

*Prodigal Son
Postfeast Meeting*

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*I Corinthians 6:12-20*

*Luke 15:11-32*

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*Homily by
Dn. Joseph Ray*

*Epistle Reader:
Stan Snider*

*Coffee Hour Hosts:
E&H Johnson
Forbes/DuRand/
Burkowske*

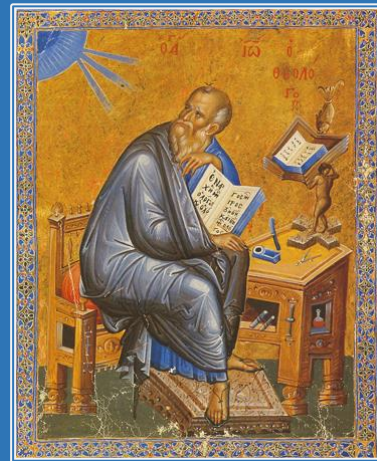
St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, February 8, 2026

And the Days Following

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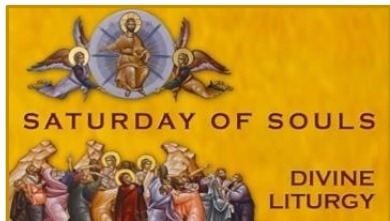
*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

### *Feast Days and Services*

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

**Divine Liturgy - Next Saturday - - February 14 at 9:15am**

***No Vespers on Friday – due to the teaching at the St. James House***



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. (*They will be available Friday and Saturday morning.*) Please place your completed

forms in the basket provided and have this done before Divine Liturgy next Saturday morning.

### *Parish Events and News*

#### **Opening the Door to Orthodox Christianity**

***Friday (New day for this week)***

**February 13, 6-7:30pm at the St. James House**

**“Spiritual Growth Pt. 2”**

[Updated Schedule for January, February - Opening the Door to the Orthodox Christian Faith](#)

#### **Fr. Marc and Tim Mellor Out of Town This Week**

**Monday through Thursday**

They will be attending the West Coast Clergy Symposium in Southern California with Bishop Anthony



## *Coffee Hour This Sunday - February 8, 2026 Group Luke (2) - Second Sunday of the Month*

**Hosts Families: E&H Johnson / Forbes / M DuRand / Burkowske**

Snacks: Agnew, Arnold, Bower, Davisson, Drennan, Dunham, Durand, Fisher, Hanna, Hoyt, J. Jenkins, M & M Jones, D & M Kendall, Komar, Layton, Lindblom, K Medders, L & M Mellor, G. Moses, Oliveria, Peters, Saur, Snider, Sturdevant, N. Temple, Tysver, Vermeylon, Villafanna, Wells

*Next Sunday – Group Mark (3) – February 15 - Hosts: D & A Jenkins / Watson / Arnold*

*Snacks: Alexander, Artz, Burkowske, Cook, Doss, B & D Dunaway, Dyal, Espino, Fletes, P. Gillquist, Griffith, Hattenburg, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Justus, Kendall, Labrecque, Lowry, Marcus, O Medders, T & L Mellor, Northey, Palmer, Polson, Scherer, Sorensen, J & A Stiehr, A & J Temple, V. Temple, Unser, Wasile, Wolkoff*

*The Sisters of Mary & Martha*

### RETREAT SCHEDULE

|          |                                                                                           |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9a-10a   | Breakfast                                                                                 |
| 10a-11a  | Session 1:<br>"The Life of St. Olga"<br>by Matushka Xenia Oleksa                          |
| 11a-12p  | Group discussion                                                                          |
| 12p-1p   | Lunch                                                                                     |
| 1p-2:30p | Session 2:<br>"Finding Community,<br>Finding Home"<br>by Ann Patras<br>& Doreen Dougherty |
| 2:30p-3p | Q & A with Fr. Marc                                                                       |
| 3p-4p    | Group discussion                                                                          |
| 4p-5p    | Dinner + Clean up                                                                         |

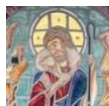


## *This Weekend....*

### **Women's Retreat February 7, 9am to 5pm**

Hello everyone! Here is the schedule for the retreat. The entry fee is \$20 (all meals provided) and can be paid online through the donation link under "Other" with SMMS retreat written in the description. If you have any questions, please contact me. - Sydney Ihde (907)854-5517

16906 Whimsy Station  
Chugiak, AK 99567



*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)*  
**Sundays from 12:30 – 2:00pm**

## *St. John's School Weekly News*



### **Super Bowl Party at the St. James House This Sunday**

Join us for the Super Bowl.  
Kick-off is at 2:30pm on February 8.  
Please bring a snack to share.

