Sunday, February 12, 2023
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
+ St. Meletios the Great

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Second (Mark 16:1-8)
Mode of the Week: Second/Δευτερος

SAVE, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σῶσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a warm welcome to all worshiping with us today!

While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.

Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!
The Lord is my strength and my song, and he became my salvation. (Ps. 118:14)

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 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 Lord's body in vain? For food is for the stomach and the stomach for food—God will destroy both one and the other.

vester the Corinthians. (6:12-20)
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:
Monday (2/13—No Fasting): 1 John 2:18-29, 3:1-8; Mark 11:11
Tuesday (2/14—No Fasting): 1 John 3:29-35; Mark 10:29-31
Thursday (2/16—No Fasting): I John 4:20-21; Mark 15:1-15

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

(page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Orec καθηδρείας, 2nd Mode): When you descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal life, then did you mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when you raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You. (sung before and after the Small Entrance)
- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σωτήριον Κύριο, 1st Mode): Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross. (sung in Greek and English)
- The Kontakion of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Της πατρώας, 3rd Mode):

Revolted senselessly * out of Your fatherly glory; * I have squired sinfully * all of the riches You gave me. * Hence to You, using the Prodigal’s words, I cry out; * I have sinned before You, merciful loving Father. * O receive me in repentance, * I pray, and treat me * as one of Your hired hands.

Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today’s Gospel, our Savior has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God’s compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing the persons of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition — as much as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries — we might at last come to our senses and haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrested many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that the God no longer be any mercies 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 this mistaking 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 the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into despair, thinking that the God no longer be any mercies 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 this mistaking 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

- Our Father among the Saints, Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch (+381)
- Our Devout Mother Maria of Alexandria (+6th Century)
- Our Devout Father Anthony, Archbishop of Constantinople (+901)
- The Holy Martyrs Saturninus and Plotinus (+394)
- The Holy New Martyr Christos the Gardener (+1748)
- Our Devout Father Aethelwald, Bishop of Lindisfarne (+740)

By the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.