

**ST. MARY'S
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

VERY REV. RICHARD I. LAMBERT

356 S. BelleVista Ave.

Youngstown, Ohio 44509

Rectory 330-799-8163

Social Center 330-792-1578

Jan. 28, 2024

Page130, 216

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

SAT. 4:30 p.m. +Cherie Kent by Dave & Terry Buehrle

SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

MON. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy

TUE. THREE HOLY HIERARCHS Page 318

10:30 a.m. +Peter Maluf by Sister, Anna Maria

WED. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy

THU. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy

FRI. MEETING OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON & ANNA Page 321

10:30 am. +Patricia Hames by Rosary Society Blessing of candles



SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE

SAT. 4:30 p.m. FIRST ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION Feb, 4, 2024

SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners Page135, 217

When I foolishly spurned your Fatherly glory, I squandered the riches You had given me on evil deeds. So now I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal Son: I have sinned against You, O Merciful Father; accept my repentance and treat me as one of Your hired servants.

CHURCH DONATIONS Jan. 22, 2023

Lenten offering \$225.00

BCW 20.00 Candles \$33.00

Offertory..... \$ 1,346.00

GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

Please remember in your prayers Rev. Msgr. Russell A. Duker, who passed on to his eternal reward. We have not received any further information regarding Funeral plans. Msgr. Duker was a former Pastor at St. Nicholas Church in Yo. Grant eternal rest O Lord to your servant, Msgr. Duker and remember him forever. Vicnaja Pamjat!

BLESSED WATER

Water was blessed for the Feast of Theophany If you would like to take some home please bring a small container anytime.

ALL SOULS.....HRAMOTY

The envelope for All Souls is included in your Jan. Envelopes. If you would like to remember your Loved ones at these liturgies please fill out the envelope (first names only) and drop in the collection basket. First All Souls will be Feb. 3, 2024

THIRD ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

Will be held at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, Ohio. March 15th -17th. Retreat Master is Fr. Thomas Loya. If interested the pamphlets are in vestibule.

SOCIAL GAMES

Are played every Sunday in our Center...Doors open 4:30 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Start the New Year off right and come spend a little time with your Friends and Family. We offer GREAT prizesand you might be one of the LUCKY ONES that walks out with some XTRA Cash.

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

In preparing us for the Great Fast holy Church pointed out in the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee that the first step to conversion is humility. On this Sunday, she sets before us the example of the Prodigal Son to show us how one is converted to God. Where there is humility and sorrow of heart, there the door to God's mercy is opened.

Scripture scholars call the parable of the Prodigal Son the pearl of all the parables. It is unique for its deep moral content. Its dramatic story is being constantly repeated in the souls of millions throughout the world. The Prodigal Son is the symbol of every sinful soul. This parable clearly demonstrates that nothing on earth can satisfy our biting hunger and parching thirst for happiness. True happiness and peace is to be found only in God, our loving Father. Some exponents of the spiritual life also call this parable, the parable of God's love.

Anyone who alienates himself from God by sin and seeks happiness outside of God, sooner or later, will be forced to say with the Prodigal son: "I shall rise and go to my father." And with St. Augustine who was a prodigal son for many years, "Our heart is restless, O God, until it rests in you."

In the parable, Jesus Christ chooses the life of a wealthy family for His theme. The youngest of two sons wishes to leave his father's house to enjoy absolute freedom, to live a life according to the desires of his heart. And so, taking the portion of the inheritance that fell to him, he journeyed into a far-off country.

Under Jewish law the first-born or elder son received two thirds of the family estate, while the remaining third was divided among the other sons. In the parable there were only two sons; consequently, the youngest son received one third of the estate.

His first days away from home were great. He had continuous merrymaking becoming intoxicated with pleasure. Scarcely had he begun enjoying his unlimited freedom when his possessions, his friends and parties began to melt away like the spring snow. In addition to this, a famine devastated the country, and he was forced to tend the pigs. Thus, the rich young man who wished to live according to the desires of his heart became a despicable swineherd. He decided to return to his father's home. When his father sees him, he is moved with pity. He runs to his son, takes him into his arms and kisses him. He restores to him his former dignity.

The parable teaches us that God forgives and mercifully receives even the greatest sinners, if they repent and are sorry for their sins. The history of the human race is nothing but the history of God's mercy. "The mercy of the Lord is from eternity to eternity upon them that fear Him."

DAY BY DAY

Tomorrow is one of the beautiful words of the English language. That is, when it is properly pronounced. But in our thinking, tomorrow is not always beautiful. It often is laden with fears. When we come down to the realm of actuality, we realize that tomorrow does not exist and never will. It is only in our imagination.

There is no tomorrow. There is only today. Tomorrow, if we are privileged to see it, will be another "Today". While we are imagining, let us reflect upon the past...the unfailing goodness of God, at every step and turn of the way. The burdens of this day can be borne. God assures us that with His continual help we can be more than conquerors now.

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself."

REPENTANCE

is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity.