

Despite His Sin, the Spirit Was Still with the Son

It was the same with the younger son who squandered his property and wasted his father's property living among prostitutes. Despite all this, he did not lose his honorable title of son. In the land of captivity, having rejected his father, he rather remembered, "How many hired servants are at this moment in my father's house who have more than enough bread, but here am I perishing from hunger."

He was still a sinner. He had sinned to such an extent that he had thrown to the winds with his misdeeds the entire inheritance he had received from his father. He still called God his father. This indicates that the grace of the Spirit, which authorizes him to call God Father, did not depart from him.

We are unable to employ this term of address and call God Father, except through the authority of the Holy Spirit who is within us. It is well known that those who have not yet become God's children by the holy rebirth of baptism are not authorized to use this term. They are not permitted to say, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." The apparent reason for this is that the Holy Spirit is not yet within them to give them this authorization. It is well known to all that, when they approach the holy mysteries, the newly baptized all repeat this prayer with confidence in accordance with the tradition handed down by our Lord, and then they proceed to the holy mysteries.

Philoxenus of Hierapolis

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



Icon of the Prodigal Son

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

January 31, 2021

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

This Sunday: Epistle 1 Cor 6:12-20

Gospel Luke 15:11-32

Next Sunday: Epistle

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 2/1

6:30pm Vespers for Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Tuesday 2/2

10:00am Divine Liturgy: Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday 2/3

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Magdalene Florian by Family

Thursday 2/4

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Magdalene Florian by Ladies
Auxiliary

Friday 2/5

8:30am Divine Liturgy: For the living and deceased
members of the Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday 2/6

No Divine Liturgy

Sunday 2/7

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Parastas: +John Dragos – one year

Church Bulletin donated in January 2021 by ...

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

No Coffee hour will take place. Preparing for the dinner. Thank you!

Sunday Collection: January 24, 2021

Loose	\$6.00
Sunday envelopes	\$1,017.00
Christmas	\$25.00
Candles	<u>\$91.00</u>
Total	\$1,139.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention: For Family	Doru Jacobs
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
Special Intention for Family	Mihai and Elena Florea
+Parents and Family	Danny and Cyndi Ardelean
+Oprean Family	Danny and Cyndi Ardelean
Special Intention: Johnnie	Mom and Ronnie
+John, husband	Suzie Dragos
H/S Stella Lazar	Suzie Dragos
H/S All Family	Suzie Dragos
H/S of all members and friends of St. George	Suzie Dragos
who are sick and suffering	
H/S of Drew's friend, Daniel	Suzie Dragos

H/S Stella, Johnny and Adrian Lazar and Family	Mircea Cristea
H/S George Milosan	Mircea Cristea
+Marius Gavrilă	Erik Ardelean
+Grandparents and Godparents	Erik Ardelean
H/S Ardelean Family	Erik Ardelean
H/S Oprean Family	Erik Ardelean
+Helen Stegeman	Dave and Debbie Murari
+Anna Botean	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Lisa and Bob Cammel and Family	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Gene Murari	Dave and Debbie Murari
+Emil Neagu	Greg and Cheti Bikis
+John Bikis Jr.	Greg and Cheti Bikis

+++

Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Scarlett Putt, Sonya Paul, Bryan Pryce, John Contini, Donna Pandullo, Missy Lawver, Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Amelia Botean (Home), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **John Puia in memory of deceased family.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **Tony and Terry Orlando in memory of +Emil Neago.**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **Chuck Roska Family in honor of Lauren's birthday; H/S Pete, Lauren and Baby T.; and in loving memory of +Virgil Stroia, Jr.**

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **the Oprean Family.**

If you would like to sponsor candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for January 2021: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Mariana Greavu, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, P-sa. Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

Natalie Cseak is going to be 99 years old on February 6. There are birthday cards on the narthex table. Please fill one out and put in the basket beside them or use one of your own cards. Her granddaughter will pick them up on Thursday, February 4. *La multi ani!!!* Happy Birthday, Natalie!!

It is time to start thinking about pledging for 2021. St. George Cathedral could not keep the doors open without your support! Please prayerfully consider what God wants you to give to support our parish. **Pledge sheets** are in the 1/31/21 bulletin and are on the narthex table. Please return by the end of February 2021, so that we know how to plan for the year.

Prescure money is due for 2021. \$30 for the year can be paid to P-sa. Gabi. The list will be updated in February. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Sunday envelopes for 2021 are now available. Thank you for your commitment to our parish! St. George Cathedral **calendars** are ready for pick up as well!

Use Amazon Smile and choose St. George Cathedral. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you!

Purchases at **GFS (Gordan Food Service)**. St. George will get points when you purchase at GFS. Share the business name "St. George Cathedral" when they ask or remind them that you are purchasing for a business.

Ladies Auxiliary:

Dues are \$10 for the coming year. You may send your dues to the church or give to Carol Popa. Make check made out to Sf. Maria Ladies Auxiliary.

Parish events:

TODAY, the **Three Saints Curbside Dinner** will be hosted from noon to 2pm. Thank you to all those who worked and those who placed orders!

To Tickle Your Funny Bone 😊

With a booming voice, the minister of music bragged to his congregation, "Two years ago I insured my voice with Lloyds of London for \$750,000."

The crowded sanctuary was hushed. Suddenly and elderly woman spoke out "So, what did you do with the money?", she asked.

Word of Life

“Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. ‘Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age’ (Matthew 28:20).”

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Respect Life Reflection: Be Not Afraid (respectlife.org/be-not-afraid)

For the times we are afraid to welcome life:

May the Lord fill our hearts with confidence in His loving care
and provide for every need;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! La mulți ani!

Georgeta Barcutian – January 31st

Veronica Maier – January 31st

Virginia Rogers – January 31st

Emily Stoffer – February 4th - 40th birthday

Ava Grace Constantinescu – February 5th

Simon Parker – February 6th

Natalie Cseak - February 6th – 99th birthday

Pledge Form 2021

Our family is hereby pledging to give to St. George \$_____ for 2021.

Signature:_____

Print Name:_____

Fill out and return to the office. Thank you for your care!

	Mon 2/1	Tue 2/2	Wed 2/3	Thu 2/4	Fri 2/5	Sat 2/6	Sun 2/7
	Forefeast of the First Day of Black	+MEETING OF THE Dispensation (Harti)	Ven. Symeon the Abstinence	Emily Stoffer's Ven. Father Isidore of	Ava Grace Agatha, martyr Abstinence	Natalie Cseak's Simon Parker Ven. Bucolus, Bishop	Ven. Parthenius, Meat-Fare Sunday -
9am			Liturgy: +Magdalene Florian by Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: +Magdalene Florian by Ladies Auxiliary 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: For the living and deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary		
10am		Divine Liturgy: Holy Day of Obligation 10am - 11am					Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am				Kitchen and extinguisher inspection 10:30am - 11:30am			
12pm							Coffee: Suzie Dragos in memory of +John Dragos 11:30am - 12:30pm
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm	Vespers for Holy Day 6:30pm - 7:30pm						

EACH YEAR, AS WE PREPARE to embark upon the Great Fast, we hear the Lord's parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32) read at the Divine Liturgy. Some commentators have said that the story might better be called the Parable of the Forgiving Father as he is the most important character in the story. Actually the parable speaks about the character of God, (the father) and the human condition (both his sons). It thus sets the stage for our Lenten journey of repentance.

The Prodigal Son and Our Human Condition

We are not told the exact age of the young man when he decides to set off on his own, but countless commentators have depicted him as an adolescent. His behavior certainly bears this out. He has the selfish impatience of youth: he wants his inheritance now, even though his father is still alive. He is more interested in what the man's money can buy than in the man himself.

In that, the young man repeats the choice made by our first parents who preferred the appetizing but forbidden fruit to continued fellowship with the One who provided it. He also images the choices we all make when we focus our attention on the fruits of creation rather than on the Creator who offers us a relationship with Himself. In any such choice we become the petulant adolescent whose first stabs at maturity always seem to require resentment of the parent if not outright rebellion.

On his own the Prodigal's newfound independence seems to lead him into slavery

rather quickly. He begins living what various translations call a "wild," "reckless," "loose" "riotous" "foolish," "notorious," "dissolute," "wasteful," or "prodigal" way of life. We are left to imagine what that might have involved; we certainly know what the result was. He spent everything he had and ended up with nothing. He wanted to be independent but did not understand that being independent does not free a person from being responsible.

No well-balanced person in our world wants to be dependent on another. We often forget, however, that our desire for human self-determination cannot lead us away from God without disastrous results. We inevitably end up spiritually bankrupt and living on the pig's fodder of a Godless world.

Unlike many people, however, the Prodigal does something about his condition: he returns to his father. He repents. Still thinking of himself and his own needs, he plans to plead for the lowest place in his father's household. The young man does not know with whom he is dealing.

The Forgiving Father and the Mercy of God

The father does not wait for his son to apologize or beg for forgiveness. He welcomes him home with open arms and calls for a celebration. He is the image of our heavenly Father who knows when one of His children seeks forgiveness and grants it at once, without demanding any form of penance or satisfaction.

Note that the father does not go in search of his son when the lad is enjoying the wasteful life he has chosen or when he is miserable, but not yet resolved to return home. His mercy would bear fruit only when the son had come to truly desire it and so the father waits for his son to make the first move. But when the son does return, the father does not make him work for forgiveness; he gives it freely.

In this the father is unlike many of us who would want the ungrateful son to squirm before accepting him back home. We might feel justified in "teaching him a lesson," but this is apparently not God's way. When repentance truly touches the heart, the "lesson" has already been learned.

The Father's extraordinary mercy is no excuse for taking advantage of Him: seeking the blessing of His house while not repenting in action as well as in words. As St Isaac the Syrian taught, "But the fact that repentance furnishes hope should not be taken by us as a means to rob ourselves of the feeling of fear, so that one might more freely and fearlessly commit sin" (Isaac the Syrian, First Collection: Homily Ten).

Proclaiming the Mercy of God

Our liturgy continually emphasizes the mercy of God. The beloved Polyeleos psalm sung so frequently in our churches at the most solemn occasions has as its refrain, "For His mercy endures forever, alleluia" The Typica psalms each proclaim the depths of God's mercy to His People: "*He forgives all your iniquity, he heals all your diseases,*

he redeems your life from the pit, he crowns you with steadfast love and mercy” (Ps 102: 3, 4).

The second psalm is even more specific: “He brings about justice for the oppressed; he gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers, he upholds the widow and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin” (Ps 146:7-9).

Is it unreasonable to think that we, who continually sing of God’s mercy in our services, should not be encouraging one another to return to the Father by attending the Church’s Lenten services, by approaching the Mystery of Confession and by embracing the ideas in “The Great Fast in the Home,” available on our eparchy’s web site, www.melkite.org?

As the Lord said in the parables which precede the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance... Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Lk 15:7, 10).

St. Cyril of Alexandria on the Parable

“What then is the object of the parable? Let us examine the occasion which led to it; for so we shall learn the truth. The blessed Luke therefore had himself said a little before of Christ the Savior of us all, ‘And all the publicans and sinners drew near unto Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and Scribes murmured saying, This man receives sinners and eats with them.’ As therefore the Pharisees and Scribes made this outcry at His gentleness and love to man, and wickedly and impiously blamed Him for receiving and teaching men whose lives were impure, Christ very necessarily set before them the present parable, to show them clearly this very thing: that ...when any are called to repentance, even if they be men highly blamable, he must rejoice, and not give way to an unloving vexation on their account...

“For sometimes people are indignant at this, and even say, ‘This man, who has been guilty of such and such actions... has been inscribed among the sons of God, and honored with the glory of the saints!’” Such complaints come from an empty narrowness of mind, not conforming to the purpose of the universal Father. For He greatly rejoices when He sees those who were lost obtaining salvation, and raises them up again to that which they were in the beginning, giving them the garment of freedom...

“It is our duty, therefore, to conform ourselves to that which God wills: for He heals those who are sick... He seeks those who were lost; He raises as from the dead those who had suffered spiritual death. Let us also rejoice and, together with the holy angels, praise Him who is good, and the Lover of mankind.”

Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, 107

Sunday of the Prodigal Son



“This Man Receives Sinners”