



From Father Anthony

What is Repentance and how does it affect our spiritual growth?

The Prodigal Son is a story about freedom. The Prodigal Son exercises his freedom by taking his share of the inheritance and going off to live how he wants to live. Freedom right? From the outside it is the dream of many young people to be free and this is what it looks like; to have all the money you want and time to do whatever you want without any responsibilities. It is also the goal of many not so young people. As the story develops we see what the Prodigal Son does with his freedom. He spends it whooping it up with his 'friends', but soon finds himself short on friends and money and ends up watching pigs eat better than he does. In the end he does not have freedom but is actually a slave to circumstances and poverty. What he thought would bring him happiness ended up bringing misery. He felt free for a short while but it turned around to bite him. In similar ways when we exercise our freedom does it bring peace and joy or does it end up enslaving us. Do we have contentment and peace in life or are we always struggling, in turmoil, blaming the world and others for our woes. Christ gives a prescription for freedom in Matt. 11:29 ff. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." This is the only course that can guarantee freedom in any circumstances because it does not rely on external freedom but internal freedom. It shows us the road to freedom from passions, jealousy, hatred, unforgiveness, despair, or any number of other maladies that would seek to rob us of our peace. When the Prodigal "came to himself", he didn't seek to justify himself, he immediately saw the reality of the situation and his role in getting himself there and "metaniad" "changed his way of thinking. Instead of continuing on the same road he made a plan and executed it. The plan was to ask forgiveness, to admit his mistakes and to take responsibility for his condition. He never got the opportunity because the minute his father saw him 'far off', the father ran to greet him and embrace him. This is the vision of "Confession" in the Orthodox Church. We come before God and acknowledge the truth about ourselves before Him. We open up our hearts with all the confusion, pain and trauma that we have suffered and offer it to God. In return we are forgiven of our sins, given spiritual exercise and advice and walk away restored to a state of spiritual integrity. It is not a state that is static and permanent because of the nature of spiritual life. It is an on going reality as God calls us from "Glory to Glory". That is the continual movement towards God, an ever ascending ladder of perfection. The key is that Christ's yoke is easy and His burden is light. That is the measure of our spiritual state and our spiritual life. No matter the burden the hardship, the disappointment, the affliction, in Christ we can have peace that passes all understanding. Make the sacrament of Confession one of your most useful tools in the spiritual life.

Fr. Anthony

Parish Happenings

General Assembly will be Sunday, March 8th to discuss "Council of Ministries" and to pass our 2009 budget.

Pre-Sanctified Liturgies will be every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. during Lent (except March 25th), followed by a Lenten Meal and a presentation from a local charity.

Akathist Hymn will be every Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Clean Monday: March 2nd-- Lent Begins

GOYA -- Greek Orthodox Youth of America --Upcoming Events

- **LENTEN RETREAT:** There are two weekends scheduled for the Lenten GOYA retreat: February 27 – March 1, and March 6 -8. Please see Presbytera Christine for registration forms and if you are interested in attending. For more information visit:
http://www.atlmetropolis.org/index.php?pr=Youth_Diakonia
- **LAZARUS SATURDAY:** April 11: Liturgy, Youth Confession, Sunday School Breakfast, Palm Folding and Church Cleaning
- **GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL:** April 17: Keep vigil at the tomb of Christ reading the Psalter from the end of the Lamentations Service until the beginning of the Holy Saturday Liturgy at 9:00 am.
- **CROSSROADS:** 10 day summer program at Holy Cross School of Theology campus to explore your vocations and direction after high school. Applications are available at www.crossroad.hchc.edu Dates are June 20-30 or July 7 -17, 2009.
- **ST STEPHENS CAMP:** Registration forms will be available on January 30th. There are three sessions this summer and they sell out fast. If you want to go, plan on sending in your forms right away. Father and Presbytera will probably attend the 2nd session. The sessions are as follows: Session I July 12 – 18,

Session II July 19 – 25,
Session III July 26 – Aug 1

For more information visit:

http://www.atlmetropolis.org/index.php?pr=Youth_Diakonia

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers (March 8th) will be celebrated at Prophet Elias this year at 2045 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE in Atlanta, (404) 378-8191 at 6:00 p.m. Old Testament Scholar Fr. Pentiuich will be the guest speaker. We are asked to bring fruit and desserts, the meal will be provided by the host Church.

