

## Metropolitan Anthony on the Prodigal Son

How simple and how restrained are the words in which the Gospel describes his cruel rejection of his father, and prepares his departure into the far, the strange country! “Father, give me my part of thy inheritance!” Do these words not mean, “Father, I can’t wait until your death! You are still strong, and I am young; it is now that I want to reap the fruits of thy life, of thy labors; later they will be stale. Let us come to an agreement—for me you are dead. Give me what belongs to me or what would belong to me after your actual death, and I will go, and live the life I have chosen.”

This is what the young man really meant. But isn’t this very much the way we treat God and His gifts? As long as we are with Him, we are in possession of all things from Him; but we feel constrained by His presence, we feel limited by the inevitable rules of His household. He expects integrity and truth from us. He expects us to learn from Him what it means to love with all our mind, all our heart, all our strength, and all our being—and that is too much for us. But we take all His gifts, and we turn away from Him to use these gifts so that they can profit us and us alone, without any returns—not to God, or to anyone else.

*“Make haste to open unto me Thy fatherly embrace, For as the Prodigal I have wasted my life. In the unfailing wealth of Thy mercy, O Savior, Reject not my heart in its poverty. For with compunction I cry to Thee, O Lord: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee.” ~ Verse From Matins*

*“Let us Attend!”*



*“I will return to my father...”*

A PARISH BULLETIN OF  
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

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8 February 2026

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

Bulletin, Sunday, 8 February 2026

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting. Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates (“the General”—319).** Prophet Zachariah (ca. 520 B.C.). St. Sava II, Archbishop of Serbia (1269).

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12–20

**Gospel:** Luke 15:11–32

*Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish’s wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA’s daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.*

**Schedule**

- ~ **Wednesday, 11 February 2026: 9AM Akathist to the Theotokos of the Inexhaustible Cup; 6PM Part 3 of Educational Series on Sin, Repentance, and Confession. Covered Dishes Welcome.**
- ~ **Saturday, 14 February 2026. 8AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. Tikhon’s Monastery Church with Ordination of Dcn. John Stiff to the Holy Priesthood, 5–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession; 6PM Great Vespers.**
- ~ **Sunday, 15 February 2026, Sunday of the Last Judgement. Meatfare Sunday. 9:30AM Divine Liturgy followed by Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship.**

Announcements

~ We welcome all those who join us today. Please come downstairs and enjoy fellowship together. We have place waiting for you.

~ This Wednesday we will continue our educational series on Sin, Repentance, and Confession. Please join us at 6pm for some a mix of education and fellowship.

~ The parish will hold a Pre-order Lenten Food Sale on Friday, 20 February 2026 from 11am–4pm. Help will be need in terms of food sale preparation and help on the day of the sale. Pierogis will be made this week on Monday and Tuesday morning. For more information on food sale preparation, please see Ann Schlasta.

~ Our Seminary intern Dcn. John Stiff will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood next Saturday at St. Tikhon’s Monastery Church. Liturgy will be 8AM. Please come and show your support for Dcn. John and his family.

~ Prayers for the newly ordained Fr. Seraphim Crossman who was ordained this morning at the Diocese of the South’s Pastoral Conference.