

THE PRODIGAL SON

May this wonderful parable encourage us to return to the road that will lead us back to our Heavenly Father.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO REPENT

Throughout His public ministry, Christ preached the message of repentance, and stressed the forgiving nature of His Heavenly Father. Today our Holy Church places before us the most classic example of this: The Parable of the **PRODIGAL SON**.

In this well-known story, the younger son impatiently demands his share of his promised inheritance, and sets out on his own. He soon finds, however, that his new-found independence and wealth do not bring him happiness. His fortune disappears very quickly. Soon, he is left with nothing.

From the depths of his despair, the Prodigal Son has one glimmer of hope: his Father. Swallowing his pride and recognizing the folly of his wasteful and sinful behavior, the Prodigal Son begins his long journey home. He hopes that his Father will, at least, treat him like one of the servants.

The welcome he received, however, went far beyond his expectations. His Father and his entire household rejoiced that this "lost son" had returned home safely! No lectures or reprimands were given; only the warm embrace of a father delighted that his son had returned to his home and to his senses.

Sin brings all of us down to the level experienced by the Prodigal Son. At such times, we are confronted with two distinct choices: remain in such a hopeless state, or follow the example of the Prodigal Son and "arise and return to our Father." It is never too late to repent. Our Heavenly Father awaits our return to Him with outstretched loving arms. His capacity to forgive is without limit. Let us remember this in this season of repentance.



HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate

10201 Democracy Blvd
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301-299-5120(Office) 301-367-9051(cell)
www.holyresurrection.com
www.facebook.com/groups/hroc25
YouTube: HROC Media

Very Rev. Peter Zarynow, Pastor
Protoperbyter John Fedornock

Subdeacons Anastasios Davis & Theodoros Zarynow Reader Stephen Sudik



Sunday 28 February 2021

Sunday of Prodigal Son

Venerable Paphnutius of Alexandria

Epistle: I Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Tone Five

28 Feb (SUN) Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Chanting of the 3rd Hour 9:10am
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am/Group B
Socially distanced Coffee Social to follow

03 Mar (Wed) 39th Wednesday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am
(attendance limited to those 65+)

06 Mar (Sat) 1st All Souls Saturday

Divine Liturgy & Panachida 9:30am
(attendance open to all)

07 Mar (SUN) Meatfare (Final Judgment) Sunday

Chanting of the 3rd Hour 9:10am
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am/Group A
Socially distanced Coffee Social to follow

Announcements:

Confessions be heard by appointment. Please contact Fr Peter to schedule. All faithful are encouraged to come to the Sacrament every 8-10 weeks, on average, to help maintain spiritual health. Lent is approaching, so make an appointment as soon as possible!

Grocery Gift cards from Giant are still available. Contact Mark or Marie Sudik to have them mailed to you.

In preparation for the Great Fast, we will still keep our tradition of our Lenten Prayer Friends. This year, to ensure that everyone receives a person in the parish family to remember in prayer, the cards will be mailed out, one card for each member of the household. Cards will be mailed within the next week so that we all have our prayer friends by the beginning of the Great Fast.

ACRY Cash Day Tickets are now available from Nick Dzubak during Coffee Social. Cash Day (probably virtual this year) will be held next Sunday 07 March. Tickets are again \$10 each. All 300 tickets need to be sold for Cash Day to work. Details on the virtual Cash Day will be sent out during the week.

ACRY Annuals for 2021 are available in the parish office. Please take your copy and check your name off the list. Those ACRY members who have not yet come back to Liturgy will have them mailed.

NOTE: While we are in the situation where we are not able to meet fully, if you are able, please continue to make your regular tithe/offering to the parish. Even though we are not together, the bills continue to come in (electric, water, communications, etc.) Your continued support is necessary and appreciated. Your offering can simply be made through the PayPal button on our parish website homepage or by sending it in the mail to the church.

REMINDER --- 2021 DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT

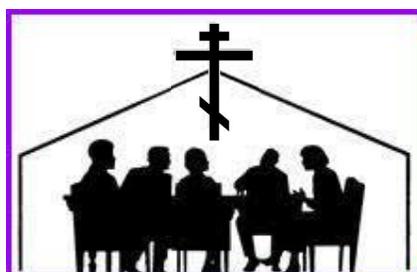
Being our parish, and we as its faithful, are a part of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese (ACROD), each adult parish member (who is over 18 years of age and not a full-time undergraduate student or first enlistment military) has been assessed \$75 .00 in 2021 to support the work of the Diocese (Seminary, Camp Nazareth, etc.) and administration. A special envelope, Diocesan Assessment, is included as the first envelope in your box. The parish receives the invoice from the Diocese in January, so please try to submit the assessment as soon as possible after the first of the year. If there are any questions, or if you want to break up the assessment into payments, please see Debi Myers after Divine Services.

Congratulations to the members of the Parish Council who were elected to serve another two-year term. The election took place during the Annual Parish Meeting on 21 February. The Oath of Office will take place before the beginning of the 28 February Council Meeting. The re-elected Officers are as follows:

Vice President: Carol Miller Financial Secretary: Debi Myers Curator: Mark Sudik

Auditors: Andrey Taveira-DaSilva and Tom Koval

May God bless them as they serve the parish in the capacity of their office! *Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!*



During this time of Covid-19, if you have any candle requests, please email or text them to Fr Peter by no later than Wednesday evening. Candles will be lit as requested.

CANDLE OFFERINGS

Eternal Light: In memory of +Joseph Matuga on his birthday-daughter Joan Kondratick (*Vicnaja Pamjat!*)

Vigil Candles Offered For the Living (Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!)

- 1-health of Mom-your loving family- Chrysa, Taina & Craig
1-health father Michael-love Alex & Melanie
2-for health-love Mom & Dad
Jonathan & Lara; Stephanie
2-for health-John & Sheila
HROC parishioners; Family members
3-special intention-John & Sheila
Fr. Peter & family; Diocesan Priests & their families; OCMC Missionaries
1-health of Chris Fallon-Michael, Kathleen, John & Anna
1-special intention Lee Roby-Scott
2-special intention-brother George
Archbishop Michael; Barbara Knighton
2-special intention-George Dahulich
Metropolitan Gregory; Bishop Matthias
8-for health-George Dahulich
Fr Tom Kadlec; Fr Jim Dutko; Chris Fallon; Charlie Myers; Barbara Knighton; Pañi Kathy Dutko Kamilah Wimberly; Randy Wimberly
3-happy birthday-George Dahulich
Fr. William Bennett; Danny Timko; Greg Wirfel
1-Happy Anniv Sbdn Anastasios & Jennifer Davis-George Dahulich
1-health of Savannah, Chloe, Caroline, Christopher, Natalie, Cole-love Grandparents
5-for health-Ray & Georgene
Lois Erhard; John & Marie Smith; Mark & Marie Sudik; John Homick; Marge Tomasevich
20-health & healing-John & Marie Smith
Irene Dzubak; Melanie Samson; Fr Tom Kadlec; John & Barbara Homick; Chris Hudack; Ray & Georgene Ammon; Marge Tomasevich; Carol Miller; Marie Skasko; Pañi Eleanor Pribish; Lois Erhard; Chris Fallon; Emilia Zak; Stephen Brancho; Charlie Myers; Debbie & Tom Delare; Rose Marie Jung; Pañi Jean Hutnyan; Tim Dzubak; Jessica Kadlec-Krchmar
- 6-special intentions-the Breno Family
Breno Family; Fedornock Families; Peart Family; Nakonecznyj Family; Zankej Family; Fabian Family
1-happy birthday Rachel Fedornock-the Breno Family
2-specail intention-Mom & Dad
Angela & Brian; Stephen
1-special intention Mark-love Marie
1-special intention Marie-love Mark
8-for health-Mark & Marie
Mom/Baba; Ann Thear; Verna Czap; Nancy Shields; Mike & Josie Czap; Skeets; Williams Family; Charlene Myers
12-health & special intention- Mark & Marie
Chris Hudack; Ray & Georgene Ammon; Marge Tomasevich; Irene Dzubak; Carol Miller; Alex & Eleanor Breno; Fr John & Pañi Marge; James Battaglini; Bridget Myers; Charlie Myers; Pañi Bernadette; Fr Peter
1-health of Charlie-love Debi
2-for health-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey
Grammy; Skeets
2-specail intention-love Mom & Dad
Jacob; Joey
1-birthday blessings JT-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey
1-health & healing Hayley, Bob, Chris Hudack, John Homick, Peggy and Bruce, Andrea and who are sick-Lois
1-for health Savanah, Caroline, Natalie, Karen K, Elizabeth Michel, Marge Tomasevich, Aunt Ann, and Irene Dzubak-Lois
3-special intention-Lois
Rose Bell; Barb Homick, Lois Erhard
1-specail intention Jesse Plowchin-Rose Plowchin
3-full recovery from Covid-Rose Plowchin
Carole Plowchin; Scott Plowchin; Tessa Plowchin
1-health of Dorothea Fotis-daughter Linda
1-sp. int. Fr Peter, Pa i Bernadette & Alex-Linda Fotis