Children's Bulletin: Each week you can print out an educational and fun booklet for your children to enrich their Orthodox faith and knowledge. This is a wonderful activity for parents to use at home with their children. The link can be found on our website under "Parish Life" or at <http://www.stphilothea.ga.goarch.org/ParishLife.htm>

OUR MISSION

St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to the continuation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's ministry of salvation through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel; through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God and to all humankind.

OUR VISION

*The community will provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through **worship, service, witness and fellowship.***

St. Philothea is high tech!

See the on-line parish calendar for all the latest information. You can find it through the St. Philothea homepage:

<http://www.stphilothea.ga.goarch.org/>

*Marswood Hall Calendar

<http://calendar.goarch.org/cgi-bin/calweb/calweb.exe?level=marswoodhall>

*Announcements for the bulletin can be emailed to Greekgirl1087@aol.com

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Beginning on Sunday, April 5th we will be instituting some changes to our coffee hour program that will better meet the needs of our growing parish. We will be switching to a Standard Coffee & Cookie Plan which the host can purchase and pick up locally. We are currently in the process of arranging for a standing weekly order with a grocer or baker in the area. The benefits of this change are as follows:

More economical for the host / Less set up and clean up involved / More environmentally friendly - no Styrofoam plates and plastic forks / Less worry about what to serve and if there is enough / Switch from sodas to orange juice or lemonade for a healthier beverage

Please be patient and understanding as we make this change. Lynn Manzione, the Hospitality Chair will call you as your week approaches and help you with the arrangements.

Coffee Hour Host Duties: Pay for and pick up the refreshments; set up and clean up--includes making coffee, wiping, tables and vacuuming as necessary. You may be asked to provide Proforon, coffee or creamer when necessary. Lenten dates are marked in grey.

If the date listed below does not work for you please call Georgia Parthemos (706-548-3876) or Lynn Manzione (706- 369 0546) to make any necessary changes.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THIS BLESSED MINISTRY

DATE	COFFEE HOUR HOST
22-Feb	Stiles
1-Mar	Covered Dish Svoronos
8-Mar	Great Lent Tseggai
15-Mar	Vlahos
22-Mar	Volk
29-Mar	Wright
5-Apr	Covered Dish Anderson
12-Apr	Andros
19-Apr	****Holy Pascha****
26-Apr	Anest

3-May	Covered Dish Angelova & Cain
10-May	Mother's Day Cramer
17-May	Dekazos
24-May	Demos
31-May	Grissom
7-Jun	Pentecost & Cov. Dish Herrington
14-Jun	Horescu
21-Jun	Father's Day Iakovou
28-Jun	James
5-Jul	4th of July Picnic
12-Jul	Seiss
19-Jul	Velie
26-Jul	Parthemos
2-Aug	Covered Dish Johns
9-Aug	Kefalas
16-Aug	Kimbaris
23-Aug	Knisely
30-Aug	Kovak
6-Sep	Covered Dish Lambros
13-Sep	Lamson
20-Sep	Lavelle
27-Sep	Lieffring
4-Oct	Covered Dish Lubimov
11-Oct	Mahoney
18-Oct	Manzione
25-Oct	Nguyentan
1-Nov	Greek FESTIVAL
8-Nov	O'Malley
15-Nov	Advent Fast Pagonis
22-Nov	Pappas
29-Nov	Pottier
6-Dec	Covered Dish Salzman
13-Dec	Sarandos
20-Dec	Shih
27-Dec	Shurdha
3-Jan	Covered Dish (?) Stiles
10-Jan	Stojanivoc
17-Jan	Svoronos
24-Jan	Tseggai
31-Jan	Vlahos
7-Feb	Covered Dish Wright

