

SAINT LEO, BISHOP OF CATANIA IN SICILY

Saint Leo was bishop of the city of Catania, in Sicily. He was famed for his benevolence and charity, as well as his Christian love for the poor and the vagrant. The Lord granted him the gifts of healing various illnesses and working miracles.

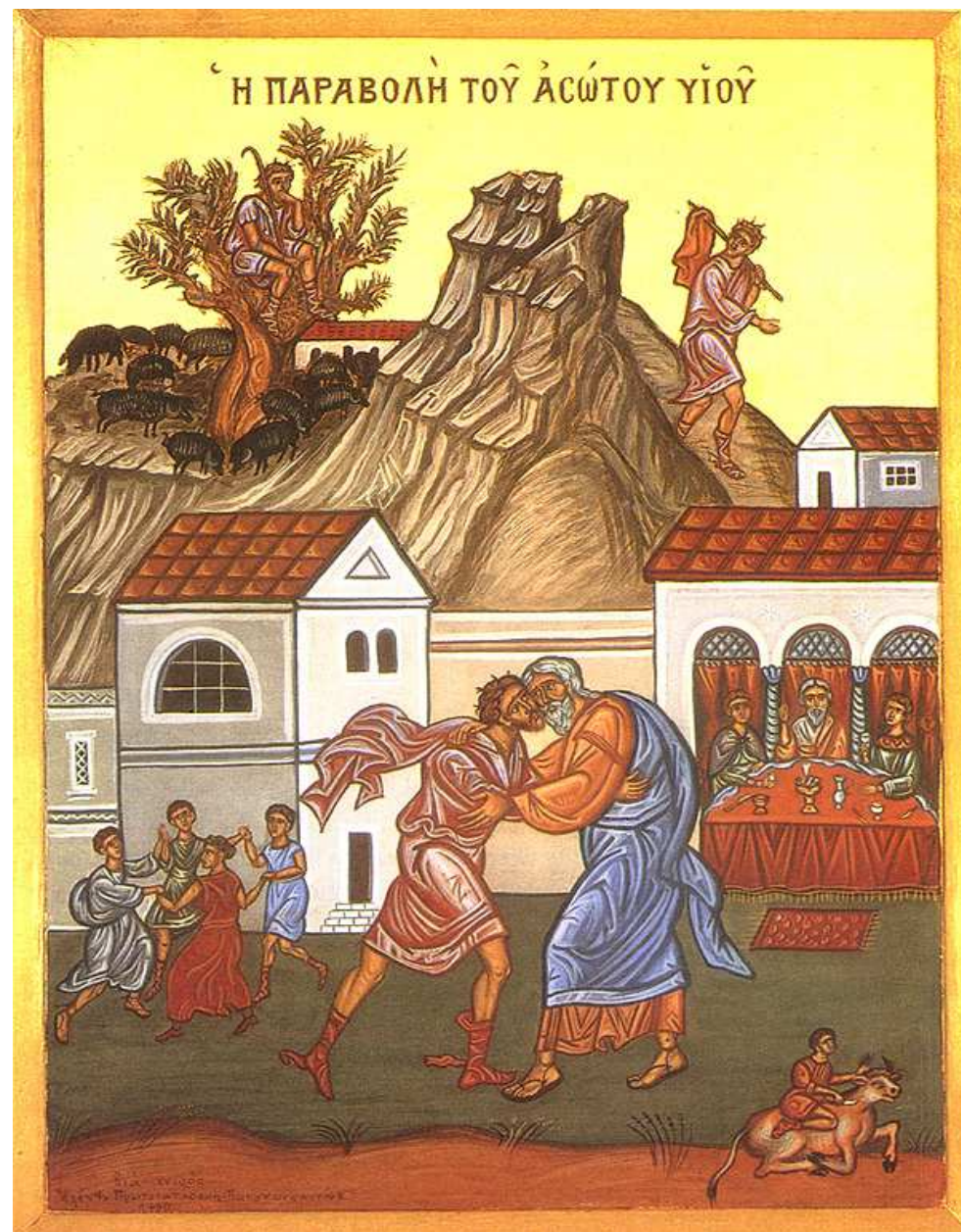
When St. Leo was bishop, there was a certain sorcerer named Heliodorus, who impressed people with his fake miracles. This fellow was originally a Christian, but then he rejected Christ and became a servant of the devil.

