

**Prayers for our Parishioners.** The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays of obligation]" (canon 294). This liturgy intention for all parishioners is "For the Intention of Parishioners." The faithful who attend the Divine Liturgy for the parishioners who participate, according to their state, in praying for that intention. We can continue this prayer for one another during the week by remembering several parishioners' families each week. Please pray for these parishioners: Andrea and Glenn Delaney & family, Frances DeLoatch, Gayle and Rolfe Dietrich, Lynn Doering, Gregg and Danielle Dojak, and from the Mission, Tonja Siemucha.

If a second Sunday Liturgy is offered, an intention can be accepted. Since we have had only one Sunday Divine Liturgy for fourteen Sundays, the Liturgy was for the Intention of our Parishioners. As a result, the intentions requested for the second Liturgy on Sundays have not been offered. The celebrant can pray for additional intentions during the Liturgy, for example, the priest is required to pray for the bishop who ordained him at every Liturgy he offers. The celebrant will pray for the intention parishioners have offered. Please note that this does not persolve the Liturgy intention requested. There is no previously scheduled liturgy intention for January 31<sup>st</sup>. Any Sunday liturgy intention previously scheduled will be rescheduled when a priest is assigned which would make two liturgies a possibility again.

**Public Liturgies.** The Commonwealth of Virginia began Phase Three July 1<sup>st</sup>. In his episcopal letter of May 13<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Kurt Burnette announced that churches may reopen for public worship according to the directives of the public health authorities and with the bishop's permission. For churches, Phase Three requirements are the same as Phase One requirements. This means that the Parish Strategic

Plan and the Eparchial Checklist is still applicable. This means churches may open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. It is important for public health not to slacken in observing the Strategic Plan. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense so those who are at risk or feel unsafe may remain at home. Please keep in mind that Divine Law still requires us to keep the Lord's Day holy by prayer and by refraining from unnecessary work. The bishop cannot dispense Divine Law. Further, the Bishop had encouraged all to make a good confession later in the year when it is safe.

**Live Streaming.** In response to the spiritual needs the Faithful of Epiphany, the Divine Liturgy of Meatfare Sunday today will be live streamed.

**Praying at Home Together.** If you are remaining safe at home, you may consider praying the Divine Liturgy in your homes so that we can be united in praying the same prayers. These are available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, <https://mci.archpitt.org>. The entire People's Molitvennik is available under Publications tab to use when participating in the live streaming Liturgy.

**Messages from the Pastor.** Father John has been sending email messages to the parishioners whose email addresses we have on our roster. If you have not been receiving these email messages, it might be because we do not have your email address, or you have changed it and we do not have it. We would like to have your email address to keep contact with you during this time when some parishioners are remaining safe at home. Simply email the parish.

**Friday Fast Resumes.** Fridays resume as a Day of Penance.

**Intentions to be Rescheduled.** If you have offered a Divine Liturgy for an intention to be celebrated during the suspension, you will be contacted to reschedule. Jamie has begun rescheduling weekday liturgy requests according

to the date of the request. If you have scheduled a weekday liturgy, that liturgy will remain on the date requested. However, if you scheduled a liturgy on a Sunday, the intention will not be rescheduled until after the pandemic or until Bishop Kurt is able to assign a second priest to be able to celebrate two Sunday liturgies.

**Blessing of Candles.** Candles will be blessed Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon and Anna. Blessed candles will be available next Sunday.

**All Souls Saturdays.** Each year there are five All Souls Saturdays when our deceased relatives are remembered by name. This list, the Hramoty or Dyptychs, is read during a Panachida which follows the Divine Liturgy for the repose of our departed family members. Please use the envelopes in your envelope sets to list your departed names. The first All Souls Saturday is this Saturday, February 6, 2021. The next four are February 27, March 6, March 13, and May 22.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**EMC.** Epiphany Men's Club will meet virtually Thursday, February 4th at 7:30 PM.

**2021 Calendars.** Parishioners, if you not able to pick up a 2021 liturgical calendar since Christmas and wish to request a calendar, please call the parish office at 703-573-3986. We will put one in the mail to you. We are asking that distribution be limited to one per family.