Gospel & Epistle Readings

March 1	Matins: Luke 24:1-12	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21
March 8	Matins: Luke 24:13-35	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 Gospel: John 1:43-51
March 15	Matins: Luke 24:36-53	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12
March 22	Matins: John 20:1-10	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1
March 29	Matins: John 20:11-18	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

KIDS CORNER - A Bible Quiz:

1. How many books are there in the whole Bible?
2. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
3. How many books are there in the New Testament?
4. In which Testament would you look for the Sermon on the Mount?
5. In which Testament would you look for the story of Jonah and the great fish?
6. How many of the New Testament books are called the Gospels?
7. In what book of the Bible would you read about Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego?
8. What is the first book in the Bible?
9. What is the last book in the Bible?
10. If you opened the Bible in the middle, what book would you find?

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Vice-President; Paul Lavelle,

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

Panos Dekazos, Dimitri Lambros, Kurt Knisely,

Constantine Wright, Steve Demos

Sunday school:

Directors: Tara Mahoney and Elaine Lambros

Philoptochos Board:

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Secretary: Rose Lieftring

Treasurer: Presbytera, Christine Salzman

Advisor: Karen Kimberis

Council of Ministries Chair:

Dimitri Lambros

Building Maintenance Chair:

Bill Mahoney

Hospitality Chairs:

Georgia Parthemos and Lynn Manzione

Bulletin:

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St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Calendar

Mar 2009 (Eastern Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Forgiveness Sunday</p> <p>9am - Orthros</p> <p>10am - Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11am - Covered Dish</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Clean Monday--Strict</p> <p>Hesychios the Martyr</p> <p>7pm - Canon of St.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Eutropios, Kleonikos,</p> <p>7pm - OCF Dinner and</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Gerasimos the Righteous</p> <p>6pm - Presanctified</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Konon the Gardener</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>7pm - Canon of St.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>42 Martyrs of Amorion in</p> <p>12pm - Dalton Rehearsal,</p> <p>7pm - Akathist Hymn</p>	<p>7</p> <p>The 7 Hieromartyrs of</p> <p>12pm - Dalton /</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Sunday of Orthodoxy</p> <p>9am - Orthros</p> <p>10am - Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11am - Coffee Hour</p> <p>6pm - @ Prophet Elias,</p>	<p>9</p> <p>40 Martyrs at Lake</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Kodratos the Martyr & his</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Sophronios, Patriarch of</p> <p>6pm - Presanctified</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Theophanes the</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Removal of the relics of</p> <p>12pm - Carter Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Akathist Hymn</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Benedict the Righteous of</p> <p>12pm - Carter Selena</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Sunday of St. Gregory</p> <p>9am - Orthros</p> <p>10am - Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11am - Coffee Hour</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Savinios the Martyr of</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Alexios the Man of God</p> <p>7pm - OCF Dinner and</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Cyril, Patriarch of</p> <p>6pm - Presanctified</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chrysanthos & Daria the</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Righteous Fathers slain</p> <p>7pm - Akathist Hymn</p>	<p>21</p> <p>James the Confessor</p> <p>12pm - Cunningham</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Sunday of the Holy Cross</p> <p>9am - Orthros</p> <p>10am - Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:30am - Coffee Hour</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Nikon the Holy Martyr &</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Forefeast of the</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Annunciation of the</p> <p>6pm - Presanctified</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Synaxis in honor of the</p> <p>11am - OCF Bull Dog</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Matrona of Thessaloniki</p> <p>12pm - Hypollite</p> <p>7pm - Akathist Hymn</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Hilarion the New</p> <p>12pm - Hypollite / Exil</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Sunday of St. John</p> <p>9am - Orthros</p> <p>10am - Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11am - Coffee Hour @ St.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>John Climacus the</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Hypatios the</p> <p>7pm - OCF Dinner and</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Mary of Egypt</p> <p>6pm - Presanctified</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Titus the Wonderworker</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>7pm - Canon of St.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Nikitas the Confessor</p> <p>12pm - Stockton</p> <p>7pm - Akathist Hymn</p>	<p>4</p> <p>George the Righteous of</p> <p>12pm - Stockton</p>



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