

Morning Service: 9:15 AM
 Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM
 Bible Readings: Isaiah 54:11-55:13; 2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1; Luke 15:1-32

ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ՄԱՐՏ 1, 2015

Առաւոտեան Ժամ 9:15
 Սուրբ Պատարագ 10:00
 Ընթերցումներ Եսայի 54:11-55:13; Բ Կորնթացիներու 6:1-7:1;
 Ղուկաս 15:1-32

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Let us remember all those here at St. James who are suffering health problems and are in need of God's healing and comfort. Let us keep them in our prayers and thoughts, especially:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Patriarch Mesrob Moutafian | Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian | |
| Alexander Adajian | Shoushan Altun | Karen Demirdjian |
| Babken Dilanjan | Seda Dilanjan | Lucy Genian |
| Jirayr Gerardo | Vartges Goorji | Hoyle Green |
| Pat Green | Mihran Guiragossian | Mary Haidarian |
| Nargez Hamayak | Dn. Garabed Hardy | Sirvart Hintlian |
| Elizabeth Krikorian | Diramayr Sirarpi Nalbandian | Yalcin Oral |
| Berjouhi Moukhtarian | Dn. Hagop Papazian | Anik Sarkis |
| Surpik Simon | Joseph Summer | Vigen Ter-Avakian |
| Mari Yegiyayan | Carla Ziegler | |

If you know of anyone that needs our special prayers, please call the church office (847) 864-6263 or Der Hovhan (847) 644-7389 so that their names can be included on this list.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday 1 Samuel 1:1-23; Proverbs 1:1-33; Jeremiah 1:1-10
Tuesday 1 Samuel 1:23-2:26; Proverbs 2:1-3:10; Jeremiah 1:11-2:3
Wednesday Exodus 2:11-22; Joel 2:1-11; Micah 4:1-7
Thursday 1 Samuel 3:21-4:18; Proverbs 3:11-4:14; Jeremiah 2:31-3:16
Friday Deuteronomy 7:11-8:1; Job 9:1-10:2; Isaiah 40:9-18
Saturday Proverbs 11:2-11; Isaiah 61:3-7; 2 Timothy 4:1-8;
 John 10:11-16

FEASTS

March 7 Commemoration of St. John, Patriarch of Jerusalem; Armenian Patriarch St. John of Otzoon; St. John of Vorotan; St. Gregory of Datev

PORTABLE ALTAR

The portable altar you see being used in front of the closed curtain during Great Lent was recently donated to St. James by All Saints Armenian Church in Glenview. It was designed by Rev. Fr. Zareh Sahakian and constructed by Mr. Hovsep Balian. All of us at St. James thank Der Zareh, Mr. Balian and All Saints parish for their kindness and generosity. May God continue to bless the entire All Saints community.

NAME DAY CELEBRATIONS

Whenever you know a friend or loved one whose Name Day/Feast Day is soon to be celebrated, honor the person by presenting them with a lit candle saying, "*Anoonovut abrees*" or "*Anoonovut dzeranas*" ("May you grow old with your name"). Or you can simply say, "Happy Name Day!"

NAME DAYS celebrated this week: *John, Hovhanness, Ohan, Hovhan, Gregory, Krikor.*



SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

The third Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Prodigal Son based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son told in the Gospel of Luke (15:15-32). There was once a man who had two sons. Upon the request of the younger son, the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days, the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away where he wasted his money in reckless living. Soon, he had spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country and he was left with nothing to his name.

In that time of trouble he remembered his father's house, began to regret his reckless living and soon returned to his father's home. Seeing that his younger son was repentant, the father received him joyfully. Seeing this warm homecoming, the elder son began to complain, saying that during all those years he had worked for his father like a slave and had never disobeyed his orders yet had never deserved such honor.

His father answered him, "My son, you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and be happy for your brother was dead but now lives, he was lost but now he is found."

The elder and the younger sons allegorically represent our simultaneously righteous and sinful souls, and the father's receiving of his lost son represents God's acceptance of us as repentant sinners. Furthermore, in telling this story, Christ reminds us to guard against self-righteousness, and the Parable admonishes our self-conceitedness.

