

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ KOINOTHTA ΤΩΝ ΤΑΞΙΑΡΧΩΝ Taxiarchae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church

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March 3, 2024

Sunday of the Prodigal Son Orthros 8:45/Liturgy 9:30 AM.

Epistle Reading St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20.

> **Gospel Reading** The Reading is from Luke 15:11-32.

> > **Memorial** 3 month - *Mark Tripoli* 6 month – *Alex Kolokythas*

Trisagion James & Maria Conduras 14 years - Apostolos Apostolou

May their memory be eternal. ALWVÍA η MV $\eta\mu\eta$!

WEEKDAY SERVICES - Καθημερινές Λειτουργίες:

Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoipikoos - Every Thursday at 6 PM. Saturday of Souls - 3/9, 16 & 23, Orthros 8:30/Liturgy 9 AM.



HYMNS OF THE DAY

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead, and Mary stood by the sepulcher, seeking Your sacred body. You destroyed Hades yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and through her, bestowed Life. Glory to You who has risen from the dead!

Άγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐnὶ τὸ μνῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ των νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."

Τῆς πατρώας, δόξης σου, ἀποσκιρτήσας ἀφρόνως, ἐν κακοῖς ἐσκόρπισα, ὄν μοι παρέδωκας πλοῦτον· ὅθεν σοι τὴν τοῦ Ἀσώτου, φωνὴν κραυγάζω· ἕΗμαρτον ἐνώπιόν σου Πάτερ οἰκτίρμον, δέξαι με μετανοοῦντα, καὶ ποίησόν με, ὡς ἕνα τῶν μισθίων σου.

Receiving Holy Communion - We welcome to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy those Christians who are from other Christian Denominations and who are not fully united with us. Sadly, it is a consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to you an invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is the work or action of the celebrating Community signifying a oneness of faith, life, and worship of the believing Community. Reception of Holy Communion by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must pray. **However, all present** are welcome to partake of the Antidoro (blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the Liturgy.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter 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" -- and 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 belong to God.

Epistle Reading

Προκείμενον. Plagal Second Mode. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1.

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλὸγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου. Στίχ. Πρὸς σἐ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεὀς μου.

τὸ Ἀνἁγνωσμα Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 6:12-20.

Άδελφοί, πάντα μοι ἕξεστιν, άλλ' οὐ πάντα συμφέρει πάντα μοι ἕξεστιν, άλλ' οὐκ ἐγὼ ἐξουσιασθήσομαι ὑπό τινος. Τὰ βρώματα τῆ κοιλία, καὶ ἡ κοιλία τοῖς βρώμασιν ὁ δὲ θεὸς καὶ ταὐτην καὶ ταῦτα καταργήσει. Τὸ δὲ σῶμα οὐ τῆ πορνεία, ἀλλὰ τῷ κυρίῳ, καὶ ὁ κὑριος τῷ σώματι ὁ δὲ θεὸς καὶ τὸν κὑριον ἤγειρεν καὶ ἡμᾶς ἑξεγερεῖ διὰ τῆς δυνἀμεως αὐτοῦ. Οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν μέλη Χριστοῦ ἐστιν; Ἄρας οὖν τὰ μἐλη τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποιήσω πόρνης μέλη; Μὴ γἐνοιτο. Οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι ὁ κολλώμενος τῷ πορνη ἕν σῶμὰ ἐστιν; Ἔσονται γὰρ, φησίν, οἱ δύο εἰς σὰρκα μίαν. Ὁ δὲ κολλώμενος τῷ κυρίῳ ἕν πνεῦμὰ ἐστιν. Φεύγετε τὴν πορνείαν. Πᾶν ἁμἀρτημα ὃ ἐὰν ποιήσῃ ἄνθρωπος ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματὸς ἑστιν ὁ δὲ πορνεύων εἰς τὸ ἴδιον σῶμα ἁμαρτάνει. Ἡ οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι τὸ σῶμα ὑμῶν ναὸς τοῦ ἐν ὑμῖν ἁγίου πνεὑματὸς ἐστιν, οὖ ἔχετε ἀπὸ θεοῦ; Καὶ οὐκ ἐστὲ ἑαυτῶν, ἠγορἀσθητε γὰρ τιμῆς δοξἀσατε δὴ τὸν θεὸν ἐν τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν, καὶ ἐν τῷ πνεὑματι ὑμῶν, ἅτινὰ ἐστιν τοῦ θεοῦ.