St. Leo often urged Heliodorus to repent of his wicked deeds and return to God, but his efforts were in vain. Once, Heliodorus impudently entered the church where the bishop was serving and tried to create a disturbance, sowing confusion and temptation by his sorcery.

Seeing the people beset by devils under the sorcerer's spell, St. Leo realized that the time for gentle persuasion had passed. He calmly emerged from the altar and, tying his omophorion around the magician's neck, he led him out of the church into the city square. There he forced Heliophorus to admit to all his wicked deeds. He commanded that a fire be lit, and he jumped into the fire with the sorcerer. Thus they stood in the fire until Heliodorus got burnt. St. Leo, by the power of God, remained unharmed. This miracle brought St. Leo great renown during his lifetime.

When he died, a woman with an issue of blood received healing at his grave. The body of the saint was placed in a church of the Holy Martyr Lucy (Dec. 13), which he himself had built. Later on, his relics were transferred into the church of St. Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours (Nov. 11).

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SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

6822 BROADVIEW ROAD

PARMA, OHIO 44134

THE TRINITARIAN

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V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 516-761-8772

BULLETIN 16 - VOLUME LIX

tone 2

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily;

Hieromartyr Sadoc, Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him;

St. Agathon, Pope of Rome; Ven. Agafón, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves;

Beheading of Ven. Cornelius, Abbot of the Pskov Caves

“Like fools, we left behind our Father’s glory, and by our sins we squandered all He gave us. So now, filled with shame, we beg Him like the Prodigal: We have sinned before You, Father, and all we have is our sorrow. In Your tenderness, do not turn us away; take us back at least as hired hands.”

Kontakion, Tone III

“O Leo, holy hierarch, your flock has recognized you by the brilliance of your holy works. You are a model of kindness and rule of faith, a teacher of self-control. Your lowliness has raised you to the heights of fame, and your poverty has filled your hands with riches. Beg Christ, our God, to save our souls.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 15:11-32

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Friday, February 25

Saturday, February 26

6:00 p.m. Memorial Vespers; Memorial Prayers for Departed Parishioners

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Memorial Prayers for All Departed

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, February 21

Tuesday, February 22

Wednesday, February 23

Thursday, February 24

(Forerunner)

Friday, February 25

Saturday, February 26

(Departed)

I John 2:18-3:10

I John 3:10-20

I John 3:21-4:6

I John 4:20-5:21

II Corinthians 4:6-15

II John 1:1-13

I Corinthians 10:23-28

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

Mark 11:1-11

Mark 14:10-42

Mark 14:43-15:1

Mark 15:1-15

Matthew 11:2-15

Mark 15:22,25,33-41

Luke 21:8-9,25-27,33-36

John 5:24-30

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

- 21, Monday Cooking for St. Herman’s House
- 23, Wednesday Delivering meals to St. Herman’s House
- 24, Thursday 6:00 p.m. “Science & Religion” program at Woodside Event Center

MARCH:

- 4, Friday 8:00 p.m. “Virtual” Akathist Hymn of Repentance in Christ
- 5, Saturday 10:00 a.m. EOWG Memorial Service at St. Theodosius
- 13, Sunday 5:00 p.m. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. Matthew Church
- 19, Saturday 12:00 noon “Virtual” Lenten Retreat

FOOD SALE:

Thank you to all who baked, cooked and shopped at the Food Sale last Sunday. The Sale raised \$500!

2021 STATEMENTS:

For your tax purposes, 2021 Statements of Donations are available in the Vestibule. The sealed envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please take only the one that belongs to your family.

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP:

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, 5500 W. 54th St. in Parma, invites all to an iconography workshop, which will be held on Tuesdays during Lent—3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5. Classes run 6:30-10:00 p.m. and will be taught by Byzantine Catholic priest Fr. Marek Visnovsky. The cost is \$350. Details are in the Fellowship Hall.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION:

Archangel Michael Church hosts a program by Dr. William DiPuccio, Ph.D. on the correlation between Christianity and various sciences on Thursday, Feb. 24, at Woodside. Doors open at 6:00; dinner is served at 6:30; lecture begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$15. RSVP is required by Wed., Feb. 16; please see the details in the Fellowship Hall.