**Offering Envelopes.** Many parishioners have recently received their collection envelopes for this quarter. Parishioners who do not receive their envelopes by February 1, please call the office again, 703-573-2968.

**On-line Giving Now Set Up.** Bishop Kurt directed that all parishes have online giving service in place with [www.tithe.ly.com](http://www.tithe.ly.com) by August 31, 2020. Both the parish and the mission now have online accounts with tithe.ly and these can be accessed at the church or mission web sites. To make an online contribution, go to the church web

site. On the home page is a link that says [Epiphany of our Lord online donation](#). Click on that and you will be directed to Epiphany's tithe.ly account. Please note that where you see Offertory, that is a drop-down menu that allows the donor to specify what the donation is for: Sunday offertory, Building Fund, St. Nicholas Fund, or eparchial collections. Please show care in the category Recurring Giving. If it is not a donation to be given each week or month, please make that adjustment that this is a one-time donation.

**EMC Bingo.** Due to the Pandemic, Bingo has been suspended indefinitely. Observance of local, state, Catholic Mutual, and eparchial requirements for safe distancing and sanitizing does not make reopening Bingo economically feasible. We will continue to monitor health and scientific information as it becomes available to guide the determination of opening safely for our parishioners and Bingo patrons.

**Parish Bulletin.** The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: [www.eolbcc.org](http://www.eolbcc.org). It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.

**Parish Office Schedule and Safety Protocols.** In accordance with Bishop Kurt Burnette's and Governor Northam's most recent Orders, the office hours for Epiphany of our Lord continue to be amended to the following: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Jamie, the administrative assistant, will cover the office during those hours from home two days of the week. She will be teleworking Tuesday afternoon and all day Thursday. Given that response to this crisis is so fluid and schedules can change so quickly, please call the office phone number before venturing out. Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office. If you have business at the office, please follow these protocols: 1. **use the RING doorbell**; Jamie is able to respond to the door from home as well. 3. wear **a mask** 4. **sanitizer station** when you

come and leave; 5. observe **social distancing**. We are only able to accommodate three adults in the office at one time. the office including two staff members observing safe distancing.

**Mission Update.** Jack McLaurin has informed us that regarding the Soil and Erosion Plan the remaining issue is the easement around the new dry wells. The documents are being prepared. The revised Soil and Erosion plans were to be submitted last Tuesday. The Building Permits Zoning has approved. We are waiting for the responses from other agencies. The Water and Septic reviewer comments are that the septic fields will not be able to handle a five bedroom house with public worship.

**Book Store.** The Bookstore is open by appointment only. Please contact a Bookstore manager and be prepared to wear a mask and not to use the rest rooms in the Social Hall.

**Restroom Availability FYI.** There are no campus restrooms open to the public, including our vendors. We have only two buildings being cleaned weekly, the church for our parishioners and the parish office for our office staff. The day care bathrooms are for the exclusive use of the day care children and staff and restricted for their safety.

## EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bishop's Appeal.** The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 1, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2020, must be attributed to the 2021 tax year. The goal for this year's campaign is the same as last year, \$19,800 for the church and \$6,000 for the mission. The parishioners at the church have pledged or given \$16,950. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$4,225. This is an incredible response in this difficult time. May

God bless you for your sacrificial offerings to our eparchy and for our eparchy's donations to European eparchies. If we reach our goal, we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

**ByzanTEENS Night Out.** The monthly virtual meetings of Byzantine Catholic teens continue this year with the general theme of "Roadmap to the Rally" at Mt. St. Mary, Emmitsburg, MD. The next meeting is Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-7:30PM. The teens are from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida. Epiphany teens are participants. Each month there are new participants who join. Deacon Tom Schubeck, a deacon at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Rahway and a licensed psychologist and a professor at Seton Hall University, is one of the hosts. For information on the virtual Night Out, write to him at [frdeacontom@gmail.com](mailto:frdeacontom@gmail.com).

