

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM



○ Lord and Master of my
life, take from me the
spirit of sloth, despondency,
lust for power and idle talk.
But grant unto me, Thy
servant, a spirit of
chastity, humility, patience
and love.
Yea, ○ Lord and King, grant
me to see mine own faults
and not to judge my broth-
ers and sisters. For
blessed art Thou unto ages
of ages.
Amen





Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector Parish Council President: Ron Royhab



MARCH Bulletin Sponsor:

Fr. Andrew in memory of my ordaining Bishop, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, March 6

9:10 am: Hours / Divine Liturgy / Potluck Social
(No Meat) / Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, March 7 CLEAN MONDAY

6:30pm Canon of St Andrew / Confessions

Tuesday, March 8

6:30 pm Canon of St Andrew / Confessions

Wednesday, March 9

6:30 pm Canon of St Andrew / Confessions

Thursday, March 10

6:30 pm Canon of St Andrew / Confessions

Friday, March 11

6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 12

4:00 pm Great Vespers / Confessions
(Change the clocks ahead 1 hr tonight)

Sunday, March 13

9:10 am Hours / Divine Liturgy / Social / Vespers
for Forgiveness Sunday

FEBRUARY / MARCH CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of March 6: Sandy
Week of March 13: Bobbie
Week of March 20: Natalie
Week of March 27: Basil & Tim



Note: If there are services during the week, please vacuum after each service.

Thank you for your service!

SUNDAY MARCH 6, 2022

Tone: 4

Gospel:

Matthew 6:14-21 / St Matthew 20:1-16

Epistle:

Romans 13:11-14:4 / Hebrews 12:1-10

Cheesefare Sunday. Forgiveness Sunday. The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise. The 42 Martyrs of Ammoria in Phrygia, including: Constantine, Aetitus, Theophilus, Theodore, Melissenus, Callistus, Basoes and others. Mon-Martyrs Conon and his son, Conon, of Iconium. The uncovering of the Precious Cross and the Precious Nails by Empress St Helen in Jerusalem. Ven. Arcadius of Cyprus. The Czestochowa Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. We also commemorate on this day the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste transferred from March 9th.

MARCH BULLETIN CANDLE SPONSORS

Bulletin: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew in memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Chandelier: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew in memory of my Father George on occasion of his birthday

Altar Candles: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew in memory of my family and friends

Candles on the Tomb: (\$25) Open

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (25) Open

Candles @ the Cross: (\$15) From Laura for Birthday blessings to Greg and in memory of Russ

Candles @ St Tikhon's Icon: (\$15) For the Hlth of Tim & Cami & safety of Nicholas, Tikhon & Gleice

NOTE: Even though there are no physical candles this month I will still remember those whom you want to remember during the Divine Liturgy.

FEBRUARY: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$5,667
(average of \$1,307 per week)

Feb. 6: \$1,060

Feb. 13: \$1,295

Feb. 20: Ice Storm Church cancelled

Feb. 27: \$950

Total for the Month: \$3,305

FEBRUARY: OTHER INCOME

Goal for the month in this category:
\$4,000 (Average \$923 a week)

Feb. 6: \$10 Candles; \$125 Vigils; \$200 Holy Day Donations; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier; \$25 Candles on the Tomb; \$100 Altar Candles; \$25 Eternal Light; \$15 Candles at the Cross

Feb. 13: \$75 Candles; \$125 Vigils; \$250 Holy Day Donations; \$15 Candles at the Cross

Feb. 20: Ice Storm Church Cancelled

Feb. 27: \$31 Candles; \$40 Vigils; \$250 Holy Day donations; \$50 Chandelier

Total for Month: \$1,436

FEBRUARY: RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS

Jan. 6: \$100 Food Pantry; \$100 Catastrophic Fund; \$100 St. Herman's House

Feb. 13: \$25 Support Priest (Jan); \$300 St Vladimir Seminary

Feb. 20: Ice Storm Church Cancelled

Feb. 27: \$50 Food Pantry; \$25 Catastrophic Fund; \$100 Support Priest; \$45 St Vladimir; \$400 Building Restoration