GOSPEL

The Reading is from Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said 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 the 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 filled his belly 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, 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."

GOSPEL

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 15:11-32

Eἶπεν ὁ Κὑριος τἡν παραβολὴν ταὐτην: Ἄνθρωπός τις εἶχε δύο υἱούς. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ νεώτερος αὐτῶν τῷ πατρί: πάτερ, δός μοι τὸ ἐπιβάλλον μέρος τῆς οὐσίας. καὶ διεῖλεν αὐτοῖς τὸν βίον. καὶ μετ' οὐ πολλὰς ἡμέρας συναγαγὼν ἄπαντα ὁ νεώτερος υἰὸς ἀπεδήμησεν εἰς χώραν μακράν, καὶ ἐκεῖ διεσκόρπισε τὴν οὐσίαν αὐτοῦ ζῶν ἀσώτως. δαπανήσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ πάντα ἐγένετο λιμὸς ἰσχυρὸς κατὰ τὴν χώραν ἐκείνην, καὶ αὐτὸς ἤρξατο ὑστερεῖσθαι. καὶ πορευθεἰς ἐκολλήθη ἐνὶ τῶν πολιτῶν τῆς χώρας ἐκείνης, καὶ ἕπεμψεν αὐτὸν εἰς τοὺς ἀγροὺς αὐτοῦ βόσκειν χοίρους. καὶ ἐπεθύμει γεμίσαι τὴν κοιλίαν αὐτοῦ ἀποῦ τῶν κερατίων ὧν ἤσθιον οἱ χοῖροι, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδίδου αὐτῷ. εἰς ἑαυτὸν δὲ ἐλθὼν εἶπε· πόσοι μίσθιοι τοῦ πατρός μου περισσεύουσιν ἅρτων, ἐγὼ δὲ λιμῷ ἀπόλλυμαι! ἀναστὰς πορεύσομαι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα μου καὶ ἐρῶ αὐτῷ· πάτερ, ἥμαρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου. οὐκἐτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἰός σου· ποίησόν με ὡς ἕνα τῶν μισθίων σου. καὶ ἀναστὰς ἦλθε πρὸς τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ. ἔτι δὲ αὐτοῦ μακραν ἀπέχοντος εἰδεν αὐτὸν ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἑσπλαγχνίσθη, καὶ δραμὼν ἑπέπεσεν ἐπὶ τὸν τράχηλον αὐτοῦ καὶ κατεφίλησεν αὐτόν. εἰπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ υἰός· πάτερ, ἤμαρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου, καὶ οὐκἐτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἰός σου. εἰπε δὲ ο πατὴρ πρὸς τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ καὶ κατεφίλησεν αὐτόν. εἰπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ υἰός· πάτερ, ἤμαρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου, καὶ οὐκἑτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἰός σου. εἰπε δὲ ὁ πατὴρ πρὸς τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ ἐξενέγκατε τὴν στολὴν τὴν πρώτην καὶ ἐνδύσατε αὐτόν, καὶ δότε δακτύλιον εἰς τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ὑποδήματα εἰς τοὺς πόδας, καὶ ἐνέγκαντες τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτὸν θύσατε, καὶ ἀποδήματα εἰς τοὺς πόδας, καὶ ἐνέγκαντες τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτὸν θύσατε, καὶ φαγόντες εὐφρανθῶμεν, ὅτι οὐτος ὁ υἰός μου νεκρὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέζησε, καὶ ἀπολωλὼς ἦν καὶ εὐρέθη. καὶ ἤρξαντο εὐφραίνεσθαι. Ἡν δὲ ὁ υἰὸς αὐτοῦ ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἐν ἀγρῷ ἡν καὶ εὐρέθη. καὶ ἤρξαντο εἰφραίνεσθαι. Ἡν δὲ ὁ υἰὸς αὐτοῦ ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἐν ἀγρῷ ἡν καὶ εὐρέθη. καὶ ἤρξαντο τὶ ψραίνεσθαι. Ἡν δὲ ὁ υἰὸς αὐτοῦ ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἐν ἀγρῷ καὶ ὡς ἐρχόμενος ἤγγισε τῆ οἰκία, ἤκουσε συμφωνίας καὶ χορῶν, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος ἔνα τῶν παίδων ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἰη ταῦτα. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὅτι ὁ ἀδελφός σου ἤκει καὶ ἕθυσεν ὁ πατήρ σου τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτόν, ὅτι ὑχιαίνοντα αὐτὸν ἀπέλαβεν. ὡργίσθη δὲ καὶ οὐκ ἦθελεν εἰσελθεῖν. ὁ οῦν πατὴρ αὐτοῦ ἐξελθὼν παρεκάλει αὐτόν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεἰς εἶπε τῷ πατρί· ἰδοὺ τοσαῦτα ἔτη δουλεύω σοι καὶ οὐδέποτε ἐντολήν σου παρῆλθον, καὶ ἐμοὶ οὐδέποτε ἕδωκας ἕριφον ίναν μου εὐφρανθῶ· ὅτε δὲ ὁ υἰός σου οὐτος, ὁ καταφαγών σου τὸν βίον μετὰ πορνῶύ, ἦλθεν, ἔθυσας αὐτῷ τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιός σου οὐτος, ὁ καὶ αὐτός σου οὐτος ν καὶ ἀνόζησε, καὶ ἀιός τοτε ἕδωκας ἔριφον ίνα μετὰ πορνῶς, ἦλθεν, ἐψραφιξις εἰπε τὰ παφαγών σου τὸν βίον μετὰ πορνῶν, ἡλθεν, ἔθωσας αὐτῷ τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιός τοτε ἐδωλαφος σου οὖτος κεκρὸς ἡν καὶ ἀνἑζ

Saints and Feasts

March 03

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.

Sermon

RETURN TO THE FATHER

The gospel parable of the Prodigal is the most excellent theological essay on the manner of God's "adoption" of people, the "gospel's gospel". A man has two sons. The youngest son violates the institutions, challenges his father's authority, and essentially denies his own existence, since he asks for use of his share of the property, as if his father were dead. But this piece, cut off from the whole of the truth of the father's life cannot live, cannot bear fruit. This piece, when we take it dynastically, arbitrarily, as and when we want, does not lead us to life, but to despair and destruction.

The Love of the Father

However, the father does not object or reject his son's request, as he was entitled to. On the contrary, he gives him the required part of the property, which he asks for. The father's love goes further than his son's rebellion is able to go. For this reason, he does not teach him with words. Now he must allow him to wander, to suffer, to personally experience the falsehood and the meaningless deceptions. The issue is not for the father to keep his son by force close to him, but to give him the possibility to create the presuppositions, so that he himself would come to him. The whole life of the Christian is formed mystically with the cooperation of God's Grace and man's will and with the real acceptance of the life of Christ. But this cooperation is entirely based on man's free decision to accept the Grace of God as an accomplice.

Life Away From God

And the prodigal leaves. He goes to live in a foreign country, where everything is spent without being renewed. But after a while, he remains alone. His friends stayed with him as long as his wealth lasted. He begins to experience decline and impoverishment. And when he goes to ask for help, they push him lower. They send him out to pasture pigs, to shepherd the passions. He is not simply breaking the law, but he falls into a permanent state of lawlessness.

The trials that he undergoes, become a cause for him to bring back the good memory of the father, a memory which he had previously killed. So he begins to come to himself, to self-criticize. With one Word, the son repents, and his repentance is the starting point for him to be led from despair to salvation, from physical and spiritual death to the physical and spiritual life.

Return

And the prodigal takes the return road back. Before he even arrives home, the father, who lived the mystery of waiting, sees him from afar and runs. Without telling him anything, he falls completely into his embrace and hugs and kisses him. The father's acceptance of the son proves in practice to be complete and unconditional. Because he was always with his child. What we should pay attention to is that the first word of his confession is not "forgive me", but "father". It is the name of the father that rises from the depths of his being and gives him the courage to hope. That is why the prodigal does not propose a solution for his future, but entrusts himself entirely to his father.

Our Return

We don't know how much of a relationship each of us has with the father and the youngest son. But

what we all know, is that we can return to our Father and to our sacred homeland, because He is life, the validation of our dignity, the rediscovery of our humanity. It is enough that holy humility chastens us, and God's mercy surrounds us.

We Welcome all who worship with us today.

Memorials

3 month - *Mark Tripoli* 6 month – *Alex Kolokythas*

Trisagion

14 year - Apostolos Apostolou James & Maria Conduras

May their memory be eternal. ALWVÍA η MV $\eta\mu\eta$!

Coffee Fellowship is open to be sponsored.

If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Fellowship, please contact the Office.

Announcements

Next GOYA Meeting - Wednesday, March 13th.

The National Hellenic Society's Heritage Greece Program is a complementary, 2-week cultural immersion odyssey for accomplished Greek American college students who share their experiences with a peer group of exceptional students from the American College of Greece (ACG) in Athens, Greece or the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) in Thessaloniki, Greece. The Heritage Greece Program® goal is to connect the participants with their faith, heritage, roots, and Greek identity. For more information visit: *National Hellenic Society* | *Heritage Greece*

Criteria for Eligibility:

• Enrolled college/university students aged 18-26 (undergraduate/graduate)

- · Hellenic descent
- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0
- · Preference for 1st time visitors to Greece (non-mandatory criteria)



Church Capital Improvement Campaign update. To date we have raised \$43,000 of the \$150,000 we need to raise for much needed improvements to our Church. We used approved monies from the operations account for the parking lot improvement but need to repay the operations account once we have raised the money. Thank you to those that have donated! If you would like to donate please visit the Church website, click on Donate, then Capital Improvement Campaign.



Purchase Your Tickets on our Website.

Use the drop down "Menu", purchase in Taxiarchae Store. DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS TODAY SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD

> The Taxiarchae Church and St. Sava Cathedral invite you to an evening of music, dance, food & fun



March 9, 2024 7 pm - 11 pm

Greek music by The Makredes Ensemble Serbian music by - DJ Enjoy Greek and Serbian Cuisine

Admission: \$60

Kids 12 and under - free MUST RSVP by February 24, 2024 Taxiarchae 25 Bigelow Ave, Watertown, MA 02472





Taxiarchae Oratorical Date: April 21, at the conclusion of the Liturgy

Parish Chairperson: Costas Karageorgis

Contact Information: Ckarageorgis@goarchangel.com

Please contact Costas or Fr. Nenes if interested.



Junior Division (Grades 7-9) | Senior Division (Grades 10-12)

AWARDS

National finalists are eligible to receive the following St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship: \$500 to \$2000 FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism: to be announced

SCHOLARSHIPS

Finalists at any level are eligible to receive the following Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College: \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year

LOCAL INFORMATION

Parish Festival Date & Time: ____

Parish Chairperson: ____

Contact Information:

Find topics, tips, manual, & award info at WWW.religioused.goarch.org Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of Religious Education (DRE)





YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Ministries are collecting "Gently Used" Prom Dresses for the Belle Ball program! Donate Prom Dresses to Local Students in Need.

Deadline for donations - Thursday, March 28th.

Please leave your donations on the COAT RACK in the LOBBY.

Thank you.

Collecting Prom Dresses ONLY!



MASSACHUSETTS CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

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Watertown Savings Bank Customer Choice Awards

Please vote Taxiarchae as your favorite Local Non-profit!

With your help, we can receive \$

WSB is now doing all the voting online. (No more paper ballots).

If you need help voting, please go to any WSB Branch and they will guide you through the process.





Youth Ministry

Ongoing FOOD DRIVE - Collecting for the Watertown Food Pantry Your donation of food items can be put on the table, located in the Lobby. We will deliver them to the Watertown Food Pantry every Tuesday. Thank you for helping your local community!

ESPECIALLY NEEDED - CANS OF TUNA & BREAKFAST CEREAL. As always, the Food Pantry is still in need of school snacks.



+Finex House PO Box 300670 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 https://www.finexhouse.org

PREVENT.



Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center

Planning a party or reception? Our beautiful venues are now updated and ready for any & all of your event needs, up to 500 people.

For information and assistance in planning your future event, please call Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office at 617-924-8182 or email: functionmanager@goarchangels.com



DREAM IT AND IT CAN COME TRUE! YOUR EVENT CAN BE <u>EVERYTHING</u> YOU WISHED.

