



Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN

January 31

34th Sunday after Pentecost/Tone 1
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia



Protection of the Virgin Mary

8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 947-4748 (Church)
(219) 730-4698 (Hall Rental)

Great Vespers
Saturday - 4 PM
Feast Days - 7 PM
Divine Liturgy
Sunday - 9:45 AM
Feast Days - 9 AM
Sunday Adult class 9Am
Children's classes after liturgy

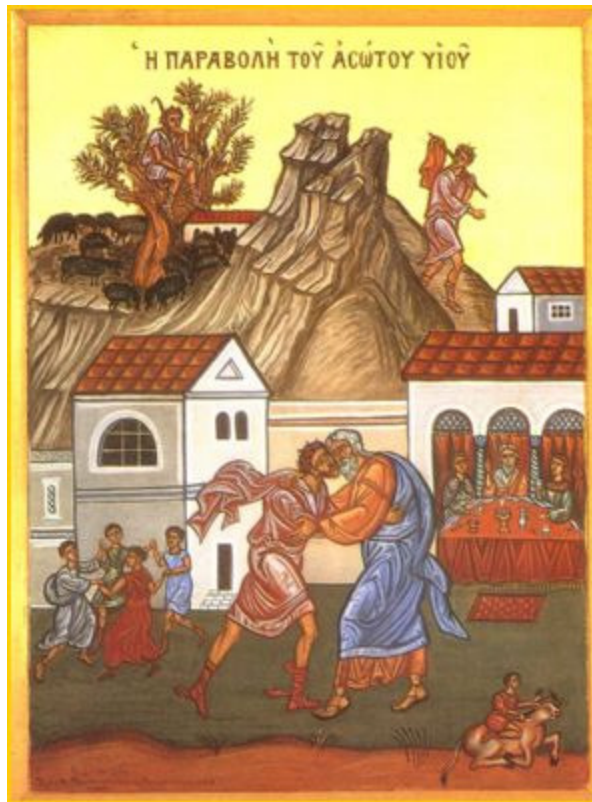
Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector

Fr. Christopher Sarafin

All services in English

A parish of the
Orthodox Church in America

PtvM.com



Today's commemorated
feasts and saints...

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 1. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John, and with them Martyrs Athanasia and her daughters: Theoctiste, Theodotia, and Eudoxia, at Canopus in Egypt (311). Ven. Nikita of the Kiev Caves, Bishop of Novgorod (1108). Martyrs Victorinus, Victor, Nicephorus, Claudius, Diodorus, Serapion, and Papias, of Egypt (251). Martyr Tryphænes at Cyzicus. St.

Arsenius of Pharos (1877).

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:

"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

Tone 4 Troparion (New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a chorus, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.// By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age!

Tone 3 Kontakion (New Martyrs of Russia) (Today the Virgin)

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God,

and with the Angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God// unto the ages of ages! Amen."

Tone 3 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.

And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:

"I have sinned before You, O merciful Father; receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Your hired servants!"

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!

(Ps 32/33:22)

v: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

Readings for Sunday Jan 31, 2010

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle)

12All 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. **13**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. **14**And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. **15**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! **16**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." **17**But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **18**Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. **19**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? **20**For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Luke 15:11-32 (Gospel)

11Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. **12**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. **13**And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. **14**But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. **15**Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16**And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. **17**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! **18**I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, **19**and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants. **20**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. **21**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.' **22**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. **23**'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; **24**for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. **25**Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26**So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27**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. **28**But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. **29**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. **30**'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him. **31**And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. **32**'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.' "

Commemorated on January 31

The Sunday after the **Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee** is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Also Commemorated on January 31

Saint Cyrus was a noted physician in the city of Alexandria, where he had been born and raised. He was a Christian and he treated the sick without charge, not only curing their bodily afflictions, but also healing their spiritual infirmities. He would say, "Whoever wishes to avoid being ill should refrain from sin, for sin is often the cause of bodily illness." Preaching the Gospel, the holy physician converted many pagans to Christ. During the persecution by Diocletian (284-305), St Cyrus withdrew into Arabia, where he became a monk. He continued to heal people by his prayer, having received from God the gift to heal every sickness.

