

We Welcome Visitors and Hope You Enjoy Worshipping With Us.
Please sign the *Guest Book* in the foyer. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know or fill out the welcoming cards that are in the pew racks and leave it with a trustee at the end of Badarak/Liturgy. Thank you!

Prayer of the Week: Prayer For Travelers

Prince of life, and Bestower of peace, O Christ our God, lead us into Your paths of righteousness, that we may reach the haven of life and salvation, through the grace of Your mercy, for You are our help and Savior, and unto You is due glory, dominion and honor, now and forever, world without end. Amen.

Lenten Lecture Series

The Lenten Lecture Program Series, "The Foundations of our Faith" is presented by our Christian Education Committee (CEC). Lenten Services will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a light dinner then the lecture. Please join us and be a part of this exciting experience. See Flyer or visit www.armenianchurchofwhit.org

Ladies Guild Lenten Bake Sale

Sunday, April 9th following church services. All your favorite items including chogeg, peanut butter kufta, cheese, vospov kheyma, eech, yalanchi, bastekh and more! Come and pick up some yummy treats for your Easter celebration!

Altar Flowers

Those who would like to donate flowers for the altar on Palm Sunday, for the Tomb of Our Lord on Good Friday and Lillie's for the altar and window sills for Easter Sunday either in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, Please see or call Lusiya at 508-476-2920

Bible Study

Every Monday from 6 – 7 p.m. "Sermon Discussion Session". It's a question and discussion oriented chat group based on Sundays sermon and beyond. Together we share and learn how to apply Christian principles to our everyday lives. If you have questions or would like to discuss the sermon or just sit in, please join us.

Fellowship Hour

If you and your family would like to host the Sunday Fellowship following Church Services, please call the Church Office at [508-234-3677](tel:508-234-3677) or sign up on the board downstairs to reserve a specific Sunday in 2017, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion or Just Because.....

Church Clean-Up Day

April 8th, we will start at 8:00 am (be prompt so we get all work completed). We should be done by 1 pm if we have enough people come out to help. Bring a rake, shovel, and wheelbarrow if you can. Lunch will be provided.
Questions, call Mark-508-887-2847

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA
Tel: 508-234-3677 - Fax: 508-865-4333
Pastor Der Kosrofian – Cellular: 774-462-8041; home: 508-234-0911
E-mail der.mikaeldk@gmail.com ~ www.armenianchurchofwhit.org

SUNDAY BULLETIN



**The Prodigal Son:
Return, Renew, Rejoice!**

March 12, 2017

Celebrant, Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosrofian

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthian 6:1 – 7:1

As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”

And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

The order of the Readings for this week is as follows:

TODAY: Is 54:11-55:13; 2 Cor 6:1-7:1; Lk 15:1-32
Monday: Col 2:8-3:4
Tuesday: Heb 11:1-31
Wednesday: Ex 2:23-3:15; J1 2:21-32
Thursday: Is 45:17-26; Eph 3:14-4:13
Friday: Dt 8:11-9:10; Jb 12:1-13:6; Is 42:1-8
Saturday: Prv 20:6-22; Bar 4:21-24; 2 Cor 4:1-11; Jn 9:39-10:10

Return, Renew, Rejoice!

The parable of the Prodigal Son is the most familiar and beloved of all the parables that Jesus told. It is one of the longest and most detailed parables. And unlike most parables, it has more than one lesson but today we’re going to look at the prodigal as an example of sound repentance. The elder brother illustrates the wickedness of the Pharisees’ self-righteousness, prejudice, and indifference toward repenting sinners. And the father represents God, eager to forgive, and longing for the return of the sinner. Jesus stresses that point in each of the parables, there will be rejoicing in heaven, when we (sinners) return to God.

2017 has been named as the Year of Renewal by our Catholicos Aram I. Lent is a great time for us to Return, Renew, and there will be Rejoicing in heaven!

Psalm 23, which we read during the Sunrise Service, is a great reminder for us, “*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.*”

Did you catch it? **“He restores my soul”**

How? Jesus is teaching us how gracious God is, that by His Fatherly love He prepared a way for us to return to Him. He restores our souls through fellowship with Him. Even though at times we stray far from Him, He remains the Good Shepherd. Though we wander, He receives us back gladly and willingly forgives us.

Most of us don’t make a conscious decision to walk away from God; We slip away slowly and subtly, and as a result of our wandering desires and selfish attempts to meet our own needs we forget. The prodigal son is a reminder that when we strive to attain comfort and safety away from God, all we’re doing is going farther and farther away from Him.

Jesus told the three parables to correct the Pharisees’ misconception about God. He is telling us the same thing today. These parables show that God loves all people and wants everyone—especially sinners—to come to Him. God doesn’t play favorites, and He rejoices when anyone turns to Him.

Paul writes in Romans 10, “*11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

God is waiting for, our return. When we say “No, I can’t, it’s too late for me” – Jesus is saying, “Yes. Yes, you can. You can come home”. God is a forgiving God, He is a providing God and He is a protecting God.