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN’S GUILD:

The EOWG will hold their annual Memorial Service for Departed Members at St. Theodosius on Saturday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. A program and Lenten luncheon will follow the service.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Janice and Ken Strauss in memory of Anastasia Filipowicz.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY:

This year the Orthodox Christian Community of Greater Cleveland and Lorain will honor the Sunday of Orthodoxy at a Great Vespers service on March 13, 5:00 p.m., at St. Matthew Church in North Royalton. His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey will be Chief Celebrant and Homilist. All children are invited to bring icons and participate in the procession.

Donations are requested to support various Orthodox ministries and can be made to: GCCOC c/o St. Innocent Orthodox Church; PO Box 38208; Olmsted Falls, OH 44138. Donors’ names will be listed in the handout.

CHOIR REHEARSAL:

Choir rehearsal will be held next Sunday, Feb. 27, immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

VIRTUAL LENTEN RETREAT:

Archpriest Paul Jannakos, priest at St. Luke Church in Palos Hills, IL, and counselor with Ethos Counseling Group, will lead a retreat on Saturday, March 19, at noon. The theme is “How to Pray?” Register for this event: <https://forms.gle/qjn74M8CQf41uPv17>

VIRTUAL SERVICE:

The Akathist Hymn of Repentance in Christ, with an address by Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey, will be hosted by St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore and available to all on YouTube. Join the service on Friday, March 4, at 8:00 p.m.

[Htttps://youtu.be/8DI-usM5AQY](https://youtu.be/8DI-usM5AQY)

COFFEE HOUR:

The Coffee Hour today is donated by Table of Eight. There is an updated sign-up sheet in the kitchen for the coming months.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 2/13/2022	\$ 4410.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	1350.00
BUILDING FUND	740.00
CANDLES	132.00
ROOF FUND	5435.00
COFFEE HOUR, 2/6/22	59.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 16 – Volume LIX

February 20, 2022

PASTORAL THOUGHTS ABOUT GREAT LENT –
EXILES IN A STRANGE LAND

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son introduces us to the theme of exile. It will be taken up again on Forgiveness Sunday when we are presented with the image of Adam and Eve cast out and exiled from Eden. Throughout Great Lent the theme of exile will be repeated in a variety of ways.

Exile is a feeling of desolation, of being in a place where you are not meant to be. This feeling is attached to yearning, to a desire to come back to where you belong, to be in a place of comfort and safety – in other words, to return home! The narrative of the prodigal son perfectly captures these feelings. It begins with the excitement of unlimited possibilities, then comes the reality of life's inevitable challenges and hardships, that is followed with the descent into "lower depth," out of which there is realization and repentance, and finally the unexpected but joyous conclusion. At each stage there are elements of the human condition which speak to every human being. But the condition that is at the center of the tragedy, the part of the narrative that forces the prodigal son to come to his senses, is the state of exile. It is the state of having lost what he had, of realizing that the good he possessed is no longer accessible. Being an exile in a strange land is what brings him to the deep spiritual and psychological crisis wherein he resolves to turn his life around and return home and beg his father for forgiveness.

In preparing us for a meaningful Lenten experience, the story of the prodigal son comes two weeks before Lent begins, to alert and condition us to realize that we are all exiles. "How am I an exile" one may ask; "I'm living in the same town that I was born in!" We are speaking about spiritual exile, about that sense that builds up inside of us when we somehow feel that we just "don't belong anywhere." It is an underlying dimension of spiritual life, the result of the "fall" and the consequence of "original sin." As we hear in Great Lent during the Anaphora prayers of the Liturgy of St. Basil, "When man disobeyed You, the true God Who created him, and was deceived by the serpent...in Your righteous judgment, O God, You expelled him from paradise into the world."

Spiritual exile is augmented by the times in life when we are lost, when we find ourselves in strange places where we don't belong. The Bible has several episodes where the people of God are in states of exile, which have both physical and spiritual significance. One such notable case is when the Jews were conquered by the Babylonians and deported from Jerusalem. For more than half of the 6th century BC, they were exiles living in Babylon. They conceived of their exile from home in distinctly religious terms. Their sorrow and homesickness were poignantly expressed in Psalm 137: "By the waters of Babylon, there we sat and wept, ... how can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" Our Church's liturgy, which is imbued with Biblical words and images, has incorporated this psalm into the service of the Pre-Lenten Sundays. Set to music in a minor key, "By the waters of Babylon" is one of those features of Orthodox liturgy that illustrate how theology, spirituality, history, culture and art are combined into an integrated whole which powerfully conveys the drama of the human predicament through the means of worship.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus