

Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Icon of the Prodigal Son

Glory to Jesus Christ! Our Bishop, clergy, religious and faithful welcome you to St. Stephen Cathedral. We are delighted that you have joined us for our Divine Liturgy. Our Church follows the teachings of Jesus Christ as found in the Gospel and passed on to us through the teachings of the Apostles and Tradition. If you are looking for a spiritual home, try our Cathedral parish. If you have questions, feel free to ask any of our clergy and religious. Join us again soon! God bless you!

This Week's Liturgy Schedule

Epistle- Meatfare Week Gospel- Meatfare Week

Sun. 2/12	Sunday of the Prodigal Son	Tone 6
Sat. 5:00 PM	+Warren Ruetin by GCU Lodge #999	(Msgr. Kevin)
Sun. 8:00 AM	+George Schaffer by GCU Lodge #999	(Fr. David)
Sun. 9:45 AM	3rd Hour	
Sun. 10:00 AM	For Our Parishioners, Benefactors and Friends	(Fr. Joe)
Mon. 2/13	Our Venerable Father Martinian (p.378)	
8:00 AM	+James "JC" Ross by George Tomley	(Fr. Joe)
Tue. 2/14	Death of Cyril Apostle to the Slavs (p. 368)	
8:00 AM	+Donald Thompson by GCU Lodge 999	(Msgr. Kevin)
Wed. 2/15	The Holy Apostle Onesimus (p. 368)	
7:00 PM	+Leone W. Hawley by GCU Lodge 999	(Fr. Diodoro)
Thu. 2/16	Leave-taking of the Encounter / Holy Martyr Nicephor No Morning Liturgy	
Fri. 2/17	The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (p. 379)	
8:00 AM	+Josephine Yeley by GCU Lodge 999	(Bishop Gerald)
Sat. 2/18	1st All Souls Saturday (p. 428)	
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy for the Faithful Departed	(Fr. Diodoro)
Sun. 2/19	MEATFARE SUNDAY	Tone 7
Sat. 5:00 PM	+Monta Lee Tomley by George Tomley	(Fr. Diodoro)
Sun. 8:00 AM	For Our Parishioners, Benefactors and Friends	(Fr. Joe)
Sun. 9:45 AM	3rd Hour	
Sun. 10:00 AM	+Sammy Butty by Widad Butty	(Fr. David)
by		

This Week's Candle Intentions

Eternal: Parishioners, Benefactors and Friends

Nativity: James "JC" Ross by George Tomley

Resurrection: +Monta Lee Tomley by George Tomley

Coming Events – Mark Your Calendars Now

Sunday, February 12: GCU Benefit Spaghetti Luncheon: 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Tuesday, February 14: IELC meetings are being held in Phoenix, during this week and will end on Friday.

Friday, February 17: "Seeking the Face of God in Iconography"

Presentation by Fr. Elias Rafai at 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 18: 1st All Souls Saturday Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM

Sunday, February 19: Cathedral 50th Jubilee Committee Meeting after 10 AM Liturgy

Monday, February 27: Great Lent begins: A day of strict fast for all Byzantine Catholics

Our Weekly Gifts to the Lord—May the Lord bless your kindness and generosity!

Saturday: 5:00 PM:20 **Sunday:** 8:00 AM: 32 **Sunday:** 10:00 AM: 123

Holyday (Theophany): \$51.00, **Tithes:** \$3203.00, **Candles:** \$44.11, **Coffee Social:** \$30.00,

Donations: \$143.60, **Gift Shop:** \$64.00, **Bake Sale:** \$84.00, **Fish Fry:** \$1160.00,

Fish Fry Bar: \$90.00, **Rent from Eparchy for Apt. #26:** \$600.00,

Fish Fry Expense Donation: \$320.00

Total: \$5,789.71

Special Intentions: Erwin Armada, Barbara Dugan, Joanie Mahar, Helen Furka, Vincent Rice, McCarthy Family, Gemma Hillman, Marti Lopez, Kathleen Linkowsky, Betty Geletey, Richard Gable, Robert King, Margaret Kunak, Ann Ryan, Chris Faix, Robyn Foy and Elaine Browne.