**God With Us Online.** The study series continues with the offering *Dying to Sin: The First Steps in Askesis*. The course answers Are we all called to asceticism or is it the work of a select few? The course is led by Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses and will be presented online for three Mondays, February 22, March 1 and 8 8:00 - 9:00PM. Go to [www.GodWithUsOnline.org](http://www.GodWithUsOnline.org) to register.

**Catechetics Degree.** Father Mark Morozowich, SEOD, dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies of the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, and a Ukrainian Catholic priest of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat of Parma, informed Bishop Kurt that CUA School of Theology and Religious Studies is offering an on-line Master of Catechetics degree, an interdisciplinary degree of theology, scripture, spirituality, liturgical catechesis, history and psychology, to prepare professionals to be missionary disciples of the New Evangelization in the field of catechetics for eparchies and dioceses. If you are interested, please contact Father Dr. Morozowich at 202-319-5684 or the Graduate Admissions Specialist, Dr. Elena Martin at [martine@cua.edu](mailto:martine@cua.edu) or 202-319-5482.

## Prodigal Son

### COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- ByzanTEEN Night Out
- 2021 Calendars
- All Souls Saturdays
- Mission Development
- On Line Contributions
- Bishop's Appeal

### EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

## TITHING & GIVING

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Adults             | \$ 3,225.00       |
| Initial Offering   | \$ 155.00         |
| Building Fund      | \$2,740.00        |
| Holy Days          | \$310.00          |
| Candles            | \$187.00          |
| Christmas          | \$50.00           |
| School of Religion | \$22.00           |
| ECL                | \$12.00           |
| St. Nicholas Fund  | \$38.00           |
|                    | <b>\$6,739.00</b> |

**Tithing & Giving.** Above accounting represents weeks 1/17/21 and 1/24/21. The next report will cover weeks 1/31/21 and 2/7/21. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from our online giving account. Our online giving is operational and can be accessed through the parish or mission web sites. Thank you for continuing to use your giving envelopes.

*"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)*

## LITURGY AND LIFE

**Prayer Intentions.** Please remember in prayer: Msgr. George Dobes, Michael Mikulak, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, Richard Wytko, Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross, and Rand Bass. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Goula, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith.



# EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Byzantine Catholic Church

3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003

Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344

Very Rev. John G. Basarab - Pastor

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Glory forever!

January 31, 2021

Slava Isusu Christu!  
Slava na v'iki!

## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Sun. Jan. 31 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

*Meatfare Week*

### MEETING OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON AND ANNA

Tue. Feb. 02 10:00 AM +John Soyka by Children & Grandchildren

*First All Souls Saturday*

Sat. Feb. 06 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Remembrance of the Departed

### SUNDAY OF MEAT FARE

Sun. Feb. 07 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – February 7, 2021

Sun. Feb. 07 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

### USHER SCHEDULE – February 7, 2021

Sun. Feb. 07 Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday.

**All public services in church in Phase Three in Virginia can have 50% of capacity. People in attendance must wear masks and maintain social distancing.**

## EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Byzantine Catholic Church

### The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation** - (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist). We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is imparted at the same time immediately following baptism

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants** – is scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays or Sundays during the year except certain fast periods. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and supply a sponsor card attesting to that from their parish. While two Catholics in good standing is usual, one baptized non-Catholic can function as a Christian Witness with the Catholic sponsor. Both must be at least sixteen years of age. Details are available at the parish office.

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults** – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see the priest or deacon.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage** – According to the Pastoral Policy and Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Catholic Church in New Jersey, couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor one year before the date of the wedding and be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples will meet with the priest and deacon in four sessions – to begin the pre-nuptial investigation, to take FOCCUS, a communications, values and religious inventory approved for use in the Catholic dioceses/eparchies, to complete the pre-nuptial investigation and for a session on the theology of the mystery (sacrament). They are also required to attend Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance** – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available each Saturday 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. In addition, confessions are heard during the Christmas Fast (Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) at other scheduled times. Visiting confessors are also scheduled at special times during the Great Fast. Confessions are also heard on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Resurrection.