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

March 6: Tom Welch

March 13: 2 police officers killed in GA / 3 Firemen from MD / School shooting victims in MN

March 20: Chris from Bruno's / Captain John Esposito

March 27: Matushka Carol Ann Janeček

April 2: Marguerite Bird

FEBRUARY LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE

Tuesday, Feb. 1: 9 attended Vespers Liturgy

Sunday, Feb. 6: 15 attended Liturgy (1 being a guest) / 11 Communicants / No Vespers

Saturday, Feb. 12: 7 attended Vespers

Sunday, Feb. 13: 13 attended (1 being a guest) / 11 Communicants

Sunday, Feb. 20: Ice Storm Church cancelled

Sunday, Feb. 27: No Information

VIGILS 2/27/22

Susan Guzy (3) 2/13 Special intentions, 2/20 In loving memory of Linda, Uncle Stan, Uncle Glasil, 2/27 In memory of Marguerite Bird

Sandy Martin(2) In loving memory of my dear sister Marg, miss you already, special intentions

Twarek (3) For the health and recovery of Nancy Sitzler, For the health of Amber, Marguerite, Dottie, Joe Schutt, Jamie, Jim, Stephanie, Ron, Ezra, David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Matt, Tom, Loren, Joe, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bohdi, Diane, Stella, Jake, Cheryl and Pat Rentz and Karen, special intentions

Tamera Blackford(2) In memory of Rob

NOTE: Vigils will not be lit until April.

BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund*.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804

Liturgical and Personal Prayers for Ukraine From the Mid-West Diocese

The Diocese of the Midwest has collected a number of prayers asking for God's mercy in Ukraine and is making them available to the clergy and the faithful. These prayers may be used in the churches of the Midwest and during personal prayer.

His Eminence Archbishop Paul has called the faithful of his diocese to increase prayers during this troubling time.

The diocese has also started collecting funds for those suffering in Ukraine.

Augmented Litany Petitions:

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Thy peace and Thy mercy in the midst of the great suffering of Thy people. Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of The Church, so that by Thy goodness, peace may return to all peoples; hear us and have mercy. Lord have mercy (3)

We also pray, O Lord our God, to remember and have mercy on our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Russia and Ukraine who are involved in violent conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy . Lord have mercy (3)

Another Prayer at the Augmented Litany:

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Lord Jesus Christ our God, look down with Thy merciful eye upon the sorrow and greatly painful cry of Thy children, abiding in the Ukrainian land. Deliver Thy people from civil strife, make to cease the spilling of blood, and turn back the misfortunes set against them. Lead unto sanctuary those bereft of shelter, feed the hungry, comfort those who weep, and unite the divided. Leave not Thine own flock, who abide in sorrows on account of their kinsmen, to diminish, but rather, as Thou art benevolent, give speedy reconciliation. Soften the hearts of the unmerciful and convert them to the knowledge of Thee. Grant peace to Thy Church and to

Her children, that with one heart and one mouth we may glorify Thee, our Lord and Saviour, unto the ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]

Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of the war in Ukraine: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.

[To be inserted after the petition for the living]

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the war in Ukraine.

Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities against Ukraine, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

After the Prayer at the Ambo:

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, bulwark destroying enmity, Who hast granted true peace to Thy people, Who hast called peacemakers the sons of God! We pray unto Thee: bless those who seek after true peace and do labor for its sake. Do Thou enlighten the minds and hearts of all who embark upon this path of God-pleasing peace. Make wise those in power, and strengthen the will of the rulers of our people; enlighten their minds that with wisdom, discernment, and great care they might labor for the creation of this longed-for peace. By the grace of Thine All-Holy Spirit, do Thou grant that peace might be worked in all people, not only on our lips, but in very deed; that orphans and widows might be comforted, that they might no longer weep, but rejoice, beholding this awaited peace. Soften the hearts of the embittered, and grant that they might in meekness seek after harmony and love. Bless all men, teaching them to fathom and fulfill Thy will for the salvation, love, peace, and unity of all men. Send down Thy Heavenly blessing upon our Ukrainian land, upon the authorities, the armed forces, and all its people, through the intercessions of Thy Most Blessed Mother and all Thy saints. For Thou art the King of Peace, and Thy peace is without end, and to Thee do we send up glory, thanksgiving, and worship, with Thine Unoriginate Father, and Thine All-Holy, Good, and Life-creating Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen. **Con't Next Pg**

