

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

BULLETIN – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – 10:00 am Wednesday ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

Many Years -- Birthday

Claire Valory

February 17

KINDNESS MINISTRY

There will be a Kindness Ministry Team meeting **today** after the Divine Liturgy during coffee hour in the parish hall. Please join in. Everyone is welcome!

PARISH NEEDS

If you are able to help in either of the following areas, please contact the church office at 831-336-2228.

- **Community Dinner Leads:** Looking for more people or teams of people to add to the rotation of leading a meal. You will have support from the church and the people that already lead and help, but some current leaders are stepping down and we need to fill their spots. You would serve in this capacity about three times a year.
- **Grant Writer:** Someone who has a gift for writing and has time to do some research. There are grants for which our church could qualify that would help offset the cost of remodeling/building as well as help in other areas of our community development.

**Vespertal Divine Liturgy
St. Raphael of Brooklyn
Wednesday, February 26 @ 6:00 pm**

AN EVENING OUT FOR PARENTS

Youth attending Project Mexico this summer are offering babysitting for parents to take an evening out together. The youth will provide entertainment and care for kids between the hours of 5-7:30 pm. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity and help support our youth traveling to Project Mexico. Parents interested should contact Christina Salibi at (831) 227-7148.

TOWN HALL MEETING

On Sunday, February 23 after the Divine Liturgy, there will be a Town Hall Meeting in the parish hall. Financial overview, budget funds, giving, and the Narthex will all be discussed.

**Forgiveness Vespers
Sunday, March 1 @ 6:00 pm**

Do not lose heart, O soul, do not grieve; pronounce not over thyself a final judgment for the multitude of thy sins; do not commit thyself to fire; do not say: The Lord has cast me from His face.

Such words are not pleasing to God. Can it be that he who has fallen cannot get up? Can it be that he who has turned away cannot turn back again? Dost thou not hear how kind the Father is to a prodigal?

Do not be ashamed to turn back and say boldly: I will arise and go to my Father. Arise and go!

He will accept thee and will not reproach thee, but rather rejoice at thy return. He awaits thee; just do not be ashamed and do not hide from the face of God as did Adam.

It was for thy sake that Christ was crucified; so will He cast thee aside? He knows who oppresses us. He knows that we have no other help but Him alone. Christ knows that man is miserable. Do not give thyself up to despair and apathy, assuming that thou hast been prepared for the fire. Christ derives no consolation from thrusting us into the fire; He gains nothing if He sends us into the abyss to be tormented.

Imitate the prodigal son: leave the city that starves thee. Come and beseech Him and thou shalt behold the glory of God. Thy face shall be enlightened, and thou wilt rejoice in the sweetness of paradise. Glory to the Lord and Lover of mankind Who saves us.

St. Ephraim the Syrian - 14th Century

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul –February 17-23, 2020

- 2/17 Mon 6:30 pm – Choir rehearsal
2/18 Tues 6:00 am – Reader’s Orthros
2/19 Wed 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm – Vespers
7:00 pm – Parish Council
2/20-2/23 Thurs-Sun – Winter Sacred Music Institute –
Darlene away
2/20 Thurs 6:00 am – Men’s Reading Group
2/21 Fri 10:00 am – Women’s Book Study
2/22 Sat 6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline
2/23 Sun 8:20 am – Orthros
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – Sunday of the
Last Judgment (Meatfare)
10:20 am – Church School
Town Hall Meeting
2:00 pm – Community Dinner
Youth Group

Looking Ahead –

- February 26 **No** Morning Divine Liturgy
Vesperal Divine Liturgy for St. Raphael &
informal potluck
March 1 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)
March 2 Great Lent Begins – Great
Compline/Canon of St. Andrew
March 3 Great Compline/Canon of St. Andrew
March 4 Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts
March 5 Great Compline/Canon of St. Andrew
March 6 Little Compline/Akathist
March 8 Sunday of Orthodoxy

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meets on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 pm in the parish hall.

AOCWNA WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL & CANNED FOOD DRIVE

The Antiochian Women will be hosting a Wine & Cheese social event on Tuesday, February 25, from 7–9 pm in the barn. All women 18 and over are welcome to come for fellowship and to collect food for Valley Churches United Missions (VCUM). Please bring a beverage or food item to share as well as your donation to VCUM. A list of items needed will be available for sign up during coffee hour today and February 23. Either bring your donations to the February 25th event or leave them

in the food barrel in the parish hall. Gift cards and cash are also welcome. See Marilyn Spurgeon for more details.

Orthodox Tidbits

“We must devote ourselves to purification of the heart by liturgical practice.”

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

As we begin Lent, we should view the extra services of the Church as gifts for our salvation. There are some who would separate our liturgical practice, what we do in the services, from other aspects of our faith such as prayer and teaching. However, the Orthodox Christian life is the liturgical life. The prayers we pray with our families at the home altar are liturgical. We view the home as a church, where we should pray together and minister to one another for our salvation. Likewise, the services in the Church are for the building up of our faith through repentance, prayer, teaching and the sacraments. All that we do in our life should be directed towards God. All that we do in the services is prayer. We do not recite the creed as cold dogma, but read it as prayer, offering our assent to the teaching of the Church to God. The hymns, especially those of Vespers and Matins, teach us the faith, and we pray those as well, seeking to acquire the spirit and mind of the Church. Finally, the sacraments are our prayerful participation in the life of the Church, drawing us ever deeper into union with Christ. The services are a great gift. My prayer for us is that we approach them as such, not out of compulsion, but out of a desire for repentance and an increase in our holiness for the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, amen.

**In Christ,
Fr. Nathan**

**Join us!
Community Dinner
Sunday, February 23
2:00 pm**

All are welcome to share in an afternoon of friendship and dine on home-cooked food. If you would like to contribute time and talents or funds, please contact Sh. Karla at (831) 423-8121.