

## WELCOME TO ST. SOPHIA

440 Whitehall Rd., Albany, New York

Welcome to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The glass-enclosed narthex is designated for parents with infants and young children. Everyone is asked to remain in the narthex during the “*Small Entrance*,” “*Great Entrance*,” “*Epistles*,” and “*Gospel Readings*”. Also, please remember to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Also know that there is a wheelchair and a walker available to those who have mobility needs. Please ask a Parish Council member at the Pangari.

If you are a visitor or newcomer, we are pleased to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to a parish council member at the Pangari and also sign the guest book. Remember that only those who are baptized or chrismated in the Eastern Orthodox faith may participate in the Holy Sacraments including Holy Communion. Following church services, everyone is invited to attend the fellowship hour in the parish hall. *Our website is <http://stsophia.net>*

Today: February 12

### Sunday of 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.

*40-day Memorial for the late†  
Emmanuel Papadakis*

*40-day Memorial for the late†  
Irene Velonis*

*One-year Memorial for the late †  
Mary Lorraine Milham  
Coffee Fellowship Sponsored in her Memory*

*May their Memory be eternal!*

## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

February 12, 2017 – February 18, 2017

12 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
	11:45 am	Maids Meeting–AHEPA Room
13 Monday	9:30 am	Senior Tai Chi
	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	6:30 pm	Basketball
14 Tuesday	11:00 am	Chair Yoga
	12:30 pm	Senior Program
	4:30 pm	Greek School
15 Wednesday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	12:30 pm	Knitters
16 Thursday	12:00 pm	Seniors
	4:30 pm	Greek School
	5:30 pm	Adult Greek School
17 Friday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	4:30 pm	Greek School
18 Saturday	9:30 am	Liturgy–1st Saturday of Souls

### News & Events

- ▶ Next Sunday, February 19, Father Dennis will be the guest speaker at St. Basil in Troy for a noon brunch sponsored by the Pontos Society. The program will include a presentation on “*Turkish Genocide against the Greeks*”. Tickets are \$8; children under age 12, \$5.
- ▶ Snowstorms wreak havoc on streets and highways and scheduled events. The Family Promise fundraiser event scheduled for last Thursday has been rescheduled to this Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend the third annual “Give Your Heart to a Homeless Family”. There will be hors d’oeuvres, door prizes, and a cash bar. Admission is free.
- ▶ Lent is only two weeks away, and the traditional start for this 40-day journey of fasting is the traditional Cheesefare Luncheon. The luncheon will be held on February 26 following church services. Tickets will be available during the fellowship hour today. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children, and free for children under age 5. Proceeds will benefit the GOYA.
- ▶ If you saw them last year or bought one, you will know that the “Children’s Lambathes” for Easter were unique and artfully decorated. Whether for your child, your godchild, your grandchild, these are a special way for children to celebrate the Resurrection Services. See the information table during the fellowship hour.
- ▶ Reminder. If you have not made your Stewardship Commitment for 2017, please take time to do so today.

## Epistle Reading

***Prokeimenon. First Mode. Psalm 32.22,1.***

*Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.*

*Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

**The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20.**

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality.

Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

## Gospel Reading

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son    The Reading is from Luke 15:11-32**

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

## Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

## Apolytikion (Hymn) for the Church in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast made manifest the fishermen as most wise, By sending down upon them the Holy Ghost, And by them hast drawn the world into Thy net. O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

## Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."