

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.

**READER: JEANNE KITSOULIS**

**GOSPEL** 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.'"

**PRAYER LIST:** Christopher Bacas, Artie Constantinides, Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Mary Agis, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Coulopoulos, Matina Mantis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios, Private Louis Tiches, EG Robert Stock, and PFC Brett Hughes.



## RUN WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT...

The parable of the prodigal son offers a number of important spiritual lessons — about sin, about forgiveness, about a loving father, and about a regretful older brother. It is also a metaphor for the healing and cure of the human soul. As the prodigal started out where he belonged, with his father in a blessed place, wanting for nothing, then willfully left home to satisfy his own ego needs and pleasures, so it is with man—who, by sin, left the union with God in Paradise, to pursue his own pleasures, fantasies, and wants. The prodigal soon looked around him and realized that he had sinned, that there was nothing the world could give him compared to the happiness and oneness he had with his father. He felt broken and filthy among the pigs. So it is with sin — it fractures the relationship with God, takes us away from oneness with him, and gives us the sense that all is not well with our souls. Shameful and discouraged, the son returns home only to be greeted by his father with outstretched arms — received in love with no recrimination. Thus it is with the healing of our own souls. We must, like the prodigal, realize what we have done, how we have squandered everything for pleasure, power, ego, or whatever. We must look around and come to the realization that Blessed Augustine came to: *"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee!"* The healing and cure of our souls is our ultimate work as Orthodox Christians. We must look honestly into our hearts and actions and see that daily, in so many ways, we "leave home from God" to follow our own ego pursuits. By doing so, we estrange ourselves more and more from Him, and follow the certain path to sadness, discouragement, regret, and **eventual spiritual numbness**. As in the parable, the Father stands ready to receive us back. His indwelling image deep in our hearts calls to us again and again "Come home, my son!", "Come home, my daughter!" — "Come home, my child!" Let us use the coming Lent to look seriously and with honesty into our hearts and actions for all the many places we run from God. And

look to the aching and pain and anxiety in your heart. What does it tell you? Rise. Get up. Run with all your might back to the Father who yearns to enfold you in His arms. This is the wonder of *theosis* — of becoming by grace what God is by nature. It is the **ONLY** true way to happiness!



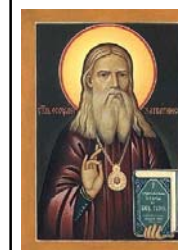
### FIRST SATURDAY OF SOULS

This coming Saturday, **February 26, is the First Saturday of Souls**. Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Prayer sheets are available at the candle stand for the names of the departed whom you wish to remember.



### MAKING READY FOR THE GREAT FAST

**Next Sunday**, February 27, (Judgment Sunday) is **MEATFARE SUNDAY**. This is the last day that meat or meat products may be eaten until Holy Pascha. March 6 (Forgiveness Sunday) is **CHEESEFARE SUNDAY**, the last day that dairy products may be eaten. **Get your kitchens prepared ahead so that you may be faithful to the Holy Fast**. Plan Lenten meals that are in keeping with the Church's discipline and pray the God give you the strength to be faithful! Remember, we don't keep *our own Fast*. We keep the Fast give to us by the Holy Church.



### THE WAY OF SELF-OPPOSITION

To be transformed spiritually means we must face the passions within us. To do this, we must "oppose ourselves" — this means to go against our tendencies to follow the passions. St. Theophan the Recluse puts in this way: *"It is necessary...to work against the passions directly, to oppose them to their faces, fight them and win—in ourselves and in their sources and supporters. To determine the guidelines for this we must envision inner, or spiritual, warfare—in the larger scheme, as well as piece by piece. This is the ascetical labor of self-opposition."*

### PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.



Today the fifth grade Sunday School class will be presented with Incense in the main Sanctuary at the end of the Divine Liturgy. The front left center pews will be reserved pews for the class. This is their special day. The incense represents our prayers going before the Father, as St. Paul noted, "before the Throne of Grace." Pray for the children who receive the incense and for their families!

### 50 PLUS

On February 23rd at Noon, Dennis Menos will speak on "The Parthanon Sculptures: The Struggle to Bring Them Home". On March 23rd a trip to the Smithsonian to view the Cyprus Exhibit--the bus leaves at 10 am and returns at 3:00pm to the Church. Cost is \$25 per person and luncheon is on our own in the East Wing of the Art Museum. Please respond by March 5th to Sally Peavy 301-229-5283 or Maria Kopsidas 301-493-5789. Reminder: No meeting March 9 as Lent Begins. During the month of March, the Fifty Plus Club will be hosting the coffee hour after church service for all four Sundays. Maria Kopsidas needs volunteers who can assist us. Please call Maria at 301-493-5789 for more information about how you can help.

### GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

The Greek School for Pre-schoolers is now accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year! Open registration is held from 1/19-2/22/2011. Please fill out the registration form (available on the church website) and follow the directions on the form. If you have any questions, contact Christina Stayeras @ [christinastayeras@yahoo.com](mailto:christinastayeras@yahoo.com) or Vasilias Contos @ [contosgeorge@hotmail.com](mailto:contosgeorge@hotmail.com). Classes fill up quickly so don't delay!

### "SOCRATES" SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

High School Seniors: We are now accepting applications for the "Socrates" Scholarship of the Greek School of St. George for Academic Excellence, Greek Language and Community Service. We are giving two awards, one for the Friday Greek School and one for the Saturday. The deadline for sending the application is April 16, 2011. You will find all the forms at [www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org). If you need more information, please contact Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or [michaelkaterinap@gmail.com](mailto:michaelkaterinap@gmail.com)

### APOKRIATIKO GLENDI (March 4)

The St George Greek School in association with other youth organizations of the Parish invites you to the Annual Apokriatiko Glendi to be held in the Grand Hall on Friday, March 4, 7 to 11pm. Ticket will be sold after services through February 27. Ticket prices are \$12 and \$8 for ages 6 and under. For information please contact Philios Angelides at 703-450-7963. Buy your tickets today! Tickets will not be sold at the door.

### LITERARY LUNCHEON IN APRIL

Mark your calendars for the Second Annual Literary Luncheon - featuring Ted Leonsis, Robert Krantz, Nick Tsiotos, and Eva Kalivas. Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 11:30am. At the Bethesda Country Club. For more information, go to [www.philologists.com](http://www.philologists.com) or call (301) 469-7990. Tickets \$65.

## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

St. Leo, Bishop of Catania

February 20, 2011



**L**oving Father, I have gone far from you, but do not forsake me, nor declare me unfitted for your Kingdom. The all-evil enemy has stripped me naked and taken all my wealth. I have squandered like the Profligate the graces given to my soul. But now I have arisen and returned, and I cry aloud to you, 'Make me as one of your hired servants, you who for my sake stretched out your spotless hands on the Cross, to snatch me from the fearsome beast and to clothe me once again in the first robe, for you alone art full of mercy.'

(Doxastikon of the Praises, Tone 6)

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion**

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

### **Resurrectional Kontakion**

When the Life-bestower Christ God had resurrected \* with His vivifying hand, from the dismal caverns, \* all the dead from eternity, He freely bestowed \* resurrection on the substance of our mortal humanity. \* For He is the Savior of all, resurrection and life, and the God of all things.

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