

February 12, 2017

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Once upon a time Abraham Lincoln was asked how he was going to treat the rebellious Southerners when they had finally been defeated and had returned to the union of the United States. The questioner expected that Lincoln would take a dire vengeance, but he answered, 'I will treat them as if they had never been away.' Isn't this true on the religious level as well? It is the amazing wonder of the love of our God that he treats us the way he does, with so much indulgent mercy as we see in today's Gospel reading of the Prodigal Son and the Merciful Father. This gospel story tells us so much about the forgiveness of God. The father in this parable must've been waiting and watching for his son to come home, for he saw him a long way off. When he came he forgave him with no recriminations at all. Now, there is a way of forgiving, when forgiveness is conferred as a favor. It is even worse, when someone is forgiven, but always by hand and by word and by thread the sin is held over them. But, such is not the case with the father here. He forgives readily!

By contrast, Jesus gives us in the same parable an example of how God is *not*. This takes the form of the role played by the older brother. When the younger brother is remorseful for his sinful way of life the older brother is actually sorry that his younger brother had come home. He stands for the self-righteous Pharisees who would rather see a sinner destroyed and saved. We see three things about him: first, his attitude shows that his years of obedience to his father had been years of duty and not of loving service. Secondly, his attitude is one of utter lack of sympathy. This is obvious for all to see when he refers to the prodigal, not as my brother but as *your son*! He seems to be the kind of man who would rather push you off a boat than to help you out of the storming sea. The third and final point is that he had a very nasty mind. There is no mention of prostitutes until he mentioned them. He suspected his brother of the sins he himself would have liked to have committed.

In conclusion, the God we encounter in this holy parable is a God of mercy, of love and of forgiveness. In the face of such love like that we cannot be other than lost in wonder love and praise. Our God is an awesome God! Let's get ready for Lent!

Jason, priest and sinner

Please remember that this is meatfare week with next Sunday (19th) Meatfare Sunday. If you are of fasting age, gear up for the Great Fast! and Forgiveness Vespers is at 7pm Cheesefare Sunday (26th). Everyone make an effort to attend this service to start Lent!

New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:

● **World Marriage Day** is celebrated on **Sunday, February 12th**. Congratulations to all the married couples at Holy Trinity. “Love opens our eyes and enables us to see, beyond all else, the great worth of a human being” (Pope Francis).



● ******Diakonia – Serving one’s neighbor** is one of the most important aspects of our Christian Life. The Gospel reading on the Meatfare Sunday, Feb. 19th recalls the scene of the Last Judgement: Did you offer me something to eat when I was hungry? To read more about this, please pick up Most Rev. Bohdan Danylo’s letter in the church vestibule. Friday’s in Lent after Presanctified Liturgy we’ll be having soup meals in the Church Hall. I would like to open this up to the needy in the area. **Please call Fr Jason to offer your much needed assistance (412 279-4652).**

● **The Second Catechetical Sermon on the Divine Liturgy** by Rt. Rev. Msgr Archimandrite George Appleyard is available in English and Ukrainian in the church vestibule. This sermon title is “Before the Curtain Goes Up - The Proskomide” - (a.k.a Proskomedia) or Prothesis. If you need more copies, please call the rectory.

● **Teenager and Young Adults:** This year’s Lock-in-Retreat will be March 18-19 at St. Anne’s in Austintown, OH. \$25 admission includes presentations, book, meals, T-shirt & FUN! Contact Deacon Myron Spak 412-303-9086 or mjspak@verizon.net. The theme: *To Die for Christ means to Live Forever!*



● **The PAC (Pastor’s Advisory Council)** is up for 3 positions. Please find the Primary Election Ballot within the bulletin. The *deadline to submit your names for the Primary is Wed., March 1st*.

The Final Election will take place the weekend of March 4th and 5th.

● **Bookkeeping-**Please note that our Divine Liturgy account is a separate account from our general account which receives all church offerings from your envelope box. Please make a separate check for all liturgy requests. Thank you.

● **Julian Michael Chubko**, infant son of Nazar and Katrina Chubko will be presented for baptism on Saturday, February 25, 2017 after the 4pm Liturgy. He will be sponsored by Borys Wowczuk and Helena Malyarsky (Olenka).



Prayer List: Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have a prayer list, contact the office and we'll send you one. **Keep in your prayers:** Anastasia Chruszcz, Stephanya Borszcz, Pauline Danesky, Alice Haritan, Luba & Peter Hlutkowsky, Daniel Holowaty, John Maslany, Helen Novak, Joe Popivchak, Mary Simek, Tillie Volanski, Donald Schultz, Dr. Justine Perhosky, James Holdcroft, Rich Hurey, Theodore Hritzko, John Yenchik, Frances Ingram, John Mosur, Zac Sudiak, 3 month old baby Jason & Family, Jeanie Kincak, Kerrie Zorey and Mary Anne Szeszak.