May the Lord rest His healing hand on His servants and hear their requests:

Mary Rabayda, Jane Walsh, Steve Durkit, Dorothy Dumnich, Richard Reese, Chris Balsz, Mary Lou Clark, Sr. Christopher, OSBM, Dorothy Bezeredi, Carlene Eneroth, Fred Way, Audrey Noble, Sharon White, Nancy Sandrock, Marlene Rolling, Bob Dugan, Cathy Milko, Cathy Simpson, Michael Dougherty, Widad Butty, Kris Lara, Mike Chapa, Mark D. Chapa, Noa Lee Chapa, Teresa Blanc, Clementina Mendoza, Dolores Balcazar, Vivian Rodarte, Nicholas Stefaniak Jr., Marie Mika, Mary Popovich, Betty Iwinski, Anne Peterson, Dan Palaschak, Michael Sherwood, Christina Toth, Alice Garcia, Liz Kol and the Sopiak Family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL SOULS SATURDAY ENVELOPES: If you are making a check out, please write the check out to St. Stephen Stipend Fund.

1ST ALL SOULS SATURDAY: FEBRUARY 18, 2017: This Saturday, February 18 is the 1st All Souls Saturday and we will have Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:00 AM. During this Divine Liturgy the clergy will read the names of the faithful departed.

BISHOP'S APPEAL PLEDGE FORM INSTRUCTIONS: In past years some people have donated to the Bishop's Appeal, but had not filled out a pledge card. Of course your gift was greatly appreciated; however, it is most helpful in keeping an accurate recording of the contributions if a pledge card is filled out. We do not send a check from the parish to the eparchy for the amount of your pledge until you complete your pledge. So please fill out in the appropriate space what your pledge will be. Please remember to make out your check or checks to St. Stephen Cathedral for the Bishop's Appeal. You should be receiving your pledge card for the Bishop's Appeal this week. Thank you.

GCU VALENTINE LUNCHEON: will be held on Sunday, February 12 from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Donation is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children. See GCU members for tickets. Come and enjoy a delicious luncheon. The luncheon benefits the Sisters of St. Basil.

SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD IN ICONOGRAPHY: On Friday, February 17 at 7:00 PM, Fr. Elias Rafaj will give a presentation on iconography at our parish. Fr. Rafaj is an iconographer and has given many workshops on iconography. Please come for this wonderful presentation.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS: On Sunday, March 5th, as mandated by the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), age appropriate classes on Safe Environment will be held for children and teens. All parents are invited to attend these classes with their children and/or teens. In the event that a parent wishes to provide the Safe Environment Session with their child and/or teen, an "Opt Out Form" to be signed and the Lesson Plan to be presented will be provided by Sr. Jean Marie.

"LIFE IN CHRIST" CLASSES FOR ADULTS AND NEWCOMERS TO OUR PARISH: Fr. Diodoro will be conducting classes which will deal with the faith, the sacramental mystical life, liturgical and spiritual life of the Byzantine Catholic Church. The classes are designed for adult parishioners and especially for those who are new to the Byzantine Catholic Church and our cathedral parish. Please see Fr. Diodoro for registration.

PRICE CHANGES FOR THE COLUMBARIUM: After researching pricing of various columbaria in the Valley, we have changed our prices for niches in the columbarium:

Per niche which holds two urns

- Non-Parishioners \$2,500.00
- Parishioners \$1,800.00
- Second Urn in Niche \$500.00

Cost of niche does not cover Stipends for:

1. Church use or holy services 2. Clergy/Ministers 3. Cantors or singers
2. If you wish to return an empty columbarium repository urn, the Church will return 75% of the cost.

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CEMETERY: There is an Eastern Catholic Section at Holy Redeemer Cemetery located at 23015 N. Cave Creek Road, Phoenix, AZ 85024. The telephone number is 480-513-3243.

PREPARATION PLANS FOR 50TH JUBILEE: Our St. Stephen Cathedral was officially dedicated on July 28, 1968. What a sacred and awesome blessing!!! And now it is the time to celebrate, giving thanks to God for this blessing!!! The Preparatory Committee for the 50th Jubilee is seeking photos, slides and/or memorabilia from parishioners who may wish to share these with the committee. Be sure that these are well marked with your name, placed in a large envelope and given to Kathleen Wursta or Deacon John Montalvo. These will be returned to you in the future.

ST. STEPHEN RELIGIOUS GIFTS AND BOOKS: Please remember to stop into our religious books and goods gift shop when you come to Divine Liturgy here at St. Stephen Cathedral. The gift shop is open after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Divine Liturgies on Sunday. There are many excellent books on Byzantine Catholic theology, liturgy, spirituality, icon books, etc. The gift shop also contains many nice icons, religious jewelry, chotki (prayer ropes) and other items. St. Stephen Religious Gifts and Books Shop is located in the parish hall just outside the hall kitchen along the west wall of the parish hall.

FISH FRY & PIROHI PARISH FUND RAISERS: This past Friday we had our first Fish Fry and Pirohi Dinner of the New Year. We greatly appreciate the dedication and effort of those who came to work this event. We are always in need of more workers in an effort to not burn out the volunteer workers. Also sometimes regular volunteers are not able to come to every Fish Fry and Pirohi Dinner because of other commitments or illness. The sign up sheet for volunteers to work will be in the parish hall.

Doing good works is an essential part of our Great Lent journey and coming to work at the Fish Fry and Pirohi Dinner would be an excellent addition in our spiritual life, to our prayer, worship and fasting during the Great Lent. Please take some time in prayer and discernment and think

about coming to help us at the Fish Fry and Pirohi Dinners.

Future Fish Fry and Pirohi Dinners will take place from 5 PM to 7 PM on:

Friday, March 3

Friday, March 10

Friday March 17

Friday, March 24

Friday, March 31

Friday, April 7

THANK YOU TO FEBRUARY FISH FRY WORKERS:

A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped make the Feb Fish fry a success. We served 110 dinners. Many if not all did double jobs to help cover areas that we did not have volunteers. THANK YOU: Sr. Jean Marie, Audrey Batcha, Fr. Joe, Teri Lewak, Bonnie-Steve Durkit, Karen Lengyl, Karam, Mary Lou Clark, Sr. Christopher, Joanie Mahar, Loretta W, Ann Zamal, Basil-Linda-Mary Alice Rabayda, Jake S, Joan Wolfe , Peyton Beckett, Margi-Madelyn Ellis and friend, Kurt Rimmer, Ilija, Jennifer Landis, Tom Hetrick, Jennifer Ball, Chet-Dolores Sugent, Luke Roll and Fr. Diodoro.

EPARCHY OF PHOENIX SPRING 2017 ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:

Online classes are from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Mountain Standard Time. All classes are taught by the clergy of the Eparchy of Phoenix for free through the Fuze online platform. Here is a list of the classes in February and March :

Catechesis of the Divine Liturgy: Fr. David Petras: 2/21 – 3/28

Sunday of Orthodoxy: Fr. Michael O'Loughlin: 3/2

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas: Deacon Basil Ryan Balke: 3/9

Sunday of St. John of the Ladder: Fr. Joseph Wargacki: 3/16

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt: Fr. Stephen Casmus : 3/23

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (LK. 15:11-32). Together with the hymns on this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's return from exile. The prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had. A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man who has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one

who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what is repentance.

Repentance is often simply identified as a cool and "objective" enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of "pleading guilty" to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked-- without which neither confession nor absolution have any real meaning or power. This "something" is precisely the feeling of alienation from God, from the joy of communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or become angry. It is quite a different thing, however, to realize suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty, that I am far away from my real home, my real life, and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this, and only this, is repentance, and therefore it is also a deep desire to return, to go back, to recover that lost home....

One liturgical peculiarity of this "Sunday of the Prodigal Son" must be especially mentioned here. At Sunday Matins, following the solemn and joyful Psalms of the Polyeleion, we sing the sad and nostalgic Psalm 137:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, and we wept when we remembered Zion... How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy...

It is the Psalm of exile. It was sung by the Jews in their Babylonian captivity as they thought of their holy city of Jerusalem. It has become forever the song of man as he realizes his exile from God, and realizing it, becomes man again: the one who can never be fully satisfied by anything in this fallen world, for by nature and vocation he is a pilgrim of the Absolute. This Psalm will be sung twice more: on the last two Sundays before Lent. It reveals Lent itself as pilgrimage and repentance-- as return.

I think we can look at this parable in two ways. The obvious one is described above- that of repentance and the need to repent of our own sins. But I also see forgiveness being taught here...do you?

