

*Sunday of the
Prodigal Son
Tone 6*

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1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Luke 15:11-32

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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

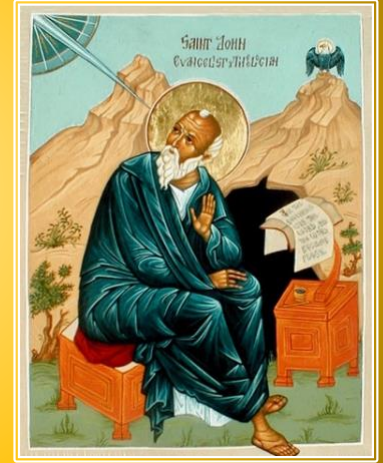
Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Kendall / A.
Stallman

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

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Sunday, March 3, 2024  
And the Days Following

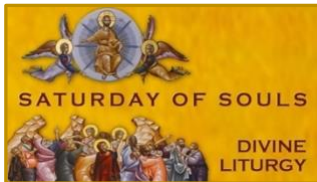


*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

### Feast Days and Services

#### Saturday of Souls - Commemoration of the Departed

Services: Friday, March 8 at 7:15pm – Vespers  
Saturday, March 9 at 9:15am – Divine Liturgy



Please remember to fill out or update your list of departed family members, Orthodox and non-Orthodox. Your previous forms will be in your mail-box folder in the Narthex and new forms will be available on the table. Please place your completed forms in the basket provided and have this done before Divine Liturgy Saturday morning.

### Parish Events and News

#### Saturday, March 2, 7pm - Church Family Meeting Early Great Vespers at 6:15pm

This one-hour meeting will provide updates on important ministries within our parish, begin a plan for this year's Easter Feast, present the speakers for this summer's Eagle River Institute, and more. Please plan to have a family member attend.

#### Soup Suppers for Lent



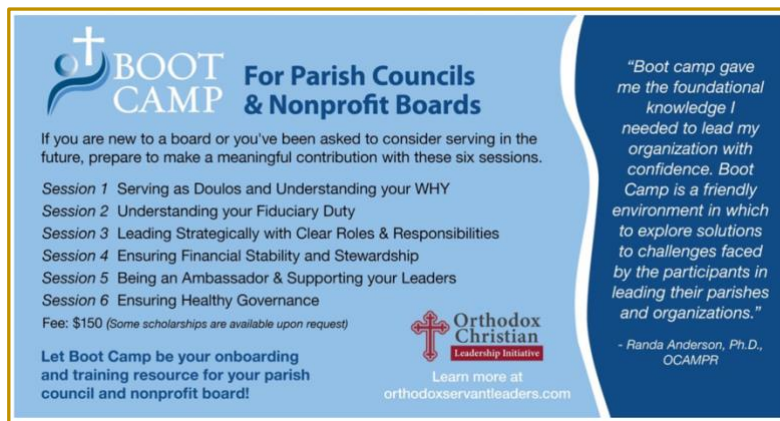
It's hard to believe, but it's almost time for Lent to begin. And with Lent comes our wonderful community tradition of providing soup suppers on Wednesday evenings. It used to be that the soup supper cooks would stay and clean up after an already long day of cooking for everyone. We are transitioning away from this practice. Instead, we are asking that each family/individual who regularly comes to soup suppers, sign up for one evening to stay a little later and help clean up.

We are also asking that everyone clean up their own tables and empty their own trays to make it a bit easier for those who are staying later. Unfortunately, if we don't have enough people signed up to help clean, we will have soup available to take home. But we will not be gathering together in fellowship as a community. Please take a moment to sign up on our Sign-Up Genius using this [LINK](#).  
Many hands make light work. Katy A- President of SMMS

## Parish Council “Boot Camp” Training This Week

Fr. Ian Pac-Urar from the Orthodox Christian Leadership Initiative will visit Saint John’s this week to begin a series of workshops with our Parish Council. We expect that this workshop will help strengthen our Parish Council as we prepare for several transitions in the next few years. These sessions will be on Wednesday and Thursday evening from 7pm - 8:30pm. Any members of Saint John’s who are considering serving on our Parish Council in the future are welcome to attend.

Please call Fr. Marc to confirm attendance. Find more information about this training here: [Orthodox Christian Coaching](https://www.orthodoxchristiancoaching.com)



**BOOT CAMP** For Parish Councils & Nonprofit Boards

If you are new to a board or you've been asked to consider serving in the future, prepare to make a meaningful contribution with these six sessions.

