

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland & MidAtlantic

The Very Reverend Father Samuel Haddad, Pastor

Deacon Matthew Benefield

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Tone 2

February 8, 2026

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**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON &
AFTER-FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST**

Today's Reader: Alexander Cadmus

Next Sunday– February 15, 2026

Reader: Dan Hardway

Commemorations/Bread Offering for the Holy Oblation: Nathaniel & Grace

Luncheon next Sunday will be prepared by the Hardway, Roberts & Williams Families

Bread for the Holy Oblation is Offered for the health and salvation of Anastasia, Alexander, Olga Maria, Elena and Tanya. It is also offered for Jay, Hannah, Ryan, and all the members of the Roudebush Family.

It is also offered in loving memory of Jack, Evan, Evgemiy, Alexander, Zoya, and Victor. It is also offered in memory of Francisco, Fannie, and Ethel. Also for the departed members of the Roudebush Family.

"the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)

Please note that **Holy Communion is reserved for members of the Holy Orthodox Church** who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession. However, all are welcome to partake of the blessed bread at the dismissal.

Please join us during our fellowship at the **Coffee Hour** immediately after the Divine Liturgy.



Join us for the
holy matrimony of

Nathaniel

and

Grace

Saturday, February 14th 2026, at 1pm



"Blessings Box" Collection Update



Beloved in Christ,

This year, we are collecting non-perishable food for our new **BLESSING BOX!** PLEASE KEEP BRINGING FOOD so that we may continue to stock our shelves and have food to stock adequately. We need to continue our efforts in providing food for those who are truly Hungry. God bless everyone for your holy efforts!

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON &
AFTER-FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST**

Troparion of the Resurrection, in the Second Tone

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, in the First Tone

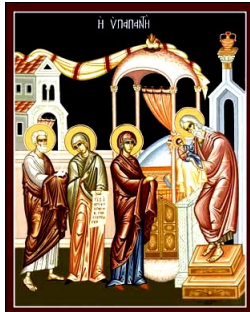
Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

Troparion of St. Nicholas, in the Fourth Tone

Thy righteous acts have manifested thee to thy flock as a model of faith, a reflection of humility, and a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Therefore, through humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and through poverty riches. Intercede thou with Christ to save our souls.

Kontakion for the Presentation of Christ, in the First Tone

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Simeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only Friend of man.



Epistle

I Corinthians 6:12—end

Prokeimenon: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.. Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Gospel

Luke 18:10-30

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven



Gospel Cont.

and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



The Prodigal Son

Synaxarion

If anyone be a prodigal as I, take courage and turn back; For the gates of God's mercies are opened to all.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, dedicated as the second service of the Triodion by the divine Fathers for the following reason. There are some who recognize much in themselves that is unbecoming, who live a life of great dissipation from their youth, whose lives are full of drunkenness and immorality, who having fallen thus into the depths of evil, become despondent, giving birth to pride, from whence they have no desire to

con't on back

advance to any of the virtues, preferring their bondage to evil and falling ever deeper into evil. Having a fatherly love for even these individuals, and desiring to lead them out of their despair, the Holy Fathers prescribed this parable for the second preparatory Sunday in order to tear up the passion of despair by the roots, to lead them to acceptance of the virtues, and to demonstrate to sinners the abundance of God's compassion upon sinners and prodigals in His great goodness and love for mankind. For there is no sin which cannot be overcome by the knowledge of His love for mankind, and this is what is presented in this parable of Christ. Now the sons of man, that is of the Word, God and Man, are two: the righteous and the sinful. It is the eldest who abides ever in God's blessings, following His commandments and remaining always by Him. But the younger son, having become attached to sin and renouncing his closeness to God through shameful deeds, has wasted God's love for mankind and for him and has lived as a prodigal. For having completely rejected Him after whose image he was created, and having followed an evil demon, willingly enslaving himself to this demon's pleasure, he was unable to fulfill his desire. For sin is an unsatisfying thing that becomes an habitual source of temporary pleasure. It may be compared to the husks that are fed to swine. At first it seems that they might be something tasty, but they turn out to be very dry and are much like weeds, which is how sin takes possession. For the Prodigal Son had hardly come to his senses when, perishing from hunger for virtue, he comes to his father, saying, "Father, I have sinned before heaven and before thee, and I am not worthy to be called thy son." Yet the father receives him in repentance, not reproaching him, but embracing him and kissing him in a display of divine and fatherly love. And he clothes him, a symbol of baptism, putting a ring on his finger, a symbol of the grace of the all-Holy Spirit. He also puts sandals on his feet, not so much as a protection from some serpent or scorpion that might sting him on his path to God, but rather as a means of crushing the heads of those creatures. And then in an tremendous display of joy he slaughters the fatted calf for him, his only-begotten Son, and the Father grants him communion of his body and blood. Now the elder son expresses his amazement at his father's limitless mercy. But the lover of mankind exhorts him to silence with loving and kind words of humility, saying, "Thou art ever with me, and it was meet that we should make merry and be glad, for my son was formerly dead in his sin and is alive again, having repented of the foolish things he has done. He was lost, since he was far from me in his licentious habits, and he was found by me, suffering in my compassion and calling him back in my mercy." This parable may be applied to us as well, which is why the holy Fathers have prescribed it for today. We who have sinned as the prodigal are encouraged to weed out despair and fear through repentance, confession and good deeds. For this is a great aid and a powerful weapon against the assaults of the adversary.

In Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

2026 Triodion and Great Lent		
2/08/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
2/14/26 (Sat)	1:00 pm	Wedding of Nathaniel Keith and Grace Sparks- Reception to Follow
2/15/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)
2/22/26 (Sun)	O,DL 12:15 pm	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday) Forgiveness Vespers and Rite of Forgiveness (After Divine Liturgy)
Great Lent Begins 2/23/2026		
2/23/26 (Mon)	6:00 pm	Great Compline w/quarter from Canon of St Andrew of Crete
2/24/26 (Tue)	6:00 pm	Great Compline w/quarter from Canon of St Andrew of Crete
2/25/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
2/26/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline w/quarter from Canon of St Andrew of Crete
2/27/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (1st Stasis)
2/28/26 (Sat)	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) The Miracle of the Kollyva
3/1/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of Orthodoxy (followed by procession of the Icons)
3/4/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/5/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
3/6/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (2nd Stasis)
3/8/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of St Gregory Palamas
3/11/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/12/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
3/13/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (3 rd Stasis)
3/15/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross – Procession w/Decorated Cross
3/18/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/19/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
3/18/2026 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (4th Stasis)
3/22/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of St John Climacus
3/23/26 (Mon)	6:00 pm	Little Compline w/Life of St. Mary of Egypt & Full Canon of St. Andrew
3/24/26 (Tue)	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Festal Orthros for the Feast of the Annunciation Festal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation
3/25/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Great Vespers for the Leavetaking of the Feast of the Annunciation
3/26/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
3/27/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos (Full)
3/29/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Sunday of the St. Mary of Egypt
4/1/26 (Wed)	6:00 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by presentation
4/2/26 (Thu)	6:00 pm	Great Compline
4/3/26 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Little Compline w/Canon of the Raising of Lazarus
4/4/26 (Sat)	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) for Lazarus Saturday
4/4/26 (Sat)	5:00 pm	Festal Great Vespers for Palm Sunday
4/5/26 (Sun)	O,DL	Palm Sunday
Please check the schedule published in the Bulletin each week.		

Calendar for the Week of February 8, 2026	Saints of the Day
Sunday—February 8, 2026 Sunday of the Prodigal Son 9:25 am - Orthros 9:30 am - High School 10:00 am – Youth Ministry 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy After Liturgy- Junior & Youngsters Church School 1:30 pm Choir Practice	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Monday— February 9, 2026	Nicephorus the Martyr
Tuesday—February 10, 2026	Barlamos, Martyr Among Priests
Wednesday—February 11, 2026 Fast 5:00 pm Daily Vespers	Blasius the Martyr Among Priests; Theodore Augusta
Thursday—February 12, 2026	Meletius the Archbishop of Antioch
Friday—February 13, 2026 Fast	Martinianus the Righteous
Saturday—February 14, 2026 5:00 pm Great Vespers Confessions Afterward	Axentius the Righteous
Sunday—February 15, 2026 Forgiveness Sunday 9:25 am - Orthros (No Church School—Youth Activity) 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy 1:30 - Youth Activity	Onesimus the Apostle
<p align="center">Please note that Confessions are heard at the time noted above in the coming week’s schedule, or by appointment by calling Fr. Samuel at: (304) 541-8550.</p>	