

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (15:11–32)
The Lord spoke this parable: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach 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, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father.

But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, “Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son—
Tone 1
February 16, 2025

St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles,
Archbishop of Japan (1912). Martyrs
Pamphilius a Presbyter, Valens a Deacon,
Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, and seven
others at Caesarea in Palestine (307–309).

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

We welcome everyone who has come into this house of the Lord. We especially welcome all guests and newcomers.

Today, we begin with Matins, the morning service with readings and hymns illuminating the meaning of this particular Sunday. You can follow along with a Matins service booklet, found beside these bulletins on the table at the glass doors. The Divine Liturgy, the primary celebration this morning, immediately follows. You can follow along with a black Liturgy book from the stack on the same table as the bulletins and Matins booklet. This Sunday and most of the year, we use the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at the beginning of the book. The most significant hymns and responses specifically for today are printed inside this bulletin.

Holy Communion is a solemn responsibility: Orthodox Christians who have prepared through Confession, prayer, and fasting may participate. At the end of the Liturgy, everyone is welcome to come for a blessing and to share in the blessed bread (called “antidoron,” this bread is used in our prayers but is not itself a sacrament). Afterward, please join us downstairs for fellowship and refreshment. We look forward to greeting you personally, and we are glad that you are here.

Upcoming Events in Parish Life

We invite anyone to pray along with us, following our services online. Visit our website (sspeterpaul.org) for details.

Saturday–Sunday, Feb. 15–16	Services canceled due to city parking ban	
Tues.–Thursday	Fr. Joshua away—no Wednesday morning service	
Saturday, Feb. 22	Memorial Liturgy on Meatfare Saturday	9:30 AM
	As we prepare ourselves for the Last Judgment (with this coming Sunday of the Last Judgment, Meatfare Sunday), we remember all the departed who are awaiting that same “great and terrible Day.” As we are reminded at every funeral, there is no great existential divide between the living and the departed: we shall together meet the Lord. Therefore, it is right that we pray for their souls while we still have breath. We do so at this Memorial Liturgy, and others during Great Lent. May their memory be eternal!	
Saturday, Feb. 22	Great Vespers, followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Feb. 23 <i>Last Judgment</i>	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Bishop Benedict presiding	9 AM
<i>Meatfare Sunday</i>	Meatfare Dinner—The parish is catering a special meal for the last day for eating meat until Pascha.	
Saturday, March 1	Liturgical Reader Workshop	2–4 PM
	All readers and prospective readers are strongly encouraged to participate in this workshop. We will be focusing on basic principles and techniques.	
Saturday, March 1	Great Vespers, followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 2	Matins and Divine Liturgy	9 AM
<i>Forgiveness Sunday Expulsion from Paradise</i>	Rite of Forgiveness leads us into Great Lent Following the Liturgy, we will make our final preparation for the Fast with Forgiveness Vespers and asking each person, “Forgive me—God forgives.”	
March 3–6	Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew	6 PM
March 5	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, then supper	6 PM

As we begin to gird ourselves for Great Lent, **we are blessed with the offerings of our Parish Bookstore.** We have stocked it with excellent and accessible resources to strengthen our spiritual lives. We have a few varieties of prayer books that were carefully chosen to be an encouragement to those of different ages and experience. We also have picked out a few books that share the life and teaching of wise and holy people who understand contemporary struggles and show us the way. Before you leave today, take a close look at these offerings in the bookstore downstairs, and **consider claiming one for your own spiritual effort this Lent.**

We Ask Your Prayers

For those celebrating birthdays: Ivan Moll (Feb. 18). Carina Weidmann and M. Lydia Westerberg (Feb. 17).

For the Sick & Suffering:

Archpriest Vladimir (Aleandro)
 Corey (Knap)—nephew of Valentina Knap
 William (Weidmann)
 Raisa (Morosan)—recently hospitalized
 Carol—friend of Mary Jane Rodgers
 Ed—friend of Sierra Levesque

Gregory (Mankevich)	Christopher (Sullivan)	
Anita (Propheter)	Rosemary (Delaney)	
Steven (Rygiel)	Catherine (Barra)	
Raisa (Fahy)	Michael (Edwards)	
Shawwna (Kelly)	Susan (Shulga Waas)	
Timothy (Waas)	Irene	Lorraine
Jacob	Katelyn	Joseph
Crystal	Angela	Innocent
Georgiy	Larissa	Valentin
Andrei	Stacia	Jose
Cyprian and Dana	Nicole and Naaman	Helen and Helene

For Our Shut-Ins:
 Yvonne (Rutcho) Margaret (Savchik)

To share news in the bulletin, or to add someone to our prayer list, please contact Fr. Joshua: priest@sspeterpaul.org or 203-237-4539.

In order to commemorate loved ones by lighting the cross in church, please contact Alexia Tassmer: 203-623-5336.

Give thanks to God, and support the work he is doing through SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church:

<https://sspeterpaul.org/donate> or use this QR Code →



Liturgical Reading Workshop

**Reader
Training**

**Saturday,
March 1
2-4 PM**

***Basic Principles
& Practical Considerations***



RVSP: 203-935-7066 or priest@sspeterpaul.org

Hymns of the Day

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 4 Troparion *(Apostles Peter & Paul)*

O first-enthroned of the Apostles,
teachers of the universe:
entreat the Master of all
to grant peace to the world,//
and to our souls great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 2 Kontakion *(Apostles Peter & Paul)*

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest
and to the enjoyment of Your blessings
the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles,
for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice,//
for You alone know what lies in the hearts of men.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;
receive me as a penitent,//
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

Prokeimenon in the First Tone *(Resurrection)*

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!
(Ps. 32:22)

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

Verse: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.
(Ps. 17:48)

Verse: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with
David, His anointed, and his seed forever. *(Ps. 17:51)*

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Notes on the Week

Today is the second Pre-Lenten Sunday, the Prodigal Son. Last week warned us to flee the pride of the Pharisee, that sense of self-satisfaction and self-righteousness that makes it impossible for us to draw near to God. This week reminds us that our heavenly Father is eager to welcome us as soon as we come to our senses and return to him, no matter how far we have gone astray. Next Sunday is Meat-fare, the last day for eating meat until Pascha.

At Matins today, we introduce the singing of “By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept” (Psalm 136). This lament remembers the conquest of the kingdom of Judah, when their leaders were led away as captives in Babylon. They remained in exile for long generations, mourning their remembered home in Jerusalem. The hymn parallels the Prodigal Son’s recognition of what he has lost, having abandoned his father’s home. It also foreshadows the commemoration of Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, Forgiveness Sunday before Great Lent begins. Our Ancestors likewise sat down and wept before the gate of Eden, forbidden to them.

We are also called to come to our senses, to recognize that we live as exiles today from Paradise through our own sins. We also should mourn the ancestral memory of our homeland, where we truly belong. We are invited to use the season of the Fast to turn our hearts back to God, that the doors of Paradise may be opened to us.