- Session 1 Serving as Doulos and Understanding your WHY
- Session 2 Understanding your Fiduciary Duty
- Session 3 Leading Strategically with Clear Roles & Responsibilities
- Session 4 Ensuring Financial Stability and Stewardship
- Session 5 Being an Ambassador & Supporting your Leaders
- Session 6 Ensuring Healthy Governance

Fee: \$150 (Some scholarships are available upon request)

Let Boot Camp be your onboarding and training resource for your parish council and nonprofit board!

Orthodox Christian Leadership Initiative

Learn more at [orthodoxservantleaders.com](https://www.orthodoxservantleaders.com)

*"Boot camp gave me the foundational knowledge I needed to lead my organization with confidence. Boot Camp is a friendly environment in which to explore solutions to challenges faced by the participants in leading their parishes and organizations."*

- Randa Anderson, Ph.D., OCAMPR



### Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)

12:30pm – 2:00pm

*Parents – please provide your children with a lunch.*



### Coffee Hour This Sunday - March 3, 2024 Group A - First Sunday of the Month

**Hosts Families: D & M Kendall / A. Stallman**

Snacks: Abel, Baker, Bowman, Cook, Davis, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Hoxie, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey, O’Fallon, Patras, Sorensen, Stallman, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Wells

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Next Sunday – Group B – March 10 Hosts: Ihde / Davisson

Snacks: Agnew, Alvarez, Betson, Davison, Davisson, Drennan, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hoyt, Ihde, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Lineer, Lowry, Moffatt, Peters, Ray, Schlicting, Stevens, Sturdevant, Villafana

News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



A short article from Metropolitan Saba will be published each week. These can be found in our Sunday Bulletin each week with a link to the new articles.

Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [A New Pharisaism](#)

[Monthly Newsletter](#)

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

“Checking In” with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email stjohnalaska@aol.com

Chapel Dome Blown Off

Recent winds toppled the large cupola from Saint Sergius Chapel. It appears that either wood rot or perhaps ants contributed to the weakening of the wooden attachment. John Marc and Dwight Stallman covered the top of the chapel roof to protect it from weather until the cupola can be repaired this summer.



Brothers of Lazarus

Last weekend the Brothers of Lazarus took on projects in the Cathedral basement. Several of the storage closets were cleaned out and organized. Additionally, work was begun on a storage system for the new chairs. The Brothers of Lazarus are still looking for volunteers to participate in future projects and requests from the community. If interested in joining, please email Tim Mellor at brothersoflazarus@gmail.com for more information.



Farewell to Paul & Olivia Gillquist and their three boys: Jonas, Rollie, and Sam.



Phot from last Sunday's farewell to the Gillquist Family. They are moving to Arizona as Paul has a new job with the Arizona National Guard.



Happy trails Paul! He and Peter left this morning to drive to Arizona. Olivia and the boys have 9 more days.

Dear Fellow Parishioner, family, and friends

God has presented me with an amazing opportunity this summer to participate in Project Mexico. I would have the privilege of traveling to Tijuana, Mexico to help construct a home for a family in need as well as interact with the orphans of Saint Innocent Orphanage sharing our faith. More information about Project Mexico can be found at <https://www.projectmexico.org/>. I will be traveling with the Youth Group of Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Beaverton, OR. To attend this missionary trip, I need to raise \$1,300.00 which pays for all travel, food and lodging from Portland, OR. I still need additional funds to get from Anchorage to Portland.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made via PayPal or credit card. I have included a QR code below. The link to pay online can also be found on the church's website <https://stjohngoc.org/>. When donating online please select 'Project Mexico' from the drop-down menu. On the next page please put my name, Macrina Labrecque, in the 'Write a note' section.

More importantly I am asking for your prayers for myself and the group as we travel to Mexico and put our faith into action. Thank you for your consideration.

In Christ,

Macrina Labrecque



Dates to Remember

Monday 'Moms with Kids' Reading Group

Please join us for reading group on Mondays at 10 AM. We meet at Saint James House in the living room area. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.





Monday Evening Reading Group

The evening reading group will meet Mondays at 6:30pm in the “Reading Room.”



