



St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

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Week of February 16, 2025

Sunday, February 16

Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Tone 1.

- 8:30am** - Matins
- 9:30am** - Divine Liturgy
- 11:30am** - Agape meal (coffee hour)

This Sunday's Hymns and Readings

Tone 1 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Tone 3 **Kontakion** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou hadst given me. Therefore I cry to Thee like the Prodigal: "I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!"

Tone 1 **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Epistle 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Tone 1 *Alleluias*

*God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.
He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed,
and his seed forever.*

Gospel Luke 15:11-32

This Week's Schedule

Monday, February 17. Greatmartyr Theodore the Recruit (Tyro)

Tuesday, February 18. St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome.

- **No Office Hours - Fr Silouan at DOS Pastoral Conference**

Wednesday, February 19. Apostles of the Seventy: Archippus, Philemon, and Apphia.

- **No Office Hours - Fr Silouan at DOS Pastoral Conference**
- **6:00pm - 9th hour & *Readers* vespers**

Thursday, February 20. St Leo, bishop of Catania in Sicily.

- **Fr Silouan returns from DOS Pastoral Conference**

Friday, February 21. Venerable Timothy of Symbola in Bythnia.

Saturday, February 22. Memorial Saturday of Meatfare

- **9:05am 3rd & 6th hours**
- **9:30am Divine Liturgy**

- **5:00pm Great Vespers**

Announcements

DOS Pastoral Conference

February 18-20, Fr Silouan will be in Dallas at St Seraphim's Cathedral for the annual diocesan pastoral conference. On Wednesday, February 19th, Reader's Vespers will be served.

Memorial Saturdays and lists of your departed ones

Saturday, February 22, we will celebrate the first Memorial Divine Liturgy of the pre-Lenten season at 9:30am preceded by the Hours at 9:05am. Please respond to the email Fr Silouan sent out asking for a list of your departed ones. If you have a commemoration list which you have left at church already, you do not need to respond to the email. Fr Silouan also will make and bring Kollyva. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of Lent are also Memorial Saturdays.

Kollyva

For the memorial celebrations of our departed ones, Orthodox Christians make Kollyva, which is boiled wheat with various other ingredients. There are several recipes from different Orthodox cultures, and each one of them is delicious in its own way, and you can find various recipes online. There is one recipe provided below if you would like to make it. If you would like to make a kollyva for one of the Lenten Memorial Saturdays please let Fr Silouan know. It is common to make Kollyva the evening before the memorial.

Note: Do not substitute the wheat berries for any other grain. The significance of the wheat berries comes from the Gospel according to John: "if a grain of wheat falls into the earth [...] and dies it bears much fruit." You can purchase wheat berries at Green Market in Sherman.

Making of a catechumen

On Sunday, February 23, we will receive Jack McGovern into the catechumenate. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares to be fully received into the Orthodox Church at Pascha.

Men's Fellowship Night

Friday, February 28, Andrei Gouzien is inviting any gentlemen to a "board and tabletop game night" at 6:30pm. Bring your favorite board game or tabletop game and enjoy an evening of fellowship.

Forgiveness Vespers

On Sunday, March 2nd, immediately following the Divine Liturgy we will serve Vespers with the rite of forgiveness. Please make every effort to attend and participate in this rite as we begin Great Lent together. It is vital to our spiritual life that we forgive and receive forgiveness of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Note: This is not a time to ask forgiveness of any personal offenses but instead is a *general* rite of forgiveness. We approach one another and ask, "Forgive me, brother/sister" and the typical response is "The Lord forgives, I forgive" or some variant of that.

