

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN Sunday, Feb. 20th 2021
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 2. St. Leo, Bishop of
Catania in Sicily (ca. 780)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 15:11-32

Please join us following Divine Liturgy downstairs for Coffee hour.
Sunday, Feb. 27th, Meatfare Sunday, we will have our pre-Lenten
dinner in place of coffee hour. Please bring a covered dish, if desired.

Great Lent begins Sunday evening, March 6th. If you have not already
done so, please speak to Fr. John about arranging a house blessing, if you
desire; start of Lent is the cut-off.

Services and events this week

Saturday

6:00pm Great Vespers, catechesis class: "The Mystery of the Death & the
Funeral"

Sunday

9:00am Bible Study
9:40 Hours; 10am Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Prayer list Feb. 13th

Mary Behanna – in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat (Virgin Mary
Kiot)

Sandy Aitken – in memory of brothers, Kevin & Ethan, Dad, Lee, & Fr. Igor/
for health of mother, Pauline/ Aunt Bunnie, Aunt Rosemary, Amanda,
Natalie & Prystash family/ for special intentions

Deacon Rodion & Mat. Sandy – for health of deacon Rodion, Nicholas, Mat.
Sandy & Christina/for health of Mat. Nadia, Fr. John & Jonah/ for health of
Dennis Carroll/ for health of parishioners of St. Nicholas Church/ for special
intentions

Dimitri & Pauline Petro – God's blessings for grandson Will on his first
birthday/ for health of Dennis Carroll/ for health of Jacque Rugh/ for health
of Christine & Alexandra/ for health of Russell & Rachel/ for health of Jonah
& Catherine/ for health of Natalie & Ron for health of Kyra & Noah

Pauline Petro – for health of husband Dimitri/ for birthday of Godchild Gina
Ralph & Ina Prystash – for health of Jacque/ for health of family/for health of
Dimitri Petro

Rodney Prystash – for health of family

Michael Horan – memory eternal for my loving wife, Rebecca/for health of
Cindy/ for safe journey for myself & Cindy/ for special intentions

Mark Soroka – in blessed memory of beloved father, Fr. Igor, and mother Mat.
Irene

Tom & Elaine Backstrom – for special intentions/ memory of mom & dad/
God's healing hand upon sister, Michele/ for health of family/ God's
blessings on grandchildren Sydney, Luke, Freddy & Madison/ for health of
daughter, Rachel

Vladimir Kash – in memory of Fr. Igor

Nick & Christine Milchovich – in memory of Becky Horan

Jim & Vera Hays – health of wife Vera/ health of all parishioners/ in memory
of Ethan Aitken/ in memory of Jennifer Lesko/ special intentions

The Love of the Father

*"Whoever we are, whatever we are, wherever we have come to be,
even at the very edge of the abyss, we must never let go of the moving
image of the prodigal son's reception into the embrace of the father, who
hugs him tightly and showers him with kisses. Let our final fall be into
the arms of our Most-Compassionate Heavenly Father..." – Monk
Moses of Mt. Athos*

Pray Slowly (ctd on prayer from previous weeks)

*To pray attentively, we will have to force ourselves to pray slowly.
We are opting for quality over quantity here: saying more prayers is not
the same as praying better.*

*The way to say the words of our prayers is **slowly**. There must be no
rushing. Our time is limited, but fortunately, it is better to say a few
prayers slowly and attentively than to rush through many. Jesus tells
us to avoid wordy prayers (Matt. 6:7). A few words said slowly, with as
much attention as we can bring to bear on the words, are what is
required. The list of people in the Gospels who have been healed,
forgiven, or saved after the briefest of prayers is long. The wise thief, for
instance, was saved after a mere nine words of prayer (Luke 23:42).*

(ctd on back)

Pray aloud

Praying aloud will help us pray attentively. By praying aloud, I do not mean shouting at the top of our voice. Writing teachers have their students read their papers aloud to themselves in a "twelve-inch voice." The person seated next to them should not be able to hear them; nonetheless, their lips are moving and their voices are engaged. This is what is meant by praying aloud: the words exhale from our lips and do not simply echo in our minds.

Praying aloud accomplishes the important function of slowing down our flow of words. We can think much faster than we speak. Forcing ourselves to say the words of our prayer aloud slows down our thoughts, and that makes it more likely we will pay attention to what we are saying.

The words of prayer – whether liturgical or personal – function as a two-edged sword. On one hand they are directed outward to God and are the medium of our praise and petition, repentance and thanksgiving. On the other hand, they are aimed inward at our own hearts and minds. They are meant to reshape our reflex response to the world around us and to bring our inclinations and decisions under the yoke of Christ. Praying aloud improves the accuracy of their aim.

Like prostrations (or bows) and the sign of the cross, praying aloud incorporates our body. It makes us move our lips and tongues. Saying our prayers aloud engages our ears: we can hear what we are praying. As St. Paul reminds us, "faith comes by hearing" (Rom. 10:17). Praying with our body prevents our time of prayer from being reduced to thoughtful musings on religious themes or wallowing in pious sentiments. Something as simple as mouthing the words of prayer softly makes prayer effortful; it makes praying into work. It enlists the whole of our being.

Joseph Letendre, "When you Pray"

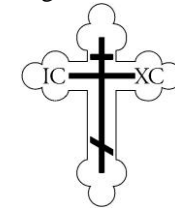


When I examine my heart, when I behold my false repentance, I can say to the Lord only, "My God, I have never made any beginning in prayer!"

Bishop Irenei Steenberg--The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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Organized 1916



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Protodeacon ROBERT MOTICHAK (Attached)
Dr. DIMITRI PETRO, Choir Director