

### *Mercy and Forgiveness*

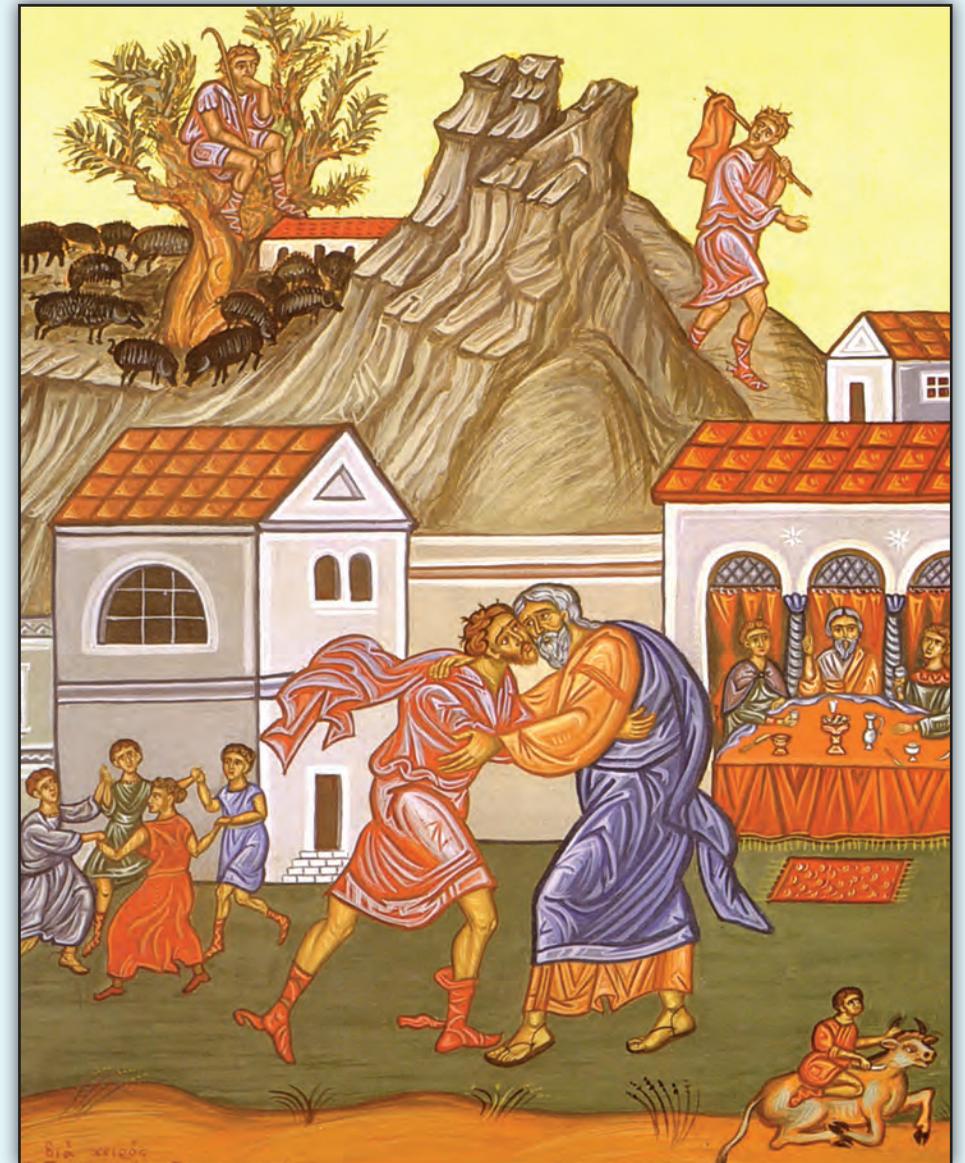
All that God looks for from us is the slightest opening and He forgives a multitude of sins. ... There were two brothers: they divided their father's goods between them and one stayed home, while the other went away to a foreign country, wasted all he had been given, and then could not bear the shame of his poverty. The son who went away represents those who fall after baptism. This is clear from the fact that he is called a son, since no one is called a son unless he is baptized. Also, he lived in his father's house and took a share of all his father's goods. Before baptism no one receives the Father's goods or enters upon the inheritance. We can therefore take all this as signifying the state of believers.

What does he say after falling into the depths of evil? I will return to my father. The reason the father let him go and did not prevent his departure for a foreign land was so that he might learn well by experience what good things are enjoyed by the one who stays at home. For when words would

not convince us God often leaves us to learn from the things that happen to us. When the dissolute returned after going to a foreign country and finding out by experience what a great sin it is to leave the father's house, the father did not remember past injuries but welcomed him with open arms. Why? Because he was a father and not a judge. And there were dances and festivities and banquets and the whole house was full of joy and gladness.

Are you asking: "Is this what he gets for his wickedness?" Not for his wickedness, but for his return home; not for sin, but for repentance; not for evil, but for being converted. What is more, when the elder son was angry at this the father gently won him over, saying: You were always with me, but he was lost and has been found; he was dead and has come back to life. "When someone who was lost has to be saved," says the father, "it is not the time for passing judgment or making minute inquiries, but only for mercy and forgiveness."

## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



*Icon of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)*

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Andrii Chornopyskyi – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – February 5, 2023

Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Sunday February 5 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(For the Parish) (Blessings for Mayevsky-Radchenko Family from Anna Beyers)
Wednesday February 8 9:00 a.m.	(Blessings for the Nagurney Medwid Family from Irene)
Thursday February 9 9:00 a.m.	(Health of Halyna and Family from Family)
Friday February 10 9:00 a.m.	(Deceased of the Nagurney-Medwid Family from Irene)
Sunday February 12 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(+John and +Helen Fedkiw from the Popadiuk Family) (For the Parish)

**FIRST CONFESSION CLASSES**

Classes will be held on Sunday between the English and Ukrainian liturgies (approx. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM). First Confession will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (April 1, 2023). Classes will not be held on February 19. All children must be attending Divine Liturgy. If you have children of First Confession age in your family, we ask you to please contact Olya Kroytor Mulvey by email at [olya.kroytor@gmail.com](mailto:olya.kroytor@gmail.com)

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES CHILDREN 3-6**

All children ages 3-6 are welcome to join Holy Family’s Preschool Eastern Christian Formation/Catechism classes held every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 10:15-11:15. Email Lindsey at [lfrechou22@gmail.com](mailto:lfrechou22@gmail.com) with any questions and to register. Classes will be held on: February 12, 26 - March 12, 26 - April 2, 23 - May 7, 21.  
May 21

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SOROKOUSTY 2023 (LIST OF YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES)**

In the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is the custom to remember our beloved dead during the time of the Great Fast. These commemorations occur on Saturdays because the Saviour of the world rested in the grave on Great and Holy Saturday, awaiting the Resurrection. Thus, Saturday became for Christians the day for commemorating the deceased, who await the resurrection on the last day. We will be starting our remembrances of the dead (given our special circumstances) on Saturdays, beginning February 25 at 10:00 a.m. Please take the time to remember your deceased family members on the Saturdays of the Great Fast. They hope for our prayers; and in turn, they pray for us. Please submit an envelope with your list of names by email or US Mail. See the attached Sorokousty Form. An offering is customarily made for the priests

**Prayer List**

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Robert Matthew C., Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Alice Gogniat, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Nila Iwaskiw, Kateryna Jurach, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Michael Sharr, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, and Jennifer Wilson.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

**God With Us Catechism**

“Independence” is one of the great “rights” of man that is held to be sacred and inviolable for Americans. The Epistle proclaimed in the Church today, however, challenges our modern notion of independence when it proclaims Saint Paul’s teaching that we were “purchased with a price” and that we are not our own, but that we belong to the Lord. On the day of our baptism, each one of us was incorporated into the church and made members of Christ’s body, and sharers in his eternal life. Just as the parts of the body are interdependent, and ultimately totally dependent the soul and spirit for life, so it is with Christ and the members of his Church. Each of us derives our spiritual life from Christ and receives that life through other members of the body of the Church. As such, none of us is “independent,” but rather we are totally dependent upon one another, and all of us are dependent upon Christ. From the important biblical concept of spiritual dependence, we can understand the need for us to live a life in conformity with him from whom we received it, and on whom we depend for everything. Applying the parable of the prodigal son to the above explanation helps this truth take flesh in our imagination and allows us and those whom we teach to better understand what life is like away from our source of life, and what it is like to return in our hearts to our King and our God.