

Sunday, February 15

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Mode.

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.

*Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

**KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON** 3<sup>rd</sup> Mode.

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.

**THE EPISTLE**

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul 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; but 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 are God's.

**THE GOSPEL**

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)**

The Lord spoke 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 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.'"

### \* \* \* *Announcements* \* \* \*

- ✘ **Fasting days:** the usual Wednesday and Friday (next Sunday is Meat-fare).
- ✘ **Daily service** schedule resumes next week (Cheese Week).
- ✘ **Parish Study**, The House of God, begins this coming Tuesday, Feb 17, at 7 PM (Vespers is now permanently at 5 PM, so there is a chance for worshippers to go eat before the study).
- ✘ **Men's Breakfast** this coming Saturday, Feb 21, after Matins; at Fr Patrick's home. Theme: prudent measures for parish and home!
- ✘ **Youth** are now meeting every Monday at 5:30 PM!
- ✘ **Inquirers / Catechumen** class has begun last week.  
Session is every Saturday, directly after Great Vespers. Class begins at about 6:30 PM and runs until 7:45, or so.
- ✘ **Home Search Committee Meeting** after church Today.