

First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians 6:12 – 20

Brethren: All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For *“the two,”* He says, *“shall become one flesh.”* But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Alleluia

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me!

v: He magnifies the salvation of His King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

The Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke 15:11-32

Gospel

The Lord spoke this parable “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with 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, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who had devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”



Schedule

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

8:30 A.M. Peroghies

Saturday, February 22, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Last Judgment

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, March 1, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Forgiveness Sunday

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

1:00 P.M. Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, March 3 – Thursday,

March 6, 2025

7:00 P.M. Compline with Canon of

St. Andrew of Crete

Friday, March 7, 2025

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 8, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Orthodoxy Sunday

BEGIN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

5:00 P.M. Vespers at Assumption

Greek Orthodox Church, Town &

Country, MO

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 15, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church

416 Ewing Ave, Madison, IL 62060

Sunday, February 16, 2025

34th Sunday After Pentecost; The Prodigal Son; St. Nicholas Equal to the Apostles Archbishop of Japan

www.nativityofthevirgin.com

"After having worthily celebrated the service and the sacraments, always thank the Lord from your whole heart by a short prayer of having found you worthy of serving Him, of serving His most loving intentions and deeds with all your heart, with faith and love; for our service to our Lord, Creator and Redeemer, is the greatest gift and favor to us sinners, always bringing forth good fruit, both in those who receive through us sanctification and salvation from God, and also in ourselves, because it gives us peace, life, and joy. We must always thank God for having designed to make us His sinful and unworthy servants, His fellow-laborers. As the Apostle says: "We are laborers together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9);" the servants and stewards of His Mysteries. "Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1)." But meanwhile, what do many of us do? They celebrate the service and sacraments, the reading of the prayers unwillingly, indolently, negligently, hurriedly, with omissions, wishing to finish the holy work quicker, and hasten after worldly vanity. What a fearful temptation, and what a grievous sin! Involuntarily one remembers the terrible word of God to the neglectful fulfillers of His works: "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully (Jeremiah 48:10 [OSB 31:10])!" I said, what a fearful temptation! Yes, it is a fearful temptation, because through blindness, we treat with neglect the words of the Holy Ghost, breathing in the prayers of the sacraments and services - we treat with neglect that which itself"

Prayer Requests

Those in this earthly life

Archpriest James	Reader Simeon	Wilma
Myer Family	Anna	Michael
Kelly	Elizabeth	April
Elyssa	Edmund	Joseph
Marie	Catechumen Athanasius	Michael
Craig	Alex	Barb
Ruth	Julia	Barbara
Greg	Martha	Mark
Margaret	Kendra	Angela
Carl	David	Elijah
Loraine	Adina	Sophia
Anastasia	Reader Stephen	Kathy
Amy & CTBB	Priest Andrew	Matushka Tanya
Deborah	Popadija Joan	Mary
David	Eva	Archpriest John
Kristine	Catechumen Mary	Matushka Margaret
George	Alexandra	Matthew
Lori Ann	Mary Magdalene	Priest Josef
Theresa	Diana	Archpriest Michael
Jake	Barbara	Reader Peter
Cecelia	Elaine	Patricia
Gabriella & CTBB	Victor	Matushka Virginia
Shawn		

Those in the life to come

Judy	Aleksandra	Matushka Olga	Francis
Nicholas	Olivia	Archpriest Thomas	Jean
Archbishop ANASTASIOS		Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Olga
Joe	M. Suzanne	Archpriest Vladimir	Cheryl
Patricia	<u>Robert</u>	Archbishop PAUL	Nancy
Donald		Archimandrite Innocent	Magdalene
Elizabeth		Edward	John

"would be the source of the sweetest peace, of joy in the Holy Ghost, and even the source of our own bodily health, did we serve with true zeal and attention; for the words of the prayers connected with the services and sacraments read with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, calmly, with a fervent spirit, have the indubitable and wonderful property of vivifying, strengthening, and healing our body itself together with the soul. This I know from experience. It is a grievous sin, I say, because by celebrating the sacraments carelessly we, through this, mock at the Lord's holy things. What must we do, therefore, in order to celebrate the sacraments and services worthily, attentively, with a fervent spirit? We must always have living faith that our God - worshipped in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost - is ever with us, is looking upon us, and at the first word of our sincere prayer for help is ready to help us in the holy work; for the prayer of faith, like breathing in relation to our body, is absolutely necessary for us while we live upon the earth. What breathing is to the body, the prayer of faith is to the soul. By remembering that the Almighty is ever with us, and really having Him in our thoughts, and casting away from our hearts all earthly thoughts, doubts, cares, and attachments, we shall always accomplish God's work worthily." *My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt*

Troparia

Resurrection

TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy Most Pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

TONE 4

Thy Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakia

Prodigal Son

TONE 3

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou hast given me. Therefore, I cry to Thee like the Prodigal: "I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; receive me a penitent and make me as one of Thy hired servants."

Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

TONE 4

By thy Nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our Life.

Prokeimenon

TONE 1: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.
Vs. Rejoice in the lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!