Thursday Reading Group

We will meet Thursday at the Chugiak Senior Center at 10am

Birthdays This Week

March 4 - Mark Agnew	March 6 - Edmund Justus
March 4 - Mary Ruth Alexander	March 7 - Bill Cook
March 6 - Cecilia Scherer	March 9 - Karina Lindblom
March 6 - Skylynn Lineer	March 10 - Elisa Betson

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- * Helen Primis - March 14, 1999
- * Clyde Clarence Jones - March 29, 2002

M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **MARCH** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, March 23, 2024. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



Remembering in Prayer...

*Gwyn Jones
Janet Hawi
Judi Hoyt
Jan Northey
Gale Armstrong*

*Eloise Lamb
Tisha Dunham
Elisa Betson
Matt Komar
Maris Kelly*

*We will continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to
war and for peace*

SMMS Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2024

Katie Arvidson welcomed everyone to the meeting. / Opening and Prayer

Getting to Know our Sisters: Phebe Dyal shared her life story and how she came to be in Alaska and at St. John's, Hannah Hanna shared her journey to Orthodoxy.

Committee Updates:

Retreat Committee: Elisa Betson shared about the women's upcoming retreat at Birchwood Camp over Memorial Day Weekend (Friday through Saturday). The theme is Motherhood. More details to follow!

Decorating Committee: Rhonda Clodfelter shared about what goes into decorating the cathedral at different times during the Church calendar year. She expressed a need for volunteers for decorating the funeral bier during Holy Week and removing the flowers after Holy Saturday. Sydney Ihde expressed a need for helpers to decorate for the Pascha Feast.

Children's Committee: Jessica Kies and Cara Fletes talked about Lenten activities and a children's day camp to be held this summer. For Forgiveness Sunday, parents are encouraged to bring their children through the forgiveness circle. Also following Lazarus Saturday service, we are thinking of holding a workshop to help assemble the palms and pussy willows and to make palm crosses. More details on Day Camp to follow.

Outreach Committee: Sydney Ihde gave a synopsis of the Advent Outreach Project that took place last December when parishioners made and handed out several hundred breakfast sandwiches to homeless around Anchorage. She added that the Outreach Committee is aiming to do 3-4 outreach projects a year and she described a Lenten Outreach Project that will happen on April 12 serving breakfast to the people at the Hope Soup Kitchen.

Katy emphasized that with all these old and new roles, jobs, and responsibilities, we are in the process of blending tradition and novelty to meet the current needs of the parish and that both tradition and new ideas are equally valid.

Ongoing and Seasonal tasks: A list will be provided on the downstairs bulletin board stating who is responsible for each ongoing and seasonal task (the Good Works Basket, vestment up-keep, the Clare House etc.) This way we know who to reach out if interested in helping with a particular task.

Soup Suppers: Katy mentioned how there is always a shortage of clean-up volunteers after soup suppers. This year, we are hoping to have every family sign up for at least one slot for clean-up to ease the burden on the cooks. We are also asking everyone to clean up their own tables, so the clean-up crew is not cleaning up too late into the evening.

Katy shared "15 Simple Acts of Love to Practice During Lent" by Pope Francis.

We played Pictionary!

We reflected on the prompt: What do you do for Lent? Was there a tradition you really loved and how do we incorporate those into our families now?

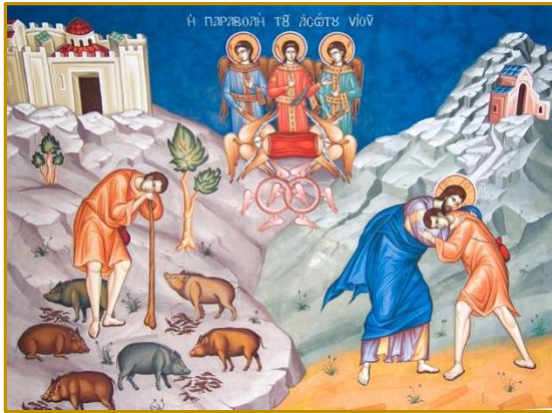
We wrote down our thoughts and shared at our tables.

THE SYNAXARION

Prodigal Son - 2nd PreLent

On March 3, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea; and the Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch.

On this day, we remember the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the Gospel and which our deified Fathers brought further honor in the Lenten Triodion.



Verses

*O you who are like me, a prodigal,
come forward with confidence and tranquility;
For unto all has been opened the door of divine
mercy.*

In the parable given to us by our Savior, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us: that we are distant from God and His Sacraments. However, when we become aware of ourselves and awaken, we hasten with hope and return to Him through repentance. Our Savior calls back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking the hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Your inexpressible love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us.
Amen.

Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: stjohnalaska@aol.com. Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway ◦ Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson