

## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



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

### *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."

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**4250 Harewood Road NE Washington, DC 20017**

**Phone: 202-526-3737**

**E-mail: [ucnsholyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ucnsholyfamily@gmail.com)**

**Webpage: [www.ucns-holyfamily.org](http://www.ucns-holyfamily.org)**

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 202-262-5040**

***Pastoral Care entrusted to:***

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Mykola Dziurakh – Parochial Vicar

**Sunday – February 1, 2026**

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

**Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies**

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

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

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| <b>Saturday January 31<br/>5:30 p.m.</b>              | <b>Great Vespers</b>   |
| <b>Sunday February 1<br/>9:00 a.m.<br/>11:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b><br>(For the Parish)<br>(+Stefania and Volodymyr Choma from Family) |
| <b>Monday February 2<br/>7:00 p.m.</b>                | <b>The Encounter of Our Lord –Presentation of Our Lord</b><br>(+Stephen Gogniat from Family)         |
| <b>Wednesday February 4<br/>9:00 a.m.</b>             | (+Theresa Caryk from A.M. Gogniat)   |
| <b>Thursday February 5<br/>9:00 a.m.</b>              | (+Mary and +Benjamin from Ellen)   |
| <b>Friday February 6<br/>9:00 a.m.</b>                | (+Horace and +Madeline from Family)  |
| <b>Saturday February 7<br/>5:30 p.m.</b>              | <b>Great Vespers</b>   |
| <b>Sunday February 8<br/>9:00 a.m.<br/>11:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday of Meatfare – The Judgment</b><br>(For the Parish)<br>(+Luboslaw Szuszkiewicz from Family) |

**FIRST CONFESSION 2026 PREPARATION**

Preparation for First Confession has begun. Classes will still be held on Sundays. Please contact Olya Mulvey at [olya.kroytor@gmail.com](mailto:olya.kroytor@gmail.com) to learn more. All children must attend Divine Liturgy with their families on a weekly basis during their preparation. The SPRING SEMESTER class schedule is as follows: February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 28 - Lazarus Saturday - First Confession.

**SAINT GABRIEL INSTITUTE MEET AND GREET SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1 AFTER BOTH LITURGIES**

Come and meet the new student fellows of the Saint Gabriel Institute on Sunday February 1 after both Divine Liturgies in the small parish hall (coffee room). The fellows have begun the 2026 session at St. Josaphat Seminary.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SOROKOUSTY 2026 (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. The Great Fast begins on Monday February 16 in 2026. 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 on Saturdays, beginning February 21 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. An offering is customarily given to 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, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Robert Dulaine, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Myroslava Futey, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Robert Harnest, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Boris Hlynsky, Daniel Horeczko, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Nila Iwaskiw, Sarah Kelt, LTJG Lydia Kowalskyj USN, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Melissa Martin, Paul Marynowych, Irene Nagurney, Myron Nagurney Jr, Michele Pretka Litvak, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Ivanna Richardson, Roman Rusynko, Chris Saboe, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Teresa Sherwood, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Fr. George Worschak, and Paul Yarrish.** 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.