Vigil Candles In Loving Memory: (Memory Eternal! Vicnaja Pamjat!)

- 1+in loving memory of Les-love Carol
1+in memory Mother & Father. Carol Miller
1+loving memory of my husband Tom-your loving wife Ann
1+in loving memory of our father-Chrysa, Taina and Craig
1+in memory of Steve Sheftic-love your family
2+loving memory-the Fallons
Pañi Jeannette; Anna & John Luchok
1+in memory of Marion Fallon-Diane
1+in loving memory of Helen Rowland-Diane
1+in loving memory Parents & Grandparents-Diane & Brian
1+Memory Eternal Parents/Grandparents-Koval Family
2+Memory Eternal-Koval Family
Uncle George & Uncle Tony
3+Memory Eternal . love Alex, Melanie
mother Katherine; father John; mother Elaine
- 5+in memory-John & Sheila
Dad Kraynok; Mom Kraynok; Charles Hrapchak; Anna Hrapchak; Evelyn Hrapchak
1+In loving memory of Metro-Love, Joan and Family
1+in loving memory of parents Peter & Ann Dahulich-love son George
1+in memory Helen Beveridge-Mark & Marie
3+in loving memory-Linda Fotis
Charles Fotis; Evangelina & Vasilios Fotis; Maria & Stavros Girdis

Please pray for the following: Metropolitan Gregory, Bishop Matthias, Fr. Frank & Pa i Connie Miloro; Pa i Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. John Fencik, Fr. Paul Stoll, Fr. Robert Teklinski, Fr. John Gido, Dn. Peter Skoog & family, Pañi Kathy Dutko, Fr. Gregory Allard, Fr. Lawrence Barriger, Fr. James Gleason, Fr. Luke Mihaly, Fr. Ted & Pa i Marjorie Mozes, Fr. Thomas Blaschak, Hieromonk Michael, Fr Thomas Kadlec; Pa i Donna Smoley, Fr. Michael & Pa i Annamarie Slovesko, Fr John & Pa i Patricia Duranko, Fr. Christopher Rozdilski, Fr John & Pa i Cindy Zboyovski, Fr. Jonathan & Pa i Marsha Tobias, Fr Robert Lucas, Pañi Delores Zuder; Pa i Amy George, Pa i Dorothy Hutnyan, Fr Michael & Pa i Elenore Polanichka; Presbytera Tulla Pateras, Elisa Castilla, Ann Thear, Beth & Ed SkeetsqWilliams, Carol Miller, Cindy Russell, Michael Buchko, Dorothy Mastronicola, Angie Wali, Nancy Lynn Arthur, Tony Zankej, Justin Popek, Karen Ogden, Joshua, Faye & Tess, Emilie Dixon, Shirley Miree, Michael Rake, Olga Vasconez, Diane Dupere-Lindell, Gerry Sadler, Ann Eckert, Lois Hall, Marshal Smith, Dave Stanton, Florence Gregoric, James & Melody Peyton, Louann Giger, Daniel Ward, Jennifer Brady, Carol Blum, Katie Bleeker, Alexi Williams, Missy Johns, Susan Buckley, Constance Amey, James Lazor, Debbie Dell, Rose & Douglas Eade, Grace Yoon, Michael Dinneen, Kellie Barrett, Joan Detwiler, Joan Kondratick, John Homick, Jim David, Melanie Samson, Mary West, Laura Gary; Richard & Wendy Sulich; James Durachko, Julia Rapach, Randi Caffalle, Hayley Marshall, Jon Green, Aleia Dick, MaryJane, Kyle & Rosie Brant, Mary Agnes, Alicia, Lisa Chernob, Stephen Brancho, Emily, MaryMargaret, Leslie Perez, Thomas & Deborah Delare, Diana Hannan; Ed Murphy; LeLe Luu; Bridget Myers; Devan Merrill; Joann Wiant; Bob Fitzurka;; Richard, Kari, Nicholas & Daniel Zarynow; Olga Vovk; infant Emilia Zak; Susan B.; Gregory Naugle; Dorothea Fotis; Daniel Winsky; Lela; Vladimir; Carly; Robert; Anna Fallon & baby; Brittany Arata & twins; Pa i Kathryn Dutko & baby

