὁ οὖν πατηρ αὐτοῦ έξελθων παρεκάλει αὐτόν. ὁ δε ἀποκριθεις είπε τῷ πατρί· ίδου τοσαῦτα ἔτη δουλεύω σοι και οὐδέποτε ἐντολήν σου παρῆλθον, και ἐμοι οὐδέποτε ἔδωκας ἔριφον ἵνα μετα τῶν φίλων μου εὐφρανθῶ· ὅτε δε ὁ νἰός σου οὐτος, ὁ καταφαγών σου τον βίον μετα πορνών, ήλθεν, έθυσας αὐτῷ τον μόσχον τον σιτευτόν, ὁ δε είπεν αὐτῷ· τέκνον, συ πάντοτε μετ' έμοῦ εί, και πάντα τα έμα σά έστιν εύφρανθῆναι δε και χαρῆναι ἔδει, ὅτι ὁ ἀδελφός σου ούτος νεκρος ήν και άνέζησε, και άπολωλως ήν και εὺρέθη.

Prokeimenon. Mode 1. Psalm 32. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we hope in You. Verse: Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright.

The reading is from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. 1 Cor. 6:12 – 20

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel According to 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.'

SYNAXARION

Feb. 17 ~ St. Therodore the Tyro; St. Mariamne, sister of St. Philip

Feb. 18 ~ St. Leo the Pope of Rome, St. Agapetus the Confessor

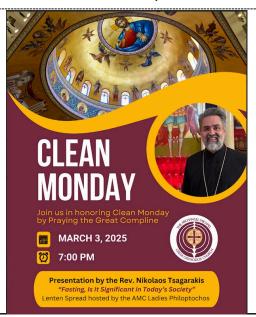
Feb. 19 ~ St. Philemon, Archippos of the 70; St. Philothei, Martyr of Athens

Feb. 20 \sim St. Leo, Bishop of Catania; St. Agathus, Pope of Rome

Feb. 21 ~ St. Timothy the Righteous; St. John III of Constantinople

Feb. 22 ~ Relics of Martyrs Eugenius, Thalassius, and Baradatus*

*denotes Saturday of Souls



EVENTS





Saturdays of Souls:

February 22, March 1, and March 8 Please call the Church office to order a small bowl of koliva.

Feb. 20th ~ Greek School PTA Tsiknopempti Event

Feb. 27th ~ Philoptochos Event

March 3rd ~ Clean Monday (Office Closed) Evening Compline Service, followed by Lecture

March 11th ~ AMC Blood Drive

April 5th ~ Lenten Retreat

April 27th ~ Greek School Glendi

MEMORIALS

7 Years for Andreas Frangiskatos 13 Years for Styliani Drenis

May their Memory be Eternal!



If you, or someone you know, would like a home, hospital, or nursing home visit, please call the Church office to schedule an appointment with Fr. John or Fr. Nikolaos.