Prayers con't from Previous Page

Personal Devotion:

O Master, Almighty, Lord of great mercies, receive our prayer on bended knee and our humble tears, which we bring before thy Holy Altar in these days of poverty and sorrow for thy people. Accept the intercession of all the saints of our Ukrainian land, whom we now call upon for help and intercession, so that the light of thy love, manifested on thy Cross, would enlighten every person suffering in this world, in the darkness of enmity and iniquity.

Accept the intercession of the Holy and Blessed Prince Vladimir, the baptizer and enlightener of our land; receive the prayer of the Holy Passion-bearers Boris and Gleb, who have taught us never to raise our hands against our brother: receive the intercession of thy saints Anthony and Theodosius and with them all the venerable monks and nuns, who by tears of repentance made their souls whiter than snow: accept the heroic struggles of the New Martyrs and Confessors, who through their suffering have preserved our saving faith in thee; accept the petitions of all the saints of thy Church, who have sanctified our Ukrainian land with their labors. Most of all, accept the prayerful Protection of thy Most-pure Mother, Our Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, for by her shameless intercession, thy people have many times been delivered from all enmity and internecine strife.

Hear us, O God our Savior, and be merciful, merciful, O Master, unto all the suffering and burdened, and forgive us our debts, teaching us to forgive those who are debtors, and now low thine anger with thy mercy, pacifying all sedition and discord in our land, for thou alone art good and the Lover of Mankind, and unto thee do we send glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

DOM to Raise Funds for those Suffering in Ukraine

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Paul, the Diocese of the Midwest will be collecting donations to benefit the suffering people of Ukraine.

Parishes and individuals can submit donations through the diocesan website with the description "Relief for Ukraine" or by mailing in a check to the Chancery:

Diocese of the Midwest

5037 W 83rd St

Burbank, IL 60459

MEMO: Relief for Ukraine

Additionally, the Polish Orthodox Church is also collecting funds for refugees through this site: DONATE. The most recent count numbers 29,000 refugees in Poland.

Contact: communications@domoca.org, with any questions.

Statement from His Eminence Archbishop Paul on Ukraine

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With great sorrow in my heart, I write to you regarding the tragic sufferings of the people of Ukraine. Many innocent people are being placed in harm's way and have great fear for the safety of themselves and their loved ones.

I offer my brotherly support and prayers to His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy and echo his call to "intensified penitential prayer for Ukraine, for our army, and our people, and I entreat you to lay aside mutual strife and misunderstandings and unite in love for God and our motherland."

I call on the clergy and the faithful of this diocese to increase their prayer and repentance, especially in the light of Great Lent, and to remember all those affected by this tragic conflict

May God's mercy, peace, and love rule us all.

+PAUL ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST

PRAYER LIST- UPDATED MARCH 3

HIERARCH'S / CLERGY: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; Archbishop Paul; Archbishop Benjamin from San Fransico; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Berry; Gregory Grivna; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Michael Kuzara; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle, Deacon Peter Rentsch, Deacon Michael Wison / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

MATUSHKII: Pani Patricia Duranko; Susan Dank; Virginia Lecko; Maura McCarnthey; Roberta Spengler; Margaret Zabinko

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: James Bargdill (Schutt); John Beadle (Elchisco); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Heidi Golob; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Charisse (Hileman); Betty Kovach; David LaValle (Fr); Helen Lis; David Mazurik; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Nancy Naiser (Royhab); Pat Rentz; Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Stephanie Royhab; Joe Schutt; Dacia Snider (Hileman); Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Child Bodhi (Cassell); Kathryn Tryon & her unborn child

OTHER REQUESTS: Mary Dank (ABL); Layne Demkosy (Fr); Paul Demkosky (Fr.); Marge Dziama; Child Ezra; Baby Finn (Cassell); Zoe Finley (ABL); Ruthe Flewelling; Ben Franklin (Kovach); Dorothy Goldman (Twarek); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Andrea Joy (Kovach); Ann Marie Krynock (Timko); Maria (ABL); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Fr); Karen Muzyka (fr); Noah (ABL); Jamie Philpot (Twarek); William Romanchak (Fr); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Nancy Sitzler (Twarek) Loren Welch (Fr); Tanya Wolfe (Fr.); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Sara (Jake); Chris Quotap (Fr); Zoland Zile (Fr.); Molly and her unborn child

MILITARY: Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Cory Deaton , Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Nicholas & Tikhon, Cory Deaton, Alex Zarnow

CAPTIVES: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo), Archbishop John Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world



NOTE: ABL (Archbishop's request) / Please let Fr. Andrew know who can come off the list or be put on.



Metropolitan Tikhon attends annual ROEA Clergy Confertreat

At the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate, on Monday, February 21, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon travelled to Scottsdale, AZ to participate at the annual ROEA Clergy Confertreat. Along with His Eminence, welcoming His Beatitude to Arizona was His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland and Auxiliary to the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

His Beatitude was the keynote speaker at the retreat and spoke on the topic of priestly vocation over three different sessions.

Other speakers at the conference were Dr. Daniel Hinshaw and Ms. Hollie Benton from the Orthodox Christian Leadership Initiative.

In attendance for part of the retreat was also His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa and Auxiliary to the Diocese of the West.

Besides the profitable talks offered by the three speakers, the over 30 clergy attending the retreat enjoyed time of prayer and fellowship.

Traveling to Arizona with Metropolitan Tikhon was Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America.

MARCH Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS	
24- Chris & Lindsay Lariccia	1- Marilyn Calzone 2- Lori Batura 3- Tony Monastra 7- Tamera Blackford 8- Rachel Adamcio 8- Ruth Sheller 11- Jason Monschein 16- Paul Bojan 16- Claudia Zile	20- Luke Welch 20- Lydia Welch 21- Brooklyn Lariccia 22- Ariana Holmes 23- Mason Monschein 26- Rachel Sumner 30- Bobbie Royhab 30- Fred Cassell 31- Greg Mazur

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Awards the St Innocent Award to Archpriest Joseph Gallick

On Sunday, February 20, 2022, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Natick, MA on the occasion of the retirement of Archpriest Joseph Gallick.

On the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, His Beatitude gave the sermon during the Divine Liturgy where he remarked that “we are all prodigals who, in one way or another, have wasted the great gifts that our Lord has given us” but reminded us that “if we, like the prodigal son, come to our senses, if we offer sincere and humble repentance which is reflected in the life that we lead, then we will partake of the banquet of immortality, we will truly be united with Christ, and he will continue to offer us his precious Body and Blood.”

After the service, Father Joseph was awarded the Order of Saint Innocent, Silver Class, for over fifty years of pastoral ministry, service to the Office of Military Chaplains of the Orthodox Church in America and the United States Armed Forces and Veterans organizations, and over two decades of service to Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church.

May God grant Father Joseph and Prifteresha Nancy many years in their retirement!

READERS

Sunday, March 6	Tim
Friday, March 11	Ron (1 st) & Tim (2 nd)
Sunday, March 13	Ron
Wednesday, March 16	Ron (1 st) & Tim (2 nd)
Sunday, March 20	Tim
Wednesday, March 23	Ron (1 st) & Tim (2 nd)
Sunday, March 27	Ron

MARCH Reposed

1- George Danchisen (2018)	23- Eva Pondillo (2001)
3- Anna Stoyka (2018)	23- Ella Mazurik (1985)
4- Andrew Mazur (2001)	23- Francis Mitchell (2008)
6- Frank Guzy (2002)	23- Barbara Ann Wasylenko (2017)
8- Mat. Sonya Tutko (2021)	25- Pani Janette Moriak (1997)
11- Ella Mazur (1918)	25- David Chikerotis (2019)
13- Metropolitan Nicholas (2011)	29- Todd Pollack (2019)
13- Richard Michael Benya (1983)	29- Carolyn Woodward (2000)
13- George Malchisky Sr (1980)	30- John Rofkar (2019)
17- Frank Holodnak (1961)	Michael Elchisko (1909)
21- Tai Whitham	Helen Millie (1910)
	George Danchisen (1912)

Mission Team: Part II – Monastery Workday

MARSHFIELD, MO [DOM] – The Diocesan Monastery, Holy Resurrection Monastery, is scheduling another work week to further the beautification of the grounds later this Spring.