May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand!

Follow Your Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> **Camp Nazareth:** <http://www.campnazareth.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese> **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

Fifth Issue of SPF50 NOW AVAILABLE!!

Scripture – Prayer - Family

Thank you to all our families who have participated in the SPF50 Ministry. Together we have completed 4 of the SPF50 publications!!

The fifth edition of SPF50 is now available. The reading schedule began on **January 10, 2021.**



We are excited for the NEW reading program in the fifth edition!! The NEW reading program will highlight many **ESSENTIAL Biblical Stories** like Creation, Noah and the Ark, the Exodus, the call of the Prophet Samuel, and many others throughout the Old and New Testaments.

If you haven't joined SPF50 yet, the new year is a great time to start! Make a commitment to reading Scripture and praying together with your family. Even the busiest of families can make a commitment to read from the Bible and pray together for 50 minutes a month. Don't forget to fill out the Commitment Card which is available in the SPF50 Section of the Diocesan Website, and then return the Card to your parish priest.

To access this material or to find out more about how SPF50 can help your family grow in Christ, visit the Diocesan Website at acrod.org and look for the SPF50 logo.

DIOCESAN "HOMEROOM" MINISTRY

Calling all youth ages 5-18! If you signed up for the new Diocesan "Homeroom" Ministry, don't forget to PARTICIPATE online each week by posting comments, pictures and videos. Parents, if you signed your child up for the "Homeroom", help them to participate. We have 65 youth from 27 parishes across the Diocese signed up for the "Homeroom", but not all are participating yet. If you need any help logging on, downloading the app, or posting, or have any questions, please email fr.stephen.loposky@gmail.com. Thank you!!