In the city of Edessa at this time lived the soldier John, a pious Christian. When the persecution started, he went to Jerusalem and there he heard about St Cyrus. He began to search for him, going first to Alexandria and then to Arabia. When St John finally found St Cyrus, he remained with him and became his faithful follower.

They learned of the arrest of the Christian woman Athanasia and her three young daughters. Theoctiste was fifteen; Theodota, was thirteen; and Eudoxia, was eleven. Sts Cyrus and John hastened to the prison to help them. They were concerned that faced with torture, the women might renounce Christ.

Sts Cyrus and John gave them courage to endure what lay before them. Learning of this, the ruler of the city arrested Sts Cyrus and John, and seeing their steadfast and fearless confession of faith in Christ, he brought Athanasia and her daughters to witness their torture. The tyrant did not refrain from any form of torture against the holy martyrs. The women were not frightened by the sufferings of Sts Cyrus and John, but courageously continued to confess Christ. They were flogged and then beheaded, receiving their crowns of martyrdom.

At the same place they executed the Holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John. Christians buried their bodies in the church of the holy Evangelist Mark. In the fifth century the relics of Sts Cyrus and John were transferred from Canopis to Manuphin. Later on their relics were transferred to Rome, and from there to Munchen (Munich) (another account is located under June 28).

Sts Cyrus and John are invoked by those who have difficulty in sleeping

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY.....JAN 31 2010

SUNDAY 31 9am Adult class, 9:45 3rd Hr 10:00 Divine Liturgy
Church School , Panahida bishop Job
Sodality Mtg, Food pantry Sunday

MONDAY 1 7pm Great Vespers with Litya

TUESDAY 2 9am Divine Liturgy 6pm Prayer Service

THURSDAY 4 7pm Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY 6 4pm Great Vespers
check your monthly bulletin for more dates and information

Which apostle is considered to have taken Christianity to the Romanian lands?

- A St Matthew
- B St Peter
- C St Andrew
- D St Nathaniel

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 11, 2010

The combined parishes "Spring Fashion Show" will be on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at the Avalon Manor. Please help to make this a success by donating a themed basket, baking your dessert specialty, and asking as many family members, friends, colleagues, or co-workers to join us for this annual event. Enjoy a delicious luncheon, awesome raffle prizes, and the latest men's and women's fashions from Fashion Affair and John Cicco's!

Fashion Affair Boutique
- Wonderful clothes for every event
- Come browse around
233 E 84th Dr
Merrillville, IN 46410

Today is the "O" Club trip to the Merrillville Planetarium and there is still room available for you.

Everyone is invited to attend. The topic is the "Current Sky and Solar System" which starts at 3:30 p.m. and lasts approximately 1 hour. The cost is \$ 5.00 per person and is due today payable to either Nick or Melody Rozdelsky. The planetarium will be open from 3 p.m. on and there is a gift shop which will be open after the program. Following the program, we will proceed to Broadway Cafe for Dinner and to enjoy each others company before Great Lent.

There is a sign up sheet on the table adjacent to the Church Office.

Thank You!

Mission Awareness!

As the OCMC Mission Ambassador representing our church, I wanted to make you aware of an upcoming opportunity: On February 11, Mission Team Chicago will be hosting their 2010 OCMC Benefit Banquet at St. John the Baptist Church in Des Plaines, IL.

The keynote speaker will be Father Hatfield. He served as Dean of St. Herman's Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska from 2002-2007 before becoming chancellor of St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Mission Team Chicago (est. 1996) is comprised of former OCMC mission team members and others interested in forwarding Orthodox Christian mission work at home and abroad.

I will be attending and strongly encourage anyone who would like to attend to let me know; we can arrange to carpool if necessary.

Cost for the dinner is \$30. Even though the drive is a bit far, I'm sure the evening will be spiritually uplifting. One never knows what doors Christ will open for us!

Submitted by: Monika Kostron

email bulletin items to ptvmchurchgrowth@live.com