The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads Orthodox Christians to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

This parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God’s divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by His Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland. This is why in the Slavic tradition of the Orthodox Church, the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles states: “By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land” (Psalm 137).

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

February 16, 2020 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Martyr Pamphilos, priest of Caesarea in Palestine and his companions; Venerable Flavian the hermit; Venerable-martyr Romanos from Solovak of Carpenision

Matins Gospel Reading: Mark 16:1-8

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2):
When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee; O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Kontakion for the Prodigal Son (Tone 3):
When I disobeyed in ignorance Thy Fatherly glory, I wasted in iniquities the riches that Thou gavest me. Wherefore, I cry to Thee with the voice of the prodigal son, saying: I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father, receive me repentant, and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

Epistle Reading: The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

This Week at All Saints

Saturday, February 22: Divine Liturgy for Soul Saturday 10 AM

Saturday, February 22: Vespers, 7:30 PM (Confession available before and after)

News and Announcements

House Blessings: The season for house blessings has begun. Nothing elaborate is required and a meal is discouraged. Please contact Fr. Pat at your convenience to arrange a time for your home to be blessed or with any questions. The visit need not take more than an hour.

Save the date! Today! Teen SOYO will be meeting after church school from 1-4 PM to complete a service project for the homeless.

Diocese of Toledo Spring Gathering February 2020: St. Mary Church in Palos Heights, IL is excited to host the Spring Gathering February 20th-23rd 2020! We have a great weekend planned including special guest speaker, Dr. Albert Rossi from St. Vladimir's Seminary. Registration for the Spring Gathering can now be done online at: https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1089606

Please consider attending the upcoming pro-life SpeakOut Illinois Conference at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace for breakfast on Saturday, February 29th. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the conference ends around 1 pm. This year's conference will feature keynote speaker Mary-Louise Hengesbaugh of Girls' Health First. Please visit SpeakOut Illinois Conference 2020 - Splash for ticket prices and more information.

Volunteers

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Prophora</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Feb 22</td>
<td>Sd. Joseph</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Roberta P.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
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<td>Sunday Feb 23</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Azizeh C.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Gabriel &amp; Domitille N.</td>
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<td>Sunday Mar 1</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td>Carmen C.</td>
<td>Eric &amp; Cristina P.</td>
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<td>Wednesday Mar 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 11</td>
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<td>Sign up</td>
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