

ORTHODOX HELPERS

Feb. 28

March 6

Prospora Daniel, Draga, Maria Psa. L. & Galina

Reader Marius & Dennis

Greeter Giani & Dennis



Thank you to all the church helpers. Your service is appreciated. **Please make note of the schedule and of your commitment.** If you are not able to fulfill your commitment, please find a replacement.



To judge sins is the business of one who is sinless, but who is sinless except God? Who ever thinks about the multitude of his own sins in his heart never wants to make the sins of others a topic of conversation. To judge a man who has gone astray is a sign of pride, and God resists the proud. On the other hand, one who every hour prepares himself to give answer for his own sins will not quickly lift up his head to examine the mistakes of others." St. Gennadius of Constantinople, The Golden Chain, 53-55

TO OUR VISITORS: WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

Welcome to all guests to St. Mary's on this holy day. If you are new to our church, please make yourself known to Father Michael. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Please note that only Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves with prayer, fasting and Confession may approach to receive Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to receive the blessing and partake of the blessed bread (Antidor) at the dismissal.

As a sign of respect please remain standing during Holy Communion, even if you are not partaking. Please turn off all cell phones.

"True knowledge is found only among those genuinely worshipping God."

† *St John Cassian the Roman*

Indeed there exists but one happiness, a communion of life with the Word, the loss of which is an endless punishment which goes on for all eternity. And that is why abandoning his body and whatever is the body's he strives intensely toward that communion of life with God, thinking that the only loss – even he were master of everything on earth – would be in the failure of the deification by grace which he pursues.

St. Maximus the Confessor

Saint Mary's Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church

Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America (O.C.A.)

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Feb. 28, 2016

The Prodigal Son

A Fiului Risipitor

Vespers every Saturday 6:00 pm

Divine Liturgy every Sunday 10 am

Other services as announced

- **Next Saturday March 5- 6:00pm** Memorial Saturday. Everyone is invited to bring a memorial prayer list. Please be on time if you are bringing coliva or other foods.
- **Next Sunday March 6 -Pre-lenten lunch** after Divine Liturgy. \$15.00 per person. Tickets will be sold at the door. Everyone is invited.
- **March 7 - Farewell to meat.**
- **March 7,9,11 - 6:30 pm St. Andrew of Crete Services.**
- **Saturday March 12- 4:45pm Bible Study** will be held in the hall
- **Sunday March 13- Ladies' Auxiliary General Meeting.** All ladies who are members of the parish are invited to attend.
- **March 20 - Sunday of Orthodoxy** will be held at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Church.
- **April 8- 10 -Men's Retreat.** Please see Dennis or Daniel for details.

ORTHODOX TEACHING

Reading - The Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Saviour has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition -- inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries -- we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.

Reading © Holy Transfiguration Monastery - Brookline, MA

*Please remember to make a loaf of sandwiches for the Mustard Seed.

TODAY'S READINGS AND TROPARS

Epis. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Gos. Luke 15:11-32. (Prodigal Son)

Ap. 1 Corinteni 6,12-20. Ev. Luca 15,11-32.)A Fiului Risipitor)

Resurrection Tone 6.

The angelic powers were seated near your tomb and the soldiers were as dead men, and Mary came before your tomb, seeking your all pure body. You despoiled Hades and it did not try to hold you back. You met the Virgin and you granted life to all. O you that arose from the dead, O Lord, glory to you!

Tropar for the Prodigal Son

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me. / Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal: / "I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; / receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants

Tropar for the church

Your Nativity O Birthgiver of God has proclaimed joy to all the Universe. For the Son of Righteousness, Christ our God has risen from you, By abolishing the curse, He gave a blessing, By destroying death, He bestowed eternal life.