



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God for All Things!

February 12, 2012	Sunday of the Prodigal Son	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
February 18	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
February 19	Sunday of the Last Judgment	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Iveron Icon (Moscow) of the Most Holy Theotokos (9th c.). Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381). Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of all Russia (1378). Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Kharkov (1840). New Hieromartyr Alexius (Buy), Bishop of Voronezh (1930). New Martyr Archpriest Mitrophan, (1931). Venerable Nun Mary, (who was called Marinus), and her father, Venerable Monk Eugene, at Alexandria (6th c.). Saint Anthony II, Patriarch of Constantinople (895). Venerable Bassian, disciple of Saint Paisius of Uglich and Abbot of Ryabovsky Forest Monastery, Uglich (1509). Righteous Callia. Venerable Abbess (Gertrude of Nijvel, 659). Saint Ethilwald of Lindisfarne (740). New Martyr Chrestos at Constantinople (1748). Martyrs Saturnius and Plotonus. Hieromartyr Urbanus, Bishop of Rome (223-230). Holy Fathers Prokhore the Georgian (11th c.), Luka (Mukhaidze) of Jerusalem (1277), Nikoloz Dvali (1314), and the Holy Fathers of the Georgian Monasteries in Jerusalem.

Please remember in your prayers: Nettie, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, John, Hilda, James, JoAnne, Ada, Priest Sergius, Louellen, Nancy, Rea, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Jim, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Archpriest Vincent, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of newly-tonsured Reader Paul Kappanadze were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of uncle Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Matushka Lois Plumlee. Subdeacon Vasyl Dovgan, cousin Paula Zambo Redmon, Archimandrite Isidore and cousin Faith Kushner Gilmartin were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of newly-departed Protodeacon Michael Stulpin, M.D. were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Dr Georges Augustin Barrois, Protopresbyter John Meyendorff and cousin Mickey Zambo were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Julia Bruska and Owen Dulak were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

Lenten Synaxarion – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

If anyone be a prodigal as I, take courage and turn back; for the gates of God's mercies are opened to all.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, dedicated as the second service of the Triodion by the divine Fathers for the following reason. There are some who recognize much in themselves that is unbecoming, who live a life of great dissipation from their youth, whose lives are full of drunkenness and immorality, who having fallen thus into the depths of evil, become despondent, giving birth to pride, from whence they have no desire to advance to any of the virtues, preferring their bondage to evil and falling ever deeper into evil. Having a fatherly love for even these individuals, and desiring to lead them out of their despair, the Holy Fathers prescribed this parable for the second preparatory Sunday in order to tear up the passion of despair by the roots, to lead them to acceptance of the virtues, and to demonstrate to sinners the abundance of God's compassion upon sinners and prodigals in His great goodness and love for mankind. For there is no sin which cannot be overcome by the knowledge of His love for mankind, and this is what is presented in this parable of Christ.

Now the sons of man, that is of the Word, God and Man, are two: the righteous and the sinful. It is the eldest who abides ever in God's blessings, following His commandments and remaining always by Him. But the younger son, having become attached to sin and renouncing his closeness to God through shameful deeds, has wasted God's love for mankind and for him and has lived as a prodigal. For having completely rejected Him after whose image he was created, and having followed an evil demon, willingly enslaving himself to this demon's pleasure, he was unable to fulfill his desire. For sin is an unsatisfying thing that becomes an habitual source of temporary pleasure. It may be compared to the husks that are fed to swine. At first it seems that they might be something tasty, but they turn out to be very dry and are much like weeds, which is how sin takes possession. For the Prodigal Son had hardly come to his senses when, perishing from hunger for virtue, he comes to his father, saying, "Father, I have sinned before heaven and before thee, and I am not worthy to be called thy son." Yet the father receives him in repentance, not reproaching him, but embracing him and kissing him in a display of divine and fatherly love. And he clothes him, a symbol of baptism, putting a ring on his finger, a symbol of the grace of the all-Holy Spirit. He also puts sandals on his feet, not so much as a protection from some serpent or scorpion that might sting him on his path to God, but rather as a means of crushing the heads of those creatures. And then in a tremendous display of joy he slaughters the fatted calf for him, his only-

begotten Son, and the Father grants him communion of his body and blood. Now the elder son expresses his amazement at his father's limitless mercy. But the lover of mankind exhorts him to silence with loving and kind words of humility, saying, "Thou art ever with me, and it was meet that we should make merry and be glad, for my son was formerly dead in his sin and is alive again, having repented of the foolish things he has done. He was lost, since he was far from me in his licentious habits, and he was found by me, suffering in my compassion and calling him back in my mercy." This parable may be applied to us as well, which is why the holy Fathers have prescribed it for today. We who have sinned as the prodigal are encouraged to weed out despair and fear through repentance, confession and good deeds. For this is a great aid and a powerful weapon against the assaults of the adversary.

In Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Translated from Triodion, siest' Tripesnets: Triod' Postnaya, Moscow, 1904, by Robert Parent.

Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch. This great and holy man was an outstanding interpreter and defender of Orthodoxy. The whole of his life was devoted to the fight against the Arian heresy, which did not recognize the Son of God and blasphemed against the Holy Trinity. He was three times removed from his archiepiscopal throne by the heretics, and driven off into Armenia. The struggle between the Orthodox and the heretics became so bitter that once, while Saint Meletius was preaching to the people in church on the divine Trinity in unity, his own deacon, a heretic, ran up to the bishop and shut his mouth with his hand. Being unable to preach with words, Meletius preached by signs. Thus, he raised his arms on high, opened three fingers to their fullest extent and showed them to the people, then closed his hand and raised the one fist. He took part in the Second Ecumenical Council in 381, where the Emperor Theodosius showed him specially great honour. At that Council, God showed a mystery through His archbishop. When Meletius was propounding the doctrine of the Holy Trinity to the Arians, he first raised three fingers, separated one by one, then brought them together; and at that moment lightning flashed from his hand before the gaze of all present. At that Council, Meletius established Gregory the Theologian in the seat of Constantinople. While the Council was still in session, Saint Meletius finished his earthly course in Constantinople. His relics were taken to Antioch.

Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow. A great hierarch of the Russian Church in a difficult period of Tartar oppression of the Russian people. Once in childhood he went bird hunting, then went to sleep and in a dream heard a voice that said: 'Alexis, why rush around so fruitlessly? I will teach you to catch men!' He became a monk at the age of twenty, and in time became Metropolitan of Moscow. He twice went among the 'Golden Horde' of the Tartars, once to soothe the wrath of Verdevir Khan against the Russian people, and the second time at the invitation of Amurat Khan, to cure his wife's blindness. She had been blind for three years, but was healed and her vision restored when Alexis prayed and anointed her with holy water. After a life of great endeavor and fruitfulness, Alexis entered into rest in 1378 at the age of 85, and went to the court of the Lord.

Our Holy Mother Mary (Marius) was a woman with a man's courage. After the death of her mother, her father desired to become a monk. Mary would not be separated from him, so they decided to go together to a men's monastery - Mary with short hair and in man's raiment as a youth. Her father died, and Mary became a monk and received the name Marius. There was an inn near the monastery, and the innkeeper's daughter fell in love with the pious monk Marius. After pursuing him without success, she accused Marius of unlawful relations with her, because she had known some other man and borne him a son. Mary did not defend herself and was driven forth with scorn from the monastery. With the strange child in her care, she lived for three years in a grove belonging to the monastery, enduring hunger and hatred, and every sort of hardship and privation. As a result of all this, the innkeeper's daughter became deranged and, a little later, Mary died. Immediately after her death it was discovered that the 'Monk Marius' was a woman. As soon as the innkeeper's daughter touched the relics of Saint Mary, she was healed of her insanity and confessed her terrible sin. Saint Mary entered into rest and went to eternal joy in 508.

Saint Callia was generous to the poor from pure Christian compassion, both as a young girl and later as a married woman. Her husband was rich but a hard man. Returning on one occasion from his work, he found that his wife had given away all his wealth to the poor. He thereupon killed her. But God glorified this compassionate soul, in that her relics healed many of the sick. Convinced by this of her sanctity, the holy patriarch Antony built a monastery over her relics. **Saint Antony, Patriarch of Constantinople** was at first an ascetic, a man of great compassion, and then Patriarch in the time of the Emperor Leo the Wise (889-912). He built a monastery over the relics of Saint Callia.

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

February 19	Parish Council Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)
February 19	Meatfare Breakfast
February 24-26	Diocesan Altar Servers' Retreat in Garrison, NY
February 26	Cheesefare Breakfast
March 9	Perohi filling making, 9 am
March 10	Pinching perohi, after Liturgy (10:30)
March 24	Great and Grand Pre-Pascha Church Cleaning 11 am
March 25	After Liturgy, Lenten breakfast
week of March 25	Bread baking – schedule to be determined
March 29	deliver baked goods for Bazaar by 6 pm
March 30	assemble cookie trays 10 am
March 31	Spring Bazaar