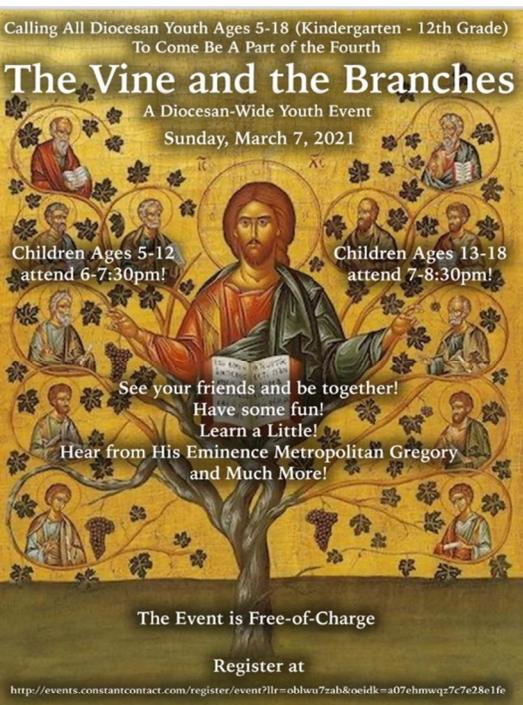
The Vine and the Branches

The next "The Vine and the Branches" online Diocesan Youth event for youth ages 5-18 (Kindergarten up to 12th Grade currently) is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 6pm. Over 100 youth from across the Diocese attended each of the Events in the Fall of 2020. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is calling all our youth ages 5-18 to come together again online on March 7 in order to strengthen their faith and connect with their peers around the Diocese. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be together with His Eminence, our priests, and one another, and be encouraged in your faith.

Registration is quick and easy at: The Vine and the Branches - 3/7/21

Registration closes on Thursday, 3/4 so register TODAY!!

The schedule includes time for a message from the Metropolitan, games to help us get to know each other, activities on the theme of The Vine and the Branches, some entertainment from around the Diocese (special guest appearances!), and time just to see and talk with one another. Youth will be together for part of the Event, as well as in smaller "breakout rooms" grouped by age. Youth Ages 5-12 will be online from 6pm-7:30pm. Youth Ages 13-18 will be



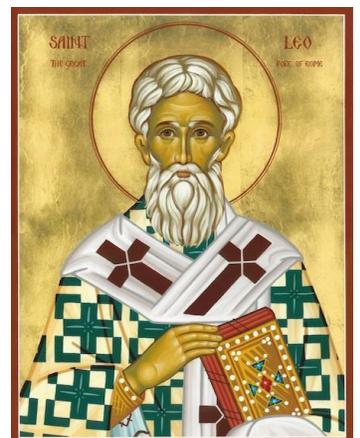
online from 7pm-8:30pm. Once you register for the event, a full schedule and the links to join the Event will be sent to you. His Eminence is looking forward to seeing all of you!!!



LEO THE GREAT, POPE OF ROME

Commemorated 18 February/03 March

According to some, this Saint was born in Rome, but according to others in Tyrrenia (Tuscany), and was consecrated to the archiepiscopal throne of Rome in 440. In 448, when Saint Flavian, Archbishop of Constantinople, summoned Eutyches, an archimandrite in Constantinople, to give account for his teaching that there was only one nature in Christ after the Incarnation, Eutyches appealed to Saint Leo in Rome. After Saint Leo had carefully examined Eutyches's teachings, he wrote an epistle to Saint Flavian, setting forth the Orthodox teaching of the person of Christ, and His two natures, and also counseling Flavian that, should Eutyches sincerely repent of his error, he should be received back with all good will. At the Council held in Ephesus in 449, which was presided over by Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria (and which Saint Leo, in a letter to the holy Empress Pulcheria in 451, was the first to call "The Robber Council"), Dioscorus, having military might behind him, did not allow Saint Leo's epistle to Flavian to be read, although repeatedly asked to do so; even before the Robber Council was held, Dioscorus had uncanonically received the unrepentant Eutyches back into communion. Because Saint Leo had many cares in Rome owing to the wars of Attila the Hun and other barbarians, in 451 he sent four delegates to the Fourth Ecumenical Council, where 630 Fathers gathered in Chalcedon during the reign of Marcian, to condemn the teachings of Eutyches and those who supported him. Saint Leo's epistle to Flavian was read at the Fourth Council, and was confirmed by the Holy Fathers as the Orthodox teaching on the incarnate person of our Lord; it is also called the "Tome of Leo." The Saint wrote many works in Latin; he reposed in 461.



BEATITUDES PART VII & VIII: MERCY AND PURITY OF HEART

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt 5.7). To be merciful is to be like God, for *“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love”* (Ps 103.8).

The Lord passed before Moses and proclaimed, *“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin”* (Ex 34.667). This also is the teaching of Christ in His Sermon on the Mount: *“...love your enemies and do good and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”* (Lk 6.35636). (Exodus 34:6-7)

To be merciful does not mean to justify falsehood and sin. It does not mean to be tolerant of foolishness and evil. It does not mean to overlook injustice and iniquity. God is not this way, and does not do this.