Kollyva Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 cups white or soft winter wheat berries
- ¼ cup sugar (or monkfruit sweetener)
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 cup white raisins (or cranberries)
- ¾ cup finely chopped walnuts or almonds (optional)
- 1 cup finely ground zwieback (or graham crackers)
- 1 ¼ cups powdered sugar (10x confectioners)

Directions

- The night before the memorial service, cover the wheat with 4 quarts of water in a large heavy pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer on low, uncovered. Stir occasionally until wheat becomes puffy and tender, about 1 hour.
- While the wheat is boiling, measure out spices and other ingredients. Set aside/refrigerate them for the morning. If you are using zwieback crackers, process them in a food processor until they are the consistency of fine breadcrumbs. If you do not have a food processor, you can seal the crackers in a large Ziploc bag and crush them with a rolling pin.
- Drain boiled wheat in colander and spread out to dry in a large baking pan or very large bowl for at least 6 hours (or overnight). (Note: Do **NOT** mix the wheat with the other ingredients yet. If you mix them together too early, your kolyva will turn mushy.)
- On the day of the memorial service, light a candle in your preparation space. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except powdered sugar, zwieback/bread crumbs, and any decorations (nuts, raisins, chocolates, etc.). Put the combined mixture in a bowl or tray and shape it into a heaping mound toward the center, pressing it smooth with the back of a large spoon.

- Sprinkle ground zwieback (or ground up graham crackers) evenly over the top of the mound, making sure the wheat is thoroughly covered. Place a sheet of wax paper on top and press down, sweeping your hands to smooth it out. (This layer of bread crumbs keeps the wheat's moisture contained, so it doesn't bleed out into the powdered sugar.)
- Sift powdered sugar evenly over the crumb layer and press down with wax paper, as above.
- Decorate the sugar layer with nuts (candied, blanched, etc.) or white raisins or pomegranates. **If making kolyva for a Soul Saturday, decorate with a large cross in the center.** For memorials (trisagions) for specific individuals, place a cross in the center, the initial of the deceased person's first name to the left of the cross, and the initial of his or her last name to the right of the cross. In either case you can decorate the edges of the kolyva however you like.
- Bring the kolyva to church with you. If you are not sure where to place it, ask your priest.



A Word from the Fathers

“From beginning to end the lenten services of the Church call us to return to God our Father. The theme of the parable of the prodigal son runs through the entire season. We have wasted what our good God has given us. We have ruined our lives and our world. We have polluted the air, the water and the earth. The birds and the fish, the plants and the animals, grieve because of our wickedness. We have corrupted our bodies and minds. We have abandoned communion with God and the joy of His dwelling. We have gone off on our own, following our own ideas, enacting our own plans. And the result is that we are away from our true home, lost in a far country, living among swine. Through our reckless wasting of the gifts given by God we have stripped ourselves of our original glory, wisdom, beauty and strength: we have lost our divine legacy as children of God. And the whole cosmos suffers with us in our affliction. [...]

People feel unhappy and they don't know why. They feel that something is wrong, but they can't put their finger on what it is. They feel uneasy in the world, confused and frustrated, alienated and estranged, and they can't explain it. They have everything and yet they want more. And when they get it, they are still left empty and dissatisfied. They want happiness and peace, and nothing seems to bring it. They want fulfillment, and it never seems to come. Everything is fine, and yet everything is wrong. In America this is almost a national disease. It is covered over by frantic activity and endless running around. It is buried in activities and events. It is drowned out by television programs and games. But when the movement stops and the dial is turned off and everything is quiet...then the dread sets in, and the meaninglessness of it all, and the boredom, and the fear. Why is this so? Because, the Church tells us, we are really not at home. We are in exile. We are alienated and estranged from our true country. We are not with God our Father in the land of the living. We are spiritually sick. And some of us are already dead.

Our hearts are made for God, St. Augustine has said, and we will be forever restless until we rest in Him. Our lives are made for God, and we will be unfulfilled and dissatisfied and frustrated until we go to Him. All of God's creatures, as Francis Thompson said in his poem *The Hound of Heaven*, are His “loyal betrayers.” They do not satisfy His children and cannot bring them peace. He alone can do that, because He alone is our home. And we are His.”

-Fr Thomas Hopko, *The Lenten Spring: Readings for Great Lent*, SVS 2003.

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