**St. James House 'Coffee House'**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 10**  
**8-9:30am**



St. James House is hosting a new "Coffee House" time every Tuesday and Thursday morning 8-9:30am. Come enjoy some coffee and company along with pastries from Wild Iris Baking Co. (John Marc & Bethany's Business). Open to all who want to come.



**Game Night – February 20 – 6-8pm**

**Clear your schedule ... or cancel something less fun!** The Unsers and Lindbloms are hosting a **Game Night** at the St. James House on **Friday, February 20th, from 6–8pm**. There will be chili, cornbread, games, and questionable levels of competitiveness.

But no worries, forgiveness Sunday is right around the corner! Don't like games? No problem. Come eat, laugh, judge the games from the couch, and chat anyway.

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*News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese*



**Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [The Fathers of the Church](#)**  
**January [Newsletter](#)**

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*Notes and Pictures from Parishioners*

**"Checking In" with Each Other**

Is there something you'd like to share about what your family is up to? Please email [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)



**Bridal Shower for Alyssa Espino**  
**Saint James House – Sunday, March 1st at 4pm**  
**All Are Welcome!**

In preparation for the matrimony of Jacob Goetz and Alyssa Espino there will be a bridal shower hosted at Saint James House on March 1 at 4pm. There will be games and crafts. Food will consist of Lenten friendly snacks; anyone is welcome to bring a dish.

Please RSVP, send questions, or obtain a link to the registry by texting (909) 848-0480 or emailing [ejanetworks@gmail.com](mailto:ejanetworks@gmail.com)

## **Thank you St John's Parish!**

### **Our donation helps the People Suffering in the War!**

The St. Michael's Church of the Ukrainian Poltava Diocese of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine is in the city of Poltava.

The church was recently built with donations from parishioners. The church was built on the site of the one destroyed by the Soviet authorities. A Sunday school for children operates at the church, and a volunteer center has been organized. With the blessing of the ruling hierarchy, Bishop Afnasy, since April 2014, the rector of the church, Archpriest Oleksandr Gorai, has been appointed head of the diocesan volunteer center. Since then, a large number of volunteer trips to the front have been made, tons of humanitarian aid have been delivered, more than 20 engines for armored personnel carriers have been repaired, several dozen armored personnel carriers have been sheathed with anti-cumulative protection, more than 20 cars have been brought and transferred to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, dozens of nets have been woven, thousands of pillows have been sewn, thousands of trench candles have been cast, and thousands of cans of homemade slushies have been preserved. The center has sisters of mercy who visit the wounded in hospitals, candlemakers pour trench candles, a pie battalion bakes pastries, a pillow platoon does sewing. Everyone helps as they can. Thank you all!

### **Dear Fr. Marc and Saint John Church!**

On behalf of our international volunteer team, I wish to extend my wholehearted thanks for your cooperation and kindness in assisting the fundraising efforts in support of the heroic Ukrainian defenders engaged in the fight to defend their country. I would like to express gratitude to each of you who has constantly made and continue to make a personal contribution to this project. Each dollar is value and important.

Ukrainian people are waging a desperate battle for the survival of their country. Just yesterday many of them were ordinary people: teachers, engineers, doctors, and artists. Some were college students or farmers or factory workers. In the past year, their lives have been completely upended. They are soldiers in a war they never wanted, that was forced upon Ukraine by aggressive neighbor Russia.

In 2014 Russia launched an undeclared war in eastern Ukraine, in their efforts of colonization as they occupied East part of Ukraine including Crimea's peninsula in their desire to restore completely the Soviet Union and spread their protectorate on East part of Europe Union.