As much as we are the prodigal sons of God who must look into our souls and see the sin there and repent of it- we must also look around at the prodigals around us - AND FORGIVE THEM. Just as the father took his son in and celebrated with a big feast- we must recognize the prodigals

around us and take them in. They may not always be as recognizable as the prodigal son who came home, homeless, hungry and shamed. That doesn't release us of our need to forgive them. It is not up to us to determine if someone is truly repentant or not. It is up to us to forgive them. For in our inability, or rather stubbornness, to do so, we are also being sinful. And then it goes around again- we must be repentant of our sinful nature to hold grudges, anger and resentment.

Reflections on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Jesus tells the parable of a man with two sons. The youngest son asks for his inheritance, leaves home and squanders it away. He is left with nothing and nowhere to go. Finding a job feeding swine and still finding himself hungry, he realizes that his father's hired servants always had enough to eat. He decides to go home and ask his father for a job. But upon his arrival, his father welcomes him and chooses to celebrate saying, "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (vv. 20-24). They have a feast! The older son, coming in from working that day wonders what the celebration is for and becomes resentful upon learning it is for his brother. He has been ever faithful to his father and his father has never given him such a celebration. Yet this brother, who squandered all he was given is honored with a lavish feast! The father says to his angry son, "You are always with me, and all that I have is yours," but explains that his brother is cause for celebration as "your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found" (vv. 31-32)

The parable demonstrates that repentance is a man's return from exile. Alexander Schmemmann writes in *Great Lent: Journey to Pashca* "A man who has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what is repentance." The prodigal son felt his exile. He was enslaved to strangers and hunger. He returned back, repentant, to his father's home, admitting his sin.

This parable offers hope to those who have fallen into despair with their sinful ways. It allows us to see that we must recognize and admit to our own sinful ways and return to God through repentance. Just as the father of the prodigal son hoped and waited for the return of the prodigal son, our Heavenly Father is patiently waiting our return to Him.

SPECIAL SPONSORS

This space is available for advertisements to help subsidize the cost of the bulletin. If you know of a business and/or an organization that would like to advertise in our bulletin please contact Fr. Diodoro for promotional rates. Thank you!

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Glory to Jesus Christ!

February 12, 2017
Glory to Him forever!

Saint Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral

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Website- www.stsbcc.org

Sunday Divine Liturgy Saturday 5:00 PM Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Weekday Divine Liturgy Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 8:00 AM & Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Holy Mystery of Penance: One hour before each Liturgy or by appointment

Served by:

Most Reverend John S. Pazak, C.Ss.R., Byzantine Catholic Bishop of Phoenix

Most Reverend Gerald N. Dino, Bishop Emeritus

Very Rev. Diodoro Mendoza, Rector - rectorss@eparchyofphoenix.org

Rev. Joseph Hutsko, Vice-Rector - huts1009@gmail.com

Very Reverend Archpriest David M. Petras, Retired

Msstr. Kevin McCauliffe, In Residence

Deacon John Montalvo - Deacon James Danovich

Sister Christopher, OSBM - Sister Jean Marie, OSBM

The Return of the Prodigal Son

“He arose and went to his father.” He arose from the wreckage of his conscience and body alike. He arose from the depths of hell and touched the heights of heaven. Before the heavenly Father, a child rises higher because of pardon than he fell low because of guilt.

“He arose and went to his father.” He went not by the motion of his feet but by the progress of his thought. Being afar off he had no need of an earthly journey, because he had found short cuts along the way of salvation. He who seeks the divine Father by faith soon finds Him present to himself, and has no need to seek Him by traversing roads.

“He arose and went to his father. But when he was yet a long way off.” How is he who is coming a long way off? Because he has not yet arrived. He who is coming is coming to do penance, but he has not yet arrived at grace. He is

coming to his Father’s house but he has not yet reached the glory of his former condition, appearance, and honor.

“But when he was yet a long way off, his father saw him.” That Father saw, he “who dwells on high; and looks down on the low things,” “and the high he knows afar off.” “His father saw him.” The father saw him, in such a way that the son could also behold his father. The father’s countenance illumined the face of the approaching son in such a way that all the dark aspect was dispelled which his guilt had previously cast about it.

St. Peter Chrysologus

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com