NEEDED: Volunteers to fill our time slot on Sunday, April 2nd from 3:00pm to 7:00pm for the **40 Days for Life Vigil** at the Planned Parenthood Clinic (933 Liberty Avenue) in downtown Pittsburgh. **Two vigil participants per hour is what is recommended.** A total of eight participants will allow us to fully staff this event. Depending upon interest, carpooling from Carnegie may be available, and there is free on-street parking in Pittsburgh on Sundays! This will be a peaceful, prayerful & rewarding experience. For more information on 40 days for Life/Pittsburgh, visit <http://www.40daysforlife.com/pittsburgh>. If you have any questions, call Dcn. Myron 412-303-9086 or mjspark@verizon.net.

More Volunteers are also needed for volunteering in Ukraine (May 26 - June 16, 2017) with the Sisters of St. Basil in their ministry to Ukraine's needy. The sisters & seminarians collaborate with the volunteers to teach children English and to visit orphanages & psychiatric institutions. For an application, and additional information contact Sr. Ann Laszok OSBM at srannl@aol.com or 412-260-1607. Michael Haritan, photographer, produced a *Wonderful* video of the trip last year. Go to: <https://youtu.be/qr4YjE5H-TM>



What is Live Streaming? Cut 'N' Run Studios will do a **training session on Live Streaming** at Holy Trinity **this Saturday, February 18th**. There will be pizza at 5pm, followed by the 1 hour training starting at 5:30pm. After the training there will be Youth Choir Practice with Nick Hladio as the Choir Director. **Please register** for the Live Streaming with Sister Ann at srannl@aol.com or call 412-260-1607.



Bi-Lingual Choir & Krylos Practice will take place the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, at 10 am in the church. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Zinski at 412-276-2259 or shzmusic@aol.com.

Christ Our Pascha, English Edition Price Reduction to \$24.95!!!



It is back in stock on our eparchial web site. Follow the link to purchase:

<http://stjosaphateparchy.com/product/christ-our-pascha/>

Christ –Our Pascha Workshop will take place Saturday, **March 25th** at Pokrova Church (6790 Broadview Road) in Parma Ohio, beginning at 9:30am and ending at 4pm with a Divine Liturgy. **For information and registration** call or email Sr. Ann Laszok 412-260-1607 or srannl@aol.com. **There will be another Workshop** on Saturday, **April 1st** at Sts. Peter and Paul Church (404 Sixth Street, Ambridge) same times. Everyone is Welcome!

Homemade Soups will be available at Holy Trinity during pyrohi hours, (*Thursdays: 9am-Noon & Fridays: 9am – 2pm*). There will be 2 kinds of soup: Borscht (Vegetarian) and Chicken Noodle for \$8/qt. If you would like to order ahead of time, call the pyrohi kitchen: 412-276-9897 or the rectory: 412-279-4652.



Slightly used Infant –Age 14 children clothing is needed to send to orphanages & the needy in Ukraine. During February & March, please bring in slightly used or new clothes as well as **only** new toys and place them in the collection boxes in the church vestibule and side entrance, marked “Children Clothing – Ukraine” Also, any monetary donation would greatly be appreciated to help in the cost of shipping. Please put your monetary donation in the collection basket and mark “Children Clothing –Ukraine” on the outside of the envelope. Thank you!!



A “**SOUPER Bowl**” Food Drive is being sponsored by our CCD Program to benefit a local food bank. **The last day to bring in your food donations is next Sunday Feb. 19th**. Please place your items in the boxes marked “Food Collection” in the church vestibule and side parking lot entrance.



The Parish Youth Group will be assembling 130 lunches (260 sandwiches) for distribution to homeless and less fortunate in Pittsburgh’s Hill District on **Saturday, Feb. 25th**. **They will prepare them on Friday, Feb. 24th at 7pm** in the church hall.

The total cost of this project is approximately \$300. If you would like to support the Youth Group with this project, please contact Bohdan Mykhailiv 412-726-8309 or bohdanmykhailiv@yahoo.com.

The 14th annual “Protect our Watersheds Art Contest” is open to **4th, 5th and 6th grade students** in schools served by PA American Water. All entries must be postmarked by **March 31st**. 1st Place winners: \$100 gift card to Barnes & Noble, 2nd Place Winners: \$50 gift card to B&N & 3rd Place winners: \$25 gift card to B&N. Grand Prize Winner: his/her artwork will be printed on unique see-filled cards. More information: www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com

Scholarships: Pennsylvania American Water is offering the *Stream of Learning Scholarship Program* to support outstanding student in our area who are charting a course of study that is critical to the water and wastewater industry. To apply for the \$1,000 scholarship go to www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com. **Deadline is March 24, 2017.**

Do you need Estate Planning, Last Will and Testament, Living Will? If so, consider giving John Sembrat a call. His number is: 412-260-8605

The Church was a Mother to you in Life, providing for your Spiritual Needs: Please Remember the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma in your Last Will and Testament. The wording to do this is as follows: “I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, located in Parma, Ohio, ___% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$_____].”