To be merciful means to have compassion on evil-doers and to sympathize with those who are caught in the bonds of sin. It means to forego every self-righteousness and every self-justification in comparison with others. It means to refuse to condemn those who do wrong, but to forgive those who harm and destroy, both themselves and others. It is to say with utter seriousness, *“forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”* (Mt 6.12).

According to Jesus, the spiritual person will be merciful because he himself is in need of mercy. The spiritual person will be merciful because he knows that he himself is a sinful man in need of God’s mercy and help. There is no one without sin, no one who can claim righteousness before God. If one claims to have no sin, says Saint John, he is a liar, and makes God a liar as well (1 Jn 1.10,2.4). The spiritual person, because he is in union with God, acknowledges his sin and his need for forgiveness from God and from men. He cannot condemn others for he knows, but for the grace of Christ, that he himself stands unworthy and condemned.

If Thou O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayst be feared (Ps 130.364).

The merciful person is merciful toward himself as well as others. This does not mean that he makes light of his sins and takes God’s forgiveness for granted. It means rather that he does not plague himself with neurotic guilt and remorse, surrendering to sinful scruples which are the death of the soul. It means that he trusts in the loving-kindness of God and knows, as Saint Paul has said, that no works of his own will ever deliver him from the need of God’s mercy and love.

For by grace, you have been saved through faith; and this not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Eph 2.8610).

Thus, it is the continual reception of the mercy of God and nothing else which empowers the soul to good works. And it is only the merciful who attain mercy from God. For all eternity man will be at the disposal of God’s mercy. At whatever stage of development, he will reach, man’s prayer will always remain the central prayer of the Church: Lord have mercy on me a sinner! The holier the person, the greater is his sense of sinful unworthiness, the stronger is his dependence on the mercy of God, and the more he is merciful to the weaknesses of others.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Mt 5.8). Purity of heart means to be free of all wicked motivations and sinful intentions, and to have no unworthy interests and self-seeking desires. It means to be totally free from anything which blinds and darkens the mind so that it cannot see things clearly and honestly. It means to be totally liberated from anything which captivates and darkens the soul so that it cannot reflect and shine with the pure light of God.

In another place in His Sermon on the Mount, the Lord has said: *The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is sound, your body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!* (Mt 7.22623).

The pure in heart are those whose eyes are sound. The pure in heart are those who can say with the psalmist:

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after;

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

Thou hast said, *“Seek ye My face!”*
My heart says to Thee,

“Thy face, O Lord, do I seek.”
Hide not Thy face from me (Ps 27).

To seek but one thing, the face of the Lord, is purity of heart. To will but one thing, the light of the Lord in the depth of one’s soul, is to live in utter purity. It is for this reason that Christ’s mother Mary is the image of perfect purity. The holy Virgin is *“all-pure”* not merely because of her bodily continence, but also because of her spiritual soundness. Her heart was pure. Her mind was sane. Her soul magnified the Lord. Her spirit rejoiced in God her Savior. Her body was His spiritual temple. For this reason, God regarded her humility and did great things for her. For this reason, all generations call her blessed. For this reason, she is *“full of grace”* and the Lord is with her. For she, in her simple purity, could say to God: *“Let it be to me according to Your word”* (cf. Lk 1).

In the spiritual tradition of the Orthodox Church, purity of heart is an essential condition for union with God. When man’s heart is purified from all evil, it naturally shines with the light of God, since God dwells in the soul. This is the doctrine of the saints as expressed by Saint Gregory of Nyssa. *“The man who purifies the eye of his soul will enjoy an immediate vision of God”* it is the same lesson taught by the Word [i.e., Christ] when He said, *“The Kingdom of God is within you”* (Lk 17.21). This teaches us that the man who purifies his heart of every passionate impulse will see the image of the divine nature in his own beauty. You must then wash away, by a life of virtue, the dirt which has clung to your heart like plaster, and then your divine beauty will once again shine forth (On the Beatitudes, Sermon 6).

The Apostle Paul has said the same thing in his pastoral letters. *To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and faithless nothing is pure; their minds and consciences are corrupted. They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their deeds; they are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good deed* (Titus 1.15616).

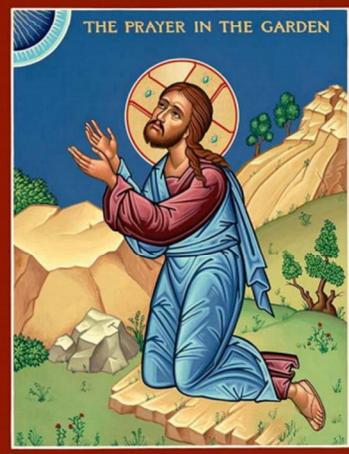
If anyone purifies himself from what is ignoble, then he will be a vessel of noble use, consecrated and useful to the master...ready for any good work. So, shun youthful passions and aim at righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call upon the Lord from a pure heart (2 Tim 2.21622).

DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday April 3, 2021
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

NEPSIS-WATCHFULNESS: BEING ATTENTIVE IN A DISTRACTED AGE

Open To All
Sponsored
By The
National
Senior
ACRY



Keynote
Presentation
By
Fr. Jonathan
Bannon



An Online Spiritual Gathering For Adults and Teenagers

Free Admission. Register Now:
<https://www.acrod.org/retreat>

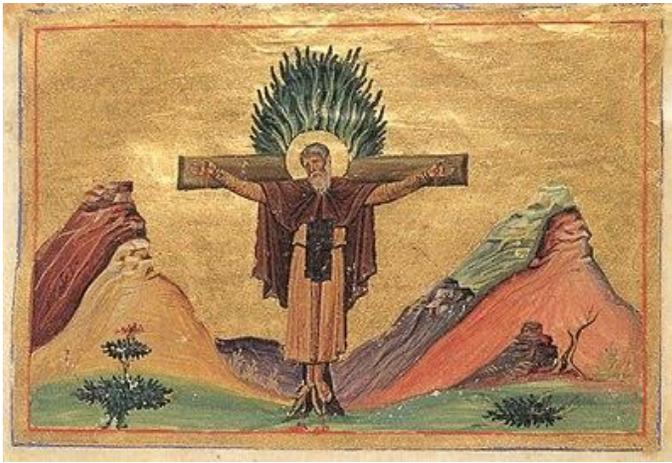
Register at
www.acrod.org/retreat
by no later than 21 March
2021
But don't wait too long.
Spaces are limited!!



VENERABLE PAPHNUTIUS OF ALEXANDRIA

Commemorated 15/28 February

The Holy Martyr Paphnutius hailed from Egypt and struggled in the desert. During the persecution against Christians under Diocletian (284-305), the governor Hadrian commanded that Saint Paphnutius be brought to him. The ascetic, not waiting for those sent to bring him, appeared before the governor, confessed his faith in Christ, and was subjected to torture.



The soldiers involved in his torture, Dionysius and Callimachus, seeing how the power of God preserved the martyr, believed in Christ the Savior themselves, for which they were then beheaded. Cast into prison after the tortures, Saint Paphnutius converted forty prisoners to the Faith. They were all burned alive.

After a while Saint Paphnutius was set free, and a Christian named Nestorius gladly took him in. He and all his family, after spiritual guidance, became steadfast in the Faith, and ultimately endured martyrdom. The saint strengthened many other Christians to confess our Lord Jesus Christ, and they all died as martyrs. Some were cut with swords, others were burned. There were 546 men in all.

Saint Paphnutius himself was thrown by the torturers into a river with a stone about his neck, but he miraculously floated to shore with the stone. Finally, they sent the holy martyr to the emperor Diocletian himself, who commanded him to be crucified on a date tree.

Don't judge and condemn anyone, or you'll be condemned yourself. Don't investigate extraneous thoughts and issues, scandals and gossip. Just let them go. The devil, our enemy, tries to sow them within you in order to distract you.

Saint Seraphim Romantsov of the Monastery of Glinsk