**Anointing of the Sick** – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-threatening medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of the sacrament of penance and anointing of the sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church before entering the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance of interruption for confession and anointing. If you are unable to come to church, please call the rectory. Families of parishioners who have a medical emergency should contact the rectory office so one of the priests can go the hospital.

**Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick** – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home by the deacon on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact the deacon or the rectory office by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

**Funeral Services** – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. The Epiphany Ladies Guild as part of their charity offers a Mercy Meal for families at the Parish Center following the interment. Epiphany of our Lord cemetery is a portion of Fairfax Memorial Park. Parishioners who are interested in purchasing cemetery plots should see the deacon.

**Byzantine Catholic Mission of Montgomery County** - Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM; Religious Education & Social Hour 11:15-12:15: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD; (301) 482-0282.

### Parish Administration

*"The Church is not an organization with sacraments but a sacrament with organization."*

#### Parish Clergy

Very Rev. John G. Basarab, Pastor  
Deacon Elmer Pekarik, Deacon Peter Turko

#### Parish Office Staff

Jamie Bacigalupi, Administrative Assistant  
Lucie Cantsilieris, Financial Assistant

#### Parish Council of Administration

Emil Koval, Greg Puhak, Sally Green

#### Parish Office Hours:

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday- Friday  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday

**School of Religion** - School of Religion classes meet on Sundays between Liturgies (9:20 AM - 10:20 AM) throughout the school year (September - June). Classes are offered for children grades Preschool & Kindergarten - High School

Announcements may be dropped off in the Parish Office, faxed to the office (703-573-1088) or email to [epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net](mailto:epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net).

**Registration** - Individuals who wish to register in the Parish should stop by the Parish Office and complete a census form.

Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA

<http://www.eolbcc.org>

Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct business on the website email.

## PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### PLACE RIBBONS AT:

|       |        |  |
|-------|--------|--|
| BLUE  | p. 11  | Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy |
| GREEN | p. 130 | Resurrection Tone 2                                  |
| RED   | p. 216 | Prodigal Son   |

### ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: B

#### EXCEPT:

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons
3. At the Troparia:
  - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 2 p. 130
  - Kontakion of the Prodigal Son Tone 3 p. 216 RED
4. Scripture readings:
  - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 2 p. 132 GREEN
  - Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
  - Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 2 p. 132 GREEN
  - Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

### ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne,

i 4n a4 Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravj, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu i Svjatomu Duchu, spasi nas.

### SVJATYJ BOŽE – HOLY GOD

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)  
Slava Otcu, i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.  
Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.  
Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

### IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjassčej Trojc'i trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiň. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Alliluia. Alliluia. Alliluia.

### SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadj vo imja Hospodne, osanna vo vyšnich.

### TEBE POJEM – WE PRAISE YOU

Tebe pojem, Tebe blahoslovim, Teb'i blahodarim, Hospodi, i molimtisja Bože naš.

### DOSTOJNO JEST' – IT IS TRULY PROPER

Dostojno jest' jako voistinnu blažiti t'a bohorodicu, prsnoblaženuju i preneporočnuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Česňjšuju Cheruvim i slavňišuju bez sravnenija Serafim, bez istl'inija Boha Slova roždšuju, suščuju Bohorodicu, t'a veličajem.

### OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

### VID'ICHOM SVIT ISTINNYJ – WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT

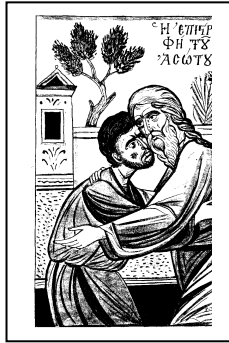
Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

### DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojeho Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'ascim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni poučatisja pravd'i Tvojeje. Alliluja.