St Luke Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, IL, is leading another effort to bring teams down to help with the work of this monastery starting May 2 until May 7. Some of the tasks include:

Construction outside, Painting on the basement level, Preparing/staining stairs & deck, Landscaping (weeding, pruning, creating new garden beds, etc.),

In addition to these participating in services and various tasks, volunteers will be offer a retreat by Mother Alexandra, the Monastery Abbas.

To assist with this important effort please contact michaelynsloan@gmail.com. Those who are unable to attend are welcome to send donations to help with supplies.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Monastery
Mother Alexandra
224 Hospitality Road
Niangua, MO 65713 / 417-943-2070

Email: hmrnuns@gmail.com

Holy Resurrection Monastery was established by Archbishop Paul in November of 2020. The monastery serves as a spiritual center and source of prayer within the diocese.

TOTAL FINANCES FOR FEBRUARY & YTD

Feb.

Income: \$3,420
Expenses: \$5,766
TOTAL: -\$2,346

YTD

Income: \$10,300
Expenses: \$17,700
TOTAL: -\$7,400

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Makes Urgent Financial Appeal for Ukrainian Refugee Relief

Dear beloved children in the Lord,

It is with profound pain and sorrow that we see the situation unfolding in Ukraine. The invasion of Russian troops has already caused death and destruction in many areas of the country and, as the battle progresses, the human cost continues to rise. It is heartbreaking to see the images of destroyed buildings, homes, and traffic jams as refugees flee the cities for their safety.

As Orthodox Christians we are expected to help those who are suffering and give comfort to the afflicted. The Apostle James asks us “If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?” (Jas. 2:16). We cannot turn a blind eye to the material needs of our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.

Therefore, I am making a special appeal for donations from the individual parishioners of the Orthodox Church in America from February 28th through March 7th. These donations will be collected by the Orthodox Church in America and sent on to ELEOS, the humanitarian agency of the Polish Orthodox Church, and registered with the Polish government, who is dealing directly with the unfolding refugee crisis and needs support as soon as possible. Donations will go towards refugee relief, their housing, and meeting basic needs.

This collaboration is being done with the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Sawa of the Polish Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church in America and the Polish Orthodox Church have long historical ties and these ties have enabled this collaboration to come together so quickly. Donations can be made at oca.org/relief.

Furthermore, I again ask that fervent prayers be made for a swift end to this senseless violence. As we approach the beginning of Lent, we will soon hear the words of the Psalmist at the Presanctified Liturgy: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head running down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes. *Con’t Next Pg*

Met. Tikhon Appeal from previous page

It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion. For the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore!" (Ps. 132).

I pray that we, and all Orthodox Christians around the world, aspire to live according to these words.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Statement on war in Ukraine by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

Dearly beloved children in the Lord,

In light of the distressing developments in Ukraine affecting millions of innocent people in the region, I wholeheartedly urge you to pray for peace and the well-being of our brothers and sisters who are enduring this tragic moment.

I ask that the hostilities be ceased immediately and that President Putin put an end to the military operations. As Orthodox Christians, we condemn violence and aggression.

I offer my support and prayers to my brother and concelebrant, His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy, who has the most difficult task of leading his beloved flock in this time of pain and anxiety. I also assure my prayers to the other religious leaders serving in Ukraine who have the delicate task of leading their communities in these difficult times.

To our beloved Ukrainian brothers and sisters, as well to all of you who are certainly troubled and concerned about these recent developments, I offer the words that the Lord Himself offers to us through His Psalmist: "The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace (Ps 29:11)."

May we fervently offer our petition to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to have mercy on us "for the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all."

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]

Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of the war in Ukraine: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.

[To be inserted after the petition for the living]

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the war in Ukraine.

Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities against Ukraine, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Homily on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son By His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Today, my beloved children in the Lord, we have heard the beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son, a parable which the Holy Fathers have called a "miniature Gospel." Now, all the parables of Christ could certainly be seen as miniature Gospels, but this one in particular stands out because it both reveals God's great love for us, and shows us how we can truly share in this love. The parable begins in the following manner:

A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

We might ask: Why does the Father so quickly give in to the younger son's request? Should he not have tried to correct him? To preach to him about the proper disposition of his portion of the inheritance? Instead, the father is silent: he does not protest, not does he try to express his love in words.

Con't Next Pg

Metro. Tikhon Sermon Con't from Previous PG

It is rather his silence and his actions that express his love for his son, and in his silence and his actions, he leaves the son free. He is an icon of God the Father, who freely and easily gives us so many gifts and blessings.

Perhaps the father knows already in his heart what will happen to his son if he leaves, but still his love goes further than the possibility of his son's rebellion. He knows the mystery of fatherhood and sonship, which is to give to another the possibility of returning home freely. And so the father lets the son go.

The Son does not realize that all things that the Father had were already his, which is a common thought for children to have. Children often fail to understand this reality, that all that their parents possess is also theirs. But it is only theirs when they are united to the source of those blessings. So when the Son in today's parable forcefully takes his portion, that portion dries up and withers away very quickly because it is cut off from the source of its life. And so it is not simply that the son was wasteful but rather that he himself is cut off from the source of his life, which is his father's love.

Because the Son chose to separate himself from his father's love, he enters into a life which can only be described as hell and death. It is the hell of the passions, where we know that we are hungry, but nothing that we eat can fill us. So we go from one thing to another, looking for something to satisfy us, but everything just makes us more hungry and more miserable. It is a pattern we see in the various types of additions that plague us. We see this pattern reflected in the adventures of the son in the foreign land: he spends all that he had, then a famine arose and he becomes hungry, so he hires himself out to someone who sent him out to feed the swine, but even here he can only long to eat the food of the swine but, as we hear, no man gave to him.

This shows that when we, like the son, are caught up in this unending cycle of emptiness and hunger that cannot be satisfied, we suffer something even worse, which is that we become separated and isolated from other men. When we are enslaved to our passions, we are not only cut off from God, but we are cut off from other people, and loneliness and despair increase in our hearts. Nevertheless, there is always hope in the

midst of despair, there is always light in the midst of darkness, because there is always repentance, which is the path that the Lord Jesus Christ opened up for us.

In leaving his father, the source of his life, and descending into this life of death and hell, the son becomes an image of all mankind, which for many generations was trapped in the darkness of death and the hell of the passions. But our Lord Jesus Christ Himself paves the way out of this dark state by descending into hell in order to bring the light of His resurrection to those who sat in darkness, to offer eternal life to those who were dead and to bring freedom to those who were held captive by hell. And this great gift is available for all those who seek it and hold on to it, which is one reason this parable is offered to us during these preparatory Sundays before Lent and Holy Week.

And so the Son in today's parable, even in the midst of the hell of his sins and passions, finds a small spark of that life in his heart, in other words, he finds room for repentance. He comes to his senses and realizes all the blessings that his father's hired servants have and determines to go back to his father and acknowledge his sin, not the sin of taking his share of the inheritance, but for cutting himself off from the father's love.

What is it that works the repentance in the heart of the Son? It is the Father's love for him, that love which had been with the Son the entire time. Although the Son had not perceived it, the Father's love had been with him, even while the Father was far away and perhaps out of the memory of the Son. Saint Isaac the Syrian says: "Though absent, whoever loves with perfect love is together with whomever he loves as though he were present, without being seen by anyone." We are so used to the idea that love must imply some sort of physical closeness and nearness. But true love is greater than separation, true love is stronger than death.

The Son realizes this and is ashamed, not because he is hungry and wants to eat, but because he recognizes that he has rejected the Father's love. And he realizes that, even though he has left his father's house, his father has never left him and has remained united with him through his patient and strong love. We can see that this is true by the actions of the Father, who, when he was yet a great way off, saw the son, and had compassion, and ran, and fell ***Con't Next Pg***