

Sunday of the  
Prodigal Son

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I Cor. 6:12-20

Luke 15:11-32

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Homily by

Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:

Ben Dunaway

Coffee Hour Hosts:

K & J Medders /

N & M Ray /

N. Temple

# St. John Orthodox Cathedral

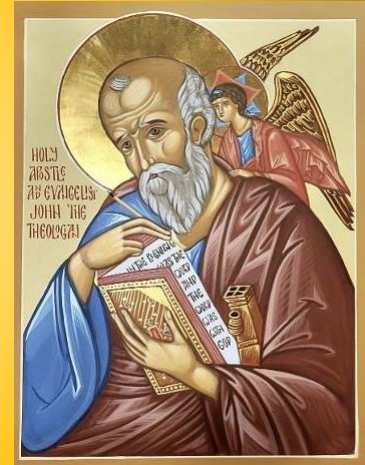
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## Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, February 16, 2025

And the Days Following

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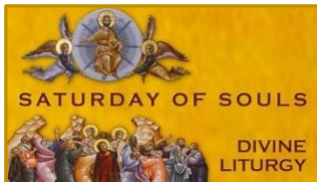
*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

### Feast Days and Services

#### Saturday of Souls - Commemoration of the Departed

Vespers – Friday, February 21 at 7:15pm

Divine Liturgy - Saturday, February 22 at 9:15am



Please remember to fill out or update your list of departed family members, Orthodox and non-Orthodox. Your previous forms will be in your mail-box folder in the Narthex and new forms will be available on the table. *(They will be available this weekend.)* Please place your completed forms in the basket provided and have this done before Divine Liturgy Saturday morning.

### Parish Events and News

#### Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)

12:30pm – 2:00pm



#### Thursday Night Talks

February 20 – 7-8:30pm at the St. James House

This week's topic will be on Spiritual Growth – Part 1

## Women's 2025 Retreat



The Sisters of Mary and Martha hosted their annual women's retreat at the Annex in Palmer. The topic this year was on mental and spiritual health. Joshua Arvidson (Licensed Clinical Social Worker among many other titles) presented on mental health care, and Elizabeth Klatt and Jane Lamb shared their mental and spiritual health testimonies.

## Parish Council Meeting Summary – January 25, 2025

- PC members shared a brief statement on why they tithe.
- We continued the ministries presentations, discussing the ministries mission statement, future/goals, and needs. Fr. Marc presented the ERI. Rhonda Clodfelter and Jennifer Saur presented Atrium.
- Myles Kelly and Sam Stogsdill presented the different options for the cupola and answered questions. It was decided that the PC would move forward with their bid to rebuild the cupola.
- The PC discussed the potential for issues with the chapel roof which will be evaluated when its weather permitting.
- The PC started the review of the various options for making the St. James House handicap accessible.
- Sydney reviewed the terms of each parish council member.
- Blake will be beginning the Maranatha house/Bishop's apartment repairs soon.
- The Antiochian Archdiocese of North America created a Youth protect policy training and background check to be completed by each parish council member.
- The Lindblom's will be the new host family of the St. James House starting this summer.
- PC members were asked to begin thinking of ideas to welcome visitors to the church.
- The PC started the discussion about having a PC retreat after Pascha.
- PC unanimously agreed to donate \$500 to St. Athanasius Academy and post the fundraiser letter in the bulletin.
- John Marc updated the PC regarding the church doors. They are latching correctly, security cameras are working, and the locks are working.
- There was a parishioner question asking if the PC meetings are open to parishioners. The PC unanimously voted not to open the meetings due to the personal nature of certain agenda items. The PC agreed to host more frequent family meetings.
- Marshall and Tim will plan to meet with an attorney soon to discuss separating the church and school to mitigate liability concerns.

Due to time constraints some public comments were postponed until the next meeting in February.

Please send any comments/questions/suggestions to the Parish Council at [parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org)

Submitted by Martha Zink

## “Church Etiquette” Tip of the Week

When we gather to worship God, Orthodox Christians are “at home” in the environment of the Church gathering and yet at the same time reverent. These tips on “Church etiquette” explain some of the common customs that contribute to the reverent atmosphere of Orthodox worship. They are intended as guidelines to observe, not to judge one another, which by a higher law we are forbidden from doing. (We will be adding a ‘Tip of the Week’ for the next several weeks in the bulletin.)

### Venerating Icons in the Narthex and Center of the Church

When entering a church, it is customary to venerate the icon of the patron saint in the Narthex, as well as any festal icon that may be set on a stand in the center of the church. One should wait to venerate an icon in the center of the church (or on the iconostasis) if the clergy are standing before it, or if a scripture reading, censuring, or the Little or Great Entrance are occurring at the moment you enter the church.



### Coffee Hour This Sunday - February 16, 2025 Group C - Third Sunday of the Month

**Hosts Families: K & J Medders / N & M Ray / N. Temple**

Snacks: Arnold, Curry, Dunham, Fisher, Greene, Hanna, Hawi, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Kelly, Kendall, Labrecque, Medders Families, Okuley, Polson, Saur, Scherer, Sparks, Stiehrs, Taylor, Temple Families, Wasile

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**Next Sunday – Group D – February 23, 2025 Hosts: E & H Johnson**

Snacks: Alexander, Arvidson, Clement, Clodfelter, Cowan, Dougherty, FrM & Kh. Betsy Dunaway, Dyal, Fletes, Haines, Goetz, Hightower, B & M Johnson, Jones, Kies, Lamb, Mee, Moses, Palmer, Parker, Ray, Snider, Stogsdill, I. Temple, Terrell, Van Dyke, Webster

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## News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [The Parable of the Weeds, Part Two](#)

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## Local Community News

Chugiak & Eagle River Drama  
in Association with Chugiak and Eagle River High Schools  
Present

# MARY POPPINS

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Book by  
Julian Fellowes

Original Music  
& Lyrics by  
Richard M. Sherman and  
Robert B. Sherman

New Songs and  
Additional Music & Lyrics  
by George Stiles  
and Anthony Drewe

Based on the stories of P.L. Travers  
and the Walt Disney Film

**TWO Full Weekends**  
with a Matinee Showing!  
Feb 22 - 1:00pm

**Tickets**  
K-8: \$10  
9-Adult: \$20  
Advanced Tickets at  
cerdrama.booktix.com

Feb. 21 & 22      7:00 PM AT THE STEVE PRIMIS AUDITORIUM      Feb. 27- Mar. 1

### Chugiak & Eagle River High School Presents Mary Poppins

Nathaniel Lourie is playing a lead as the character Burt, the Chimney Sweep.

## Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

### “Checking In” with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)



### Volunteer Drivers for Oksana to Church Needed

We need drivers for Oksana. Please email Dn. Kevin or text me at 907-947-5345 for any Sunday that you could volunteer. Rides Needed for these dates: **February 23, March 2 and March 9**. Even if you can do only one way please volunteer. Thank you.

## Dates to Remember

### Monday 'Moms with Kids' Reading Group

Please join us for reading group on Mondays at 10 AM. We meet at Saint James House in the living room area.



### Thursday Reading Group

The Thursday 10 am reading group will be meeting at the Senior Center.

### Birthdays This Week

February 18 - Mia Fletes

February 21 - Ben Dunaway

February 20 - Samantha Bahl

*M A N Y   Y E A R S !*



### Remembering in Prayer...

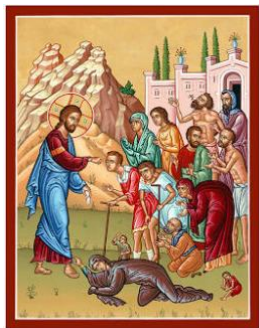
Gwyn Jones  
Joe Dunham

Chris Grasse  
Josphine Hanna & her  
family

Kerry Jones

Sylvia Villafana

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine  
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to  
war and for peace*



### Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **February** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, Feb. 22**. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



## Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- \* Steven Theodore Primis - February 3, 2001
  - \* Archpriest Jack Norman Sparks - February 8, 2010
  - \* Phyllis Isabel Webster - February 12, 1992
  - \* Lynn Ellen Guio - February 17, 2019
  - \* Dn. Christian Timothy Sorensen - February 23, 2000
- M E M O R Y   E T E R N A L !**

### THE SYNAXARION

#### Prodigal Son – 2<sup>nd</sup> PreLent

On February 16, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Pamphilos, priest of Caesarea in Palestine and his companions; Venerable Flavian the hermit; and Venerable-martyr Romanos from Solovak of Carpenision.

On this day, we remember the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the Gospel and which our deified Fathers brought further honor in the Lenten Triodion.

#### *Verses*

*O you who are like me, a prodigal,  
come forward with confidence and tranquility.*

*For unto all has been opened the door of divine mercy.*



In the parable given to us by our Savior, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us: that we are distant from God and His Sacraments. However, when we become aware of ourselves and awaken, we hasten with hope and return to Him through repentance. Our Savior calls back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking the hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Your inexpressible love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us.  
Amen.

#### **Saint John Orthodox Cathedral**

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• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson