

A WORD FOR THE DAY

Then he shall get up, come to his father, and confess to him, "I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me like one of your hired servants."

When he confesses like that, he will be considered worthy of more than that for which he prayed. His father neither takes him in like a hired servant nor treats him like a stranger. Oh no, he kisses him as a son. He accepts him as a dead man come back to life again. He counts him worthy of the divine feast and gives him the precious garment he once wore.

Now there is singing and joy in the father's home. What happened is the result of the Father's grace and loving kindness. Not only does he bring his son back from death, but also through the Spirit he clearly shows his grace. To replace corruption, he clothes him with an incorruptible robe. To satisfy hunger, he kills the fatted calf. The Father provides shoes for his feet so that he will not travel far away again. Most wonderful of all, he puts a divine signet ring upon his hand. By all these things, he begets him anew in the image of the glory of Christ.

St. Athanasius, Festal Letter 7.

Our first step, as the reading says of the prodigal son, is "to come to ourselves." Then we also have to act. It is not enough merely to feel dissatisfied with our selves and our lives. We must, as the prodigal son, get up. We have to acknowledge: "I have sinned against heaven and before you, God, our Father."

What we are offered in all this exceeds our wildest dreams: we are invited to return, not merely as a servant, which is all that the prodigal son thought that he deserved, but as a son, robed with the best robe, adorned with a ring on our finger, and feasting on the best that the Father has to offer.

Fr. John Behr, The Cross Stands as the World Turns, pg. 18-19.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church In America

Feb. 12, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 1. St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381). St. Aleksy (Alexius), Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1378). St. Meletius, Archbishop of Kharkov (1840). Ven. Mary (who was called Marinus), and her father, Ven. Eugene, at Alexandria (6th c.). St. Anthony, Patriarch of Constantinople (895). St. Kristo the Gardener (Albania—1752). The "IVERON" (IBERIAN) Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.



Divine Services

Saturday, Feb. 18th.....Great Vespers.....5:00 pm
(followed by Confessions)

Sunday, Feb. 19th.....Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.....10:00 am
Meatfare Sunday (Hours 9:40 a.m.)

Today's Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

For Next Week, Feb. 12th

Hours and Thanksgiving Prayers.....Steve Nikitas

Epistle:Tanya Bogaevskaya

Coffee Hour.....Alla Gadoury

Memory Eternal:

Maria Magdalena (Jan.16, mother of Lucian Radulescu),

For the health and well-being of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, Mercy, Michael, and Shahrokh.

February Birthdays

Birthdays: Paula Colbert (04), Irina Pozniakova (07), Irene Vassos (13), Elanor Chelukhova (21)

Announcements

Many Years! Irina Pozniakova (Feb. 7th) and Irene Vassos (Feb. 13th)

Syrian Children's Fundraiser: Eat to Feed: Over 175 people turned out last night to support the dinner to raise funds for children suffering in Syria. The Makdisi family and members of St. Nicholas Orthodox church sponsored this heart-warming event, which included wonderful Syrian food and desserts prepared by

Fadia and her family and a silent auction. While we don't have final numbers we'll report results in next week's bulletin. Thank you to everyone from this parish who helped to setup, serve and clean up. Helpers from our parish included Galina, Tanya, Real, Alla, Rick, Steven, Irene, Lisa,, Barbara, and Fr. Joseph.

Last Reminder for Stewardship Giving through Talents Pledge Form.

For those of us who were not at the All-Parish Assembly last Sunday, there are sign-up sheets for those offerings that we are willing to give for the life of our parish, by use of our time, talents, and energy. These offerings of our talents are just as sacred as any other offering. Please, if you have not completed a "Stewardship Giving through Talents" pledge form, please do so ASAP and return it to Fr. Joseph or any one of the council members. Thank you!

IOCC. For the month of February, our parish will collect monies for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities). This is a trusted organization. Let's encourage one another to donate towards this cause. IOCC helps Orthodox Christians around the world in so many different ways. IOCC especially helps those who are sick and suffering by providing medical attention. They have saved many lives. Our donations will save lives!

Upcoming Events

Kids Movie Night. On Friday, Feb. 24th at 5:30pm, Emilie, Lisa, Tanya, and Fr. Joseph will host a movie night for the children of our parish at the rectory. We will order pizza, have sweets, ice cream, and watch the fun movie, "Muppets from Space". This is a great way to have a good time with our children before the Great Fast begins. Parents, please plan on bringing your children to this fun event.

Forgiveness Vespers just two weeks away on Sunday, February 26th.

This means, as well, that the Great Fast is going to begin in just two weeks. The Church, like a mother, is nurturing us into this blessed and joyous time. May we also be preparing our minds and hearts for the time ahead. Forgiveness is essential as we begin our journey to Pascha. Please prioritize your presence here at church for the rite of forgiveness which we will celebrate

right after the Divine Liturgy on February 26th.

Last Sunday's Collection.....	\$1,280
Budget 2017.....	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget.....	\$6,982