Ukrainians, however, have been a free-spirited people and have striven towards a high level of socio-economic development while heroically resisting Russian aggression. This war has brought about the destruction of hundreds of villages and cities and incurred the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians and soldiers alike. Some ten million war refugees have left their homeland thus disfiguring their very fate. Every day brings new irreparable losses, grief, and pain. This war is very familiar to me because my family is in the same desperate situation as all other Ukrainian families. Now they live practically without possibility to use electricity and heating system due to constant intentional bombing and shelling critical infrastructure. The temperature in residential premises is only 1-5 degrees of Celsius. However, despite the hardships of war and the grief of irreplaceable human losses, Ukrainians do not give up and do not lose their strength of spirit and faith in victory. And in this resilience has also part our collective contribution and support.

On behalf of Fr. Alexander and St. Michael's Parish of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine city Poltava, allow me to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for the help and support with fundraising given to the Ukrainian defenders.

With your kind support together, we were able to raise funds to purchase a car for brigade of defenders in the Pokrovsk direction. Pokrovsk is city was born legendary Christmas Ukrainian song that everybody around the world knows as "Carol of the Bells". Today Pokrovsk is the hottest point of a frontline of war or, as saying our volunteers "the hellish cauldron of this war. Our help is without exaggeration, vital and help to save lives of people, evacuate injured and helps civilians. On this Friday o. Oleksander left for Poland to pick up this car and transport it to Pokrovsk.



As well I would like to share information about o. Oleksander and St. Michael's Parish of the Orthodox Church (c.Poltava, Ukraine).

It is a car for Pokrovsk's defenders



After the service October 2025



After the liturgy, a Christmas carol was performed by the children's choir "Angels from Heaven" and the adult group of the bishop's choir.

Our help for defenders from city Kupyansk



Our help with repairing car for defenders from city Sumy



## Rides Needed for Oksana Atrz to Get to Church

The church is looking for volunteer drivers to take Oksana to church for Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Please let Dn. Kevin Dougherty know which dates you can cover at [doughertykb@yahoo.com](mailto:doughertykb@yahoo.com) or 907-947-5345.

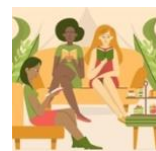
The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride: February 8, 15, 22

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### *Dates to Remember*

#### *'Moms with Little Ones' Reading Group - Wednesdays 10am*

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, contact Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.



Men's Book Club

#### *Men's Book Club - Wednesdays 7-8pm*

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, you can text Sam Lowry at 616-928-5181.



#### *Women's Reading Group - Thursdays at 10am*

We meet at 10am at the Senior Center Meeting Room, in the HUD building on the second floor. Hope to see you there! —Ann Patras

### *Birthdays This Week*

February 10 - Lina Curry

February 10 - Bob Dyal

February 10 - Jared Lindblom

February 12 - Zoe Labrecque

February 14 - Brandon Weaver

February 15 - Ronan Hanna

February 15 - Denise Ray

*M A N Y   Y E A R S !*





### *Remembering in Prayer...*

*Mary Greene  
Zoie (Oksana's Mom)  
Arlo Northey  
Gwyn Jones*

*Jay Keener  
Krya & Skylynn Lineer  
Jan Northey*

*We 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*

### *Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month*



- Steven Theodore Primis - February 2, 2001
- Archpriest Jack Norman Sparks - February 8, 2010
- Phyllis Isabel Webster - February 12, 1992
- Lynn Ellen Guio - February 17, 2019
- Dn. Christian Timothy Sorensen - February 23, 2000

*M E M O R I E S*

### *Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month*

For the Month of **February** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, February 28.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



#### **Bulletin Announcement Guidelines**

Send announcements to church email address: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org) 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.



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## THE SYNAXARION

### Prodigal Son – 2<sup>nd</sup> PreLent – February 8



On February 8, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Theodore the General ('Stratelates'); the Prophet Zachariah; and Sabbas the Second, archbishop of Serbia.

On the Sunday which falls during the Post-feast of the Meeting of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia, the mother of St. Basil the Great, Anthousa, mother of Saint John Chrysostom and Nonna, mother of Saint Gregory the Theologian.

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.

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#### Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson