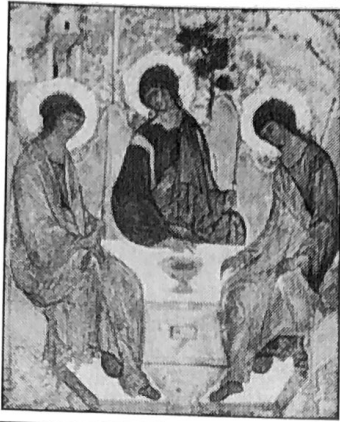


## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



*Icon of the Prodigal Son*





**Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church**

**104 Shaffer Street**

**Sykesville, PA 15865**

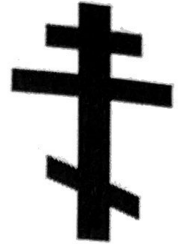
**PHONE: 814-894-5440**

**Father Nathaniel Tapsak**

**Deacon Luke Crawford**

**[holytrinitysykesville@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysykesville@gmail.com)**

**<https://holytrinitysykesville.org>**



**February 16, 2025**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Second Pre-Lenten Sunday**

**Tone 6**

**Altar Servers for the week of February 23:**

**John Morgan, Peter Morgan, Theodore Morgan**

**Coffee Social Bakers for the week of February 23: Tia Kosko, Joanne Nemeth**

**Our return to God for the gifts He continues to shower on us February 9: \$1,128**

**Schedule of Divine Services for the Coming Week**

<b>February 16, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b>	<b>~Tone 6~</b>
<b>Sat. Feb. 15</b>	<b>5 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy for + Diane Zediak (given by the Zediak family)</b>	
<b>Sun. Feb. 16</b>	<b>9 AM Divine Liturgy for all our parishioners</b>	
<b>Tue. Feb. 18</b>	<b>6 PM Vespers (Nativity)</b>	
<b>Wed. Feb. 19</b>	<b>9 AM Divine Liturgy for + Clare Francis (requested by Karena Tapsak)</b>	
<b>February 22, 2025</b>	<b>First All Souls Saturday</b>	
<b>Fri. Feb. 21</b>	<b>6 PM Vespers and Panichida</b>	
<b>Sat. Feb. 22</b>	<b>9 AM Parastas (Nativity)</b>	
<b>February 23, 2025</b>	<b>Meatfare Sunday</b>	<b>~Tone 7~</b>
<b>Sat. Feb. 22</b>	<b>5 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy for all our parishioners</b>	
<b>Sun. Feb. 23</b>	<b>9 AM Divine Liturgy for + Ella Mae Skebo (requested by Kathy Abersold)</b>	

The Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession) is offered on 6:30-7:00 PM on Tuesday and Friday after vespers, 4-4:30 PM on Saturdays before Divine Liturgy, or by request. Liturgy intentions can be requested through the offertory envelopes provided, or in person from Fr. Nate or Deacon Luke. A liturgy may be requested with or without a stipend, which is to be considered a donation, not a requirement. The suggested offering is \$20, but may be requested for any amount. Thank you.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## All-Souls Saturdays

In our venerable Byzantine tradition, special services are held for the departed on five Saturdays of the year: one before the Great Fast, three during the Great Fast, and one after Pascha. It is customary for the faithful to give a list of their departed loved ones with a stipend to the clergy so that they may be prayed for by name at the services on these days. In our Church's recent past, these names were read at a Panichida after the typical Saturday morning Divine Liturgy. However, due to the practice in many parishes of celebrating a Divine Liturgy on Saturday evening, this tradition must be adapted to avoid the celebration of multiple liturgies. We will observe the All-Souls Saturdays in the following way:

- **First All-Souls Saturday:** Panichida will be held after Vespers on February 21. Our liturgical books mention that Panichida with the reading of names of the departed should take place after vespers on Friday, the eve of Meatfare Saturday (Feb 22). Since we already celebrate vespers on Friday evening, this will be a suitable way to "return" to an older tradition.
- **Second/Third/Fourth All Souls Saturdays:** During the Great Fast, we will celebrate a Parastas—traditionally known as the "Great" Panichida—with the commemoration of the departed at 9:00 am on Saturday morning (rather than with the evening liturgy).
- **Fifth All-Souls Saturday:** Vespers with Panichida on June 6. As above for the first All Souls, the liturgical books prescribe Panichida for the Friday evening beforehand.

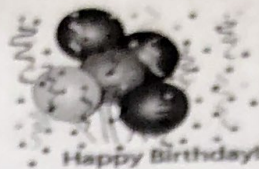
Please submit the names of your departed loved ones if you have not done so yet. Names may be submitted in person or to the parish email at [holytrinitysykesville@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysykesville@gmail.com). A monetary offering with the submission of names is traditional but not required.

## Opening of Holy Trinity Library

You may have noticed the appearance of a small bookshelf near the social hall door. This will now house Holy Trinity Library, a collection of spiritual reading available for any parishioner to borrow. We hope to build an assortment with something for everybody. The system for borrowing a book is simple: After selecting a book, write in the library binder your name, the book's title and author, and the date you are checking out the book. When you bring it back, write in the date you are checking it in. There is not a set loan period for checking out books, but please be mindful about returning popular books that others may want to borrow. Keep your eyes out for a new shipment coming soon! Spiritual reading is a highly profitable habit for growing in our relationship with God, especially during Lent or one of the other fasting seasons. We encourage all of you to enrich your spiritual life this upcoming Great Fast by making this a new habit. You may contact Pani Natalia with any questions.

**Attention graduating high school seniors:** Knights of Columbus Council #519 is awarding two \$1,000 Church & Community Service Scholarships to students continuing their education in a university, community college, trade school, or any post-secondary educational institution. The recipients will be selected based upon church/community service performed, an essay and other materials submitted with the application. Council #519 has graciously extended the opportunity to our parish youth as well. Applications are available on the Holy Spirit Parish web page (<http://www.weareholyspirit.com/>) and the parish office.





**Jonathan Kennis Feb. 17**

**Rick Johnson Feb. 18**

**Marcella Kennis Feb. 19**

### *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

"He arose and went to his father." He arose from the wreckage of his conscience and body alike. He arose from the depths of hell and touched the heights of heaven. Before the heavenly Father, a child rises higher because of pardon than he fell low because of guilt.

"He arose and went to his father." He went not by the motion of his feet but by the progress of his thought. Being afar off he had no need of an earthly journey, because he had found short cuts along the way of salvation. He who seeks the divine Father by faith soon finds Him present to himself, and has no need to seek Him by traversing roads.

"He arose and went to his father. But when he was yet a long way off." How is he who is coming a long way off? Because he has not yet arrived. He who is coming is coming to do pen-

ance, but he has not yet arrived at grace. He is coming to his Father's house but he has not yet reached the glory of his former condition, appearance, and honor.

"But when he was yet a long way off, his father saw him." That Father saw, he "who dwells on high; and looks down on the low things," "and the high he knows afar off." "His father saw him." The father saw him, in such a way that the son could also behold his father. The father's countenance illumined the face of the approaching son in such a way that all the dark aspect was dispelled which his guilt had previously cast about it.

*St. Peter Chrysologus*