Vital Stats: \$2,846.25 was offered in the collection with another \$93 for candles, \$32 for Eparchy, \$371 for utilities, \$197 for Presentation of Our Lord, \$30 for Initial Offering, \$5 for Theophany, \$6 for Circumcision of Our Lord, \$20 for Synod of Bishops, \$25 for Special Offering, \$98 Bread Sales, \$40 Youth Group Sandwich Project donation, \$40 Ukrainian Children Clothing donation, \$75 Candle Blessing Candles, \$33 for Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund, \$10 prosphora donation, \$850 Dormition Shroud donation, \$25 unrestricted donation, and \$100 church renovation donation, all for a grand total of \$4,896.25. The pyrohi project on their first days back from winter break brought in a “net amount” of \$1,452. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

Lector Schedule for Next Weekend:

- Saturday, February 18 - 4pm: Mary Reabe
- Sunday, February 19 - 8:30am: Terry Styran
- Sunday, February 19 – 11am: Sophia Charron

What’s happening in our parish this week....

Sat. 2/11	<i>The holy great martyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste</i>		
	4:00pm	Divine Liturgy for the People	JC
	also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Ted Konecky requested by Ron & Joanne Swantek	IS
Sun 2/12	<i>The holy father Meletius, archbishop of Antioch</i>		
	8:30am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Emily Stecko requested by Lubi & Tetyana Chubko & Family	IS
	11:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Theresa Zozula requested by daughter, Pat McGuire	JC
	also Divine Liturgy to mark the 2 nd anniversary of the late John Shiwarski requested by his wife, Mary & family	IS

Mon. 2/13	<i>Our venerable father Martinian, hermit of Caesarea</i> The pastor's day off		
Tues. 2/14	<i>The passing of our venerable father Constantine, later known as Cyril, teacher of the Slavs.</i>		
	12:00pm	Divine Liturgy for the health of our loved ones	JC
Sat. 2/18	First All Souls: <i>Our father among the saints, Pope Leo</i>		
	4:00pm	Divine Liturgy for the People	JC
	also Divine Liturgy to mark the 17 th anniversary of the late Marie Sembrat and the 20 th anniversary of the late Stephen Sembrat requested by daughter, Mary and Family	IS
Sun 2/19	Sunday of Meat Fare - <i>The holy apostle Archippus, one of the 70 apostles.</i>		
	8:30am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Msgr. Richard Seminack requested by Ted & Charlotte Stecko	IS
	11:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Theresa Zozula requested by her daughter, Pat McGuire	JC
	also Divine Liturgy to mark the 12 th anniversary of the late Mykola Neczypir requested by the Neczypir Family	IS



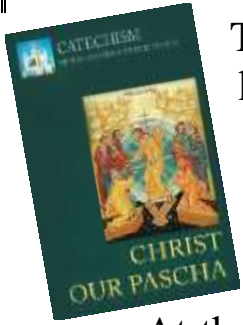
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ivan Slota
Halyna Mykhailiv
Maria Hanzel
Olga Konecky
Pat Baessler
Anne Konecky
Rebecca Zaletski
Natalia Lutsiv
Joseph Wowczuk

Donna Sradomski
Cesare Ulrich
Vivian Ulrich
Heidi Sciulli
Mathilda Volanski
Mark Popivchak
Gabrielle Blythe
Maxim Milligan
Daryna Pidkova

Ted Sywy
Mary Kurzawski
Loretta Luebbert
Bruce Alstad
Alex Konecky
Chris Kohl
Alice Johnson
Daniel Saad

Excerpt from **Christ Our Pascha**:



The Prayer of the Church Part Two of the Catechism presents the liturgical life of the Church, that is, the Church's prayerful gathering in Christ. This gathering, or assembly, Takes place in the power of the Holy Spirit in order to give praise and thanksgiving to the Father. This assembly constitutes a communication of God with his people. Hear the Lord continues to speak and here he renews his salvific deeds for his people.

At the same time, it is also the response of the Church to all the Lord's deeds and words revealed in the history of salvation, and recognized and received by the Church in faith. (#327) Chapter 1," The Prayer of the Ecclesial Community," describes the following aspects of the Church's liturgical life: the Divine Liturgy, the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), and the Liturgy of the Hours, as well as various consecrations and blessings. Liturgical services accompany each Christian from birth to death. With the light of Divine Grace they permeate every daily need, both material and spiritual. Through visible, earthly services - inseparably bound to the invisible and heavenly - the community of the faithful enters into communion with God and shows itself to be a single family of God, "with one heart in one voice." (#328)

PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Almighty and eternal God, You blessed the union of husband and wife so that we might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on us. Renew our marriage covenant. Increase your love in us, and strengthen our bond of peace so that [with our children], we may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. For you are a merciful and loving God and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen

Bless the Lord, all the marriages and grant them peaceful life, integrity, mutual love in the bond of peace, long life and unfading crown of glory.

May the Blessing of the Lord be upon You!

+*Bohdan*