**Meditation on Today's Readings**



**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

*But we must celebrate and rejoice because your brother was dead and has come back to life...*  
 Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told the parable of the Prodigal Son as part of a series of parables and of teachings during the forty days between when He was transfigured on Mt. Tabor and His crucifixion. Jesus is travelling from Galilee to Judea to arrive at Jerusalem. Luke writes that great crowds were travelling with Him (14:25) and that “tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Him” and the Pharisees and scribes began to complain about Jesus’ company (15:1-2). He tells several parables including the Prodigal Son. The holy fathers of the Byzantine Church appointed this gospel to be proclaimed on the third Sunday before the beginning of the Great Fast as a preparation for the Great Fast.

The parable perfectly describes sin, the effects of sin on self and on others, imperfect repentance being a good enough start, the love of God restores sinners to dignity, and the incorrect attitude of the righteous toward sinners.

The younger son of the parable demands his inheritance—actually the word in the Greek original, *ousia*, means one’s being or essence, so the son is asking the father, understood as God, for his life—even though his father has not died. This begins the explanation of what sin is: when tempted to sin humans want to be free of God. God is treated as dead, even though the reverse is happening. The younger son indulges in what he thinks is a good time until his inheritance runs out and his “friends” desert him. He reaches the low point when he is given a job feeding pigs. For a Jewish audience who does not eat pork, this is a pointless job, and more than that, since the job is to feed pigs while the one who feeds them starves, it is humiliating and reveals what happens when one becomes the slave of sin. The sinner feeds the sin while the sinner starves and dies.

The son “comes to himself”. He begins with imperfect repentance—he is motivated by hunger—and then comes to perfect repentance when he rehearses his Act of Contrition. “I have sinned against heaven and before you,” he realizes. With this Jesus teaches that in the Sacrament of Repentance we acknowledge that we have hurt God, our neighbor and ourselves. Sin does not only effect the sinner (“Why should anyone else care? It doesn’t hurt them”) is answered by Jesus. His parable teaches that sin hurts God and others. When the younger son takes his “essence” the father and older son have to live on only half of the property.)

The amazing thing is the father runs (undignified and unheard of in First Century Roman Palestine) and receives the son back with joy before he can even complete his Act of Contrition. The father gives him his baptismal garment back, his ring that is the sign of being a member of the family and sandals to show the son is free since only slaves went barefoot. These details are all given as the effects of the Sacrament of Confession. The older son is struck when he sees his father squander more resources on his brother who squandered the family wealth. The words Jesus puts in the father’s mouth reveal the truth God wishes to teach us. When we rebel against our divine Parent, take our “essence” and declare that “God is dead,” what really happens is we die. In order for us to come back to life after sin, to resurrect, God the Son must die and resurrect. In order for the Father to have the banquet, the Eucharist, Jesus must be crucified.

Last Sunday in the parable of the Publican and Pharisee, Jesus teaches that the virtue of humility is necessary to inspire us to repent. In this parable, Jesus teaches us that the Father is anxiously awaiting our return. All is needed is the humility to repent.

*...and God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power...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.*

Corinthians 6:12-20

The Corinthian church was claiming that all things are lawful for them since Saint Paul had said the Law of Moses was no longer to be observed. This was understood by them to be freedom to do what they wanted. They were saying that sexual activity was as necessary as eating is for the body. Saint Paul directed by the Holy Spirit writes that all the baptized are “married” to the Son of God through baptism and that they have to be faithful to this marriage union with Him. This means that sexual activity is only to be expressed in marriage by married men and women since it is instituted for marriage. In addition, Saint Paul says that individuals can control their eating. In fact, people can fast from food. If we can control what is truly needed for the body by fasting from food we can control other desires as well. As the Great Fast is coming close when we fast from food we should fast from sin too. The Lord Jesus resurrected from the dead, Saint Paul writes, and He will raise us up by His power if we unite to Him. Living free means living free from sin so the Holy Spirit can make it a temple, and that is how we can glorify God in our body.

From *Ignatius Study Bible: Luke, The Navarre Bible: Luke, and Fr. John S. Custer The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective*

**Children’s Corner**

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**Paul warned that Christians do not have the right to do whatever they please.**

Starting at the arrow, follow the path and place the letters in the blanks to make two sentences.



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