Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

A parish of the New England Diocese ✣ Orthodox Church in America

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Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017 Sunday of the Prodigal Son – 3rd pre-lenten Sunday / Meatfare Week

Today's readings are:

I Corinthians 6:12-20 and Saint Luke 15:11-32

Weekly calendar:

Today			installation of our newly elected parish council church school and coffee hour
Feb. 13	Mon	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Feb. 14	Tue	—	(no vespers today)
Feb. 15	Wed	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Feb. 16	Thu	5:00pm	OCF at Yale – Vespers in the Lovett Room of Battell Chapel
Feb. 17	Fri	5:30pm	Daily Vespers- with the remembrance of all the departed
Feb. 18	Sat	4:30pm	choir rehearsal
		5:00pm	**Great Vespers and Confessions**
Feb. 19	Sun	**9:00am**	**Divine Liturgy- Sunday of the Last Judgment – *4th pre-lenten Sunday***
Meat-fare Sunday			[I Corinthians 8:8-9:2 and Saint Matthew 25:31-46] church school and coffee hour

This week is *'Meat-fare Week'* in which we keep the usual meatless Wednesday and Friday. It is also the last week for eating meat until the Holy Pascha. We are moving quickly toward the holy days of Great Lent. We need to be getting ready- psychologically, physically and spiritually.

February 26th is Forgiveness Sunday. It is the teaching of the Orthodox Church that every Orthodox Christian needs to participate in Forgiveness Vespers and the 'Rite of Forgiveness' that initiates Great Lent – Forgiveness Vespers is at noon on Sunday, February 26th .

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The Prodigal Son - *in the Key of F*

Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow forced his father to fork over his farthings. Fast he flew to foreign fields and frittered his family's fortune, feasting fabulously with floozies and faithless friends. Flooded with flattery he financed a full-fledged fling of "funny foam" and fast food.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, facing famine, and feeling faintly fuzzy, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy foreign farmyard. Feeling frail and fairly famished, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments.

"Fooey," he figured, "my father's flunkies fare far fancier," the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, frankly facing the facts. Frustrated from failure and filled with foreboding (but following his feelings) he fled from the filthy foreign farmyard.

Faraway, the father focused on the fretful familiar form in the field and flew to him and fondly flung his forearms around the fatigued fugitive. Falling at his father's feet, the fugitive floundered forlornly, "Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor."

The faithful Father, forbidding and forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a fine feast.

Faithfully, the father's first-born was in a fertile field fixing fences while father and fugitive were feeling festive. The foreman felt fantastic as he flashed the fortunate news of a familiar family face that had forsaken fatal foolishness. Forty-four feet from the farmhouse the first-born found a farmhand fixing a fatling.

Frowning and finding fault, he found father and fumed, "Floozies and foam from frittered family funds and you fix a feast following the fugitive's folderol?" The first-born's fury flashed, but fussing was futile. The frugal first-born felt it was fitting to feel "favored" for his faithfulness and fidelity to family, father, and farm. In foolhardy fashion, he faulted the father for failing to furnish a fatling and feast for his friends. His folly was not in feeling fit for feast and fatling for friends; rather his flaw was in his feeling about the fairness of the festival for the found fugitive.

His fundamental fallacy was a fixation on favoritism, not forgiveness. Any focus on feeling "favored" will fester and friction will force the faded facade to fall. Frankly, the father felt the frigid first-born's frugality of forgiveness was formidable and frightful. But the father's former faithful fortitude and fearless forbearance to forgive both fugitive and first-born flourishes.

The farsighted father figured, "Such fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity for the fugitive that is found? Unfurl the flags and finery, let fun and frolic freely flow. Former failure is forgotten; folly is forsaken. Forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortune."

Four facets of the father's fathomless fondness for faltering fugitives are: 1) Forgiveness, 2) Forever faithful friendship, 3) Fadeless love, and 4) A facility for forgetting flaws.

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"I have recklessly forgotten your glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which you gave me. And now I cry to you as the Prodigal: I have sinned before you, O merciful Father, receive me a penitent and make me as one of your hired servants." *(Kontakion of the Prodigal Son)*

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"Отческия славы Твоея удалихся безумно, в злых расточих еже ми предал еси боготство. Темже Ти блуднаго глас приношу: согреших пред Тобою Отче Щедрый, приими мя кающася и состов и мя яко единаго от наемник Твоих." *(Кондак о Неделя о Блудном Сыне)*

Сегодня- Неделя о Блудном Сыне

[Первое Послание к Коринфянам 6:12-20 и от Луки 15:11-32]

Пятн.	5:30чд	Вечерня и память всех покойники
Субб.	5:00чд	Великая Вечерня и Исповедь
Воск.	9:00чу	Литургиа- Неделя о Страшном Суде / Мясопустная (Слово "мясопуст" – означает – мяса отпуст. В это воскресенье – последний день вкушения мяса до св. Пасхи.)

[Первое Послание к Коринфянам 8:8-9:2 и от Матфея 25:31-46]

26-го Февраля Неделя Сыропустная – Прощенное Воскресенье. После литургия будет кофе, и потом, Прощеная Вечерня и начало Великаго Поста.