POPE FRANCIS DECLARES ARMENIAN SAINT DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

On Saturday, February 21, a 10th-century Armenian monk was acknowledged as a Doctor of the Universal Church, in a special—and according to some, unprecedented—announcement from the Vatican.

His Holiness Pope Francis approved the designation for St. Gregory of Narek during a meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The Roman Catholic Church confers the designation “doctor” on saints whose writings are considered to offer key theological insights for the faith. Throughout its history, the Roman Catholic Church has recognized only 35 doctors of the church, including Augustine of Hippo, John Chrysostom, and Thomas Aquinas. Narek will be the 36th.

For Armenians, St. Gregory of Narek is among our greatest thinkers and artists, author of the most mystical prayers in the Divine Liturgy. Born around A.D. 950 in Andzevatsik, he lived at the monastery at Narek his whole priestly life, and taught at the monastic school. It was there that he composed his masterpiece of spiritual poetry, known as the “Book of Lamentations” or “Narek.” He died at the monastery around 1005.

He will be remembered in the Roman Catholic Church on February 27; in the Armenian Church calendar, St. Gregory of Narek is remembered on several occasions each year, and is reckoned among the Holy Translators.



AREVAKAL: THE SUNRISE SERVICE (*cont.*)

By Fr. Zaven Arzumanian

Central Theme of This Service

It is exclusively the light. The word *Looys* (light) occurs in the Sunrise Service 32 times, of which 17 alone are part of the distinctive hymn which begins with *Looys, Ararich looso, arachin Looys* (Light, Creator of light, primal light).

As an introduction the sunrise is proclaimed which is for sure the creation of the Creator. The background of the service being the physical light of the sun which shines both on the righteous and the sinners, and which makes manifest the deads of men, good and evil alike, the essence of the Sunrise Service is the shining of the divine light through the three Persons of the divine light through the tree Persons of the Holy Trinity. This divine light is identified by St. Nerses Shnorhali as the “intelligible light” which becomes brighter and more meaningful to us on earth through the intercession of the saints.

Whereas the transitional theme of this service is found in the prayers addressed to the saints, the conclusive theme is a direction toward the way *Janabarh*, the Truth and Life. For a change this is the only service where we do not find a

dichotomy of the two opposing forces: light and darkness; sinfulness and righteousness. There is only one use of the word *Khavar* (darkness) and one use of the word *Meghk* (sin), a case which makes the Sunrise Service the more pleasant, positive and sustaining service.

The intelligible light is its central theme, which is at the same time the light of God, above and beyond the sun light, both of which however make manifest our daily lives and our deeds, leaving behind no room for darkness, except of darkness becomes our choice. The central theme of the intelligible light is preceded by the profession of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and by the intercession of saints, and finally is concluded in the finding of the true way. (*To be continued*)



THE CLOSED ALTAR (PAGYAL KHORAN)

The altar curtain will remain closed for the forty days of Great Lent and will not be reopened until Palm Sunday (March 29). There will also be no offering of Holy Communion during Divine Liturgy until Palm Sunday. (Should anyone desire Holy Communion for emergency reasons during Great Lent, however, please contact Father Hovhan for special dispensation.)

In addition to these two major changes, the following changes also occur to the celebration of Divine Liturgy during Great Lent:

- There is no Kiss of Peace.
- The Holy Gospel Book is not venerated after service.
- Hymns are sung in a penitential manner.
- The organ is not played as congregants are departing from the sanctuary.
- Congregants should remain silent when exiting the sanctuary after worship in respect of those who remain to offer devotional prayers.

Finally, weddings are not celebrated during Great Lent.

SAINTLY WOMEN'S DAY

Holy Resurrection Armenian Church Women's Guild
invites you to join them on Saturday, March 14, 2015
for Saintly Women's Day honoring

"The Unnamed Women Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tamar Wasoian

Please join us for church service at 11:00 AM
and for lunch and program immediately following service

Holy Resurrection Armenian Church
909 Milwaukee Ave, S. Milwaukee, WI

Donation: \$25

Please reserve by calling Mary Haidarian 414-762-8287

ANNUAL MID-LUNCHEON MEEJEENK

March 8, 2015

Join us for a variety of delicious Lenten foods and an afternoon of fellowship organized by Women's Guild of St. James Armenian Church.

ACYOA JUNIORS: LENTEN RETREAT

Ages 13-18

Friday, March 20 - Sunday, March 22

Retreat will be held at Camp Hickory (the home of Hye Camp) in Ingleside, IL.

The cost is \$125.00 per participant for lodging, food and materials.

See flyer in Hall for more details.

St. James Armenian Apostolic Church 2015 Lenten Series: *Legacy of Our Martyrs*

WEDNESDAY VIGILS

February 25; March 4, 11, 18 & 25 (7:00 PM)

Worship Service (Peace/Rest Service); Reading from *On This Day: Armenian Church Synaxarion*; Lenten Supper

FRIDAY PILGRIMAGES

Details will follow

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

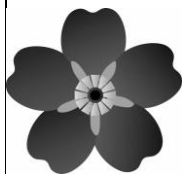
Morning Service - 9:15 AM

Sunrise Service - 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:30 AM

STREET FAIR 2015 UPDATE

As the follow-up to our Parish Assembly, the Parish Council, Women's Guild and Street Fair Committee met on Sunday, February 15 to discuss modifications to Street Fair. At the meeting it was agreed upon that the Street Fair Committee will look into ways to revamp certain aspects of the annual event to make it logistically more practical for the parish, including possibly moving its date to earlier in the summer to allow college age students and their parents to be able to participate before students leave for college. Larry Farsakian, as Street Fair Committee Chair, will let the parish know of changes in the coming weeks and months.



100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION IN CHICAGO

The Chicago community is organizing events throughout 2015.
Below you will find the list of the upcoming events.

Saturday, March 7 (8:05 PM)

"The Martyred Armenian Writers of 1915"

Dr. Hrand Markarian presents the literary works of
Thirteen Armenian Martyred Writers.
Armenian All Saints Apostolic Church

Friday, March 20 (7:00 PM); \$15.00.

"Orphans of the Genocide" Movie

A film on the fate of children in the wake of the Genocide.
Movie Max Cinemas, 9180 West Golf Road, Niles IL 60714
Not recommended for children under 10

Sunday, April 19 (10:00 AM)

Chicagoland Armenian Churches' Joint Badarak

A requiem will be held for the final time for the victims of the Genocide, as they
will be canonized into Sainthood on April 23rd in Etchmiadzin, Armenia.

(Details to follow)

Armenian All Saints Apostolic Church

Friday, April 24 (11:00 AM)

Armenian Genocide Commemorative Program

Annual Genocide demonstration in Downtown Chicago (Details to follow)
Daley Plaza, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602

Friday, April 24 (from 7:30 PM)

Vesper Service

Each Chicagoland Armenian Church gathers in its sanctuary to pray after Daley
Plaza demonstration (Details to follow)

April 21 - 26, 2015 (Preview); April 27 - June 6, 2015 (Regular Run)

Beast on the Moon

The Internationally recognized play by Richard Kalinoski about Armenian
immigrants in America after the Genocide

Raven Theatre Company, 6157 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60660

ARMENIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) 2015

The Armenia Service Program (ASP) provides young adults an opportunity to travel to Armenia not only to tour their ancestral homeland but also to give back to their brothers and sisters there. This trip is truly a pilgrimage in which hundreds of ACYOA members have developed a connection to their Armenian heritage that continues to inspire them throughout their lives.

The program, initially called the Armenia Studies Program, began in the 1970's as an opportunity for ACYOA members to travel to Armenia for educational purposes, though it always included a service component at Camp Siranoosh in Yeghegnadzor, a camp for underprivileged children from Armenian villages. Several years ago, in response to the growing need for aid in Armenia, the focus of the trip shifted completely to service. ASP recently joined Habitat for Humanity, which has had a considerable impact in Armenia for many years, in building homes for a better, stronger homeland.

Application deadline is March 20.

See Der Hovhan for more information.

ST. NERSESS SUMMER CONFERENCE DATES ANNOUNCED!

Deacons' Training: June 24 - July 2

High School Summer Conference A: July 3 - 12

High School Summer Conference B: July 17 - 26

Post High School Summer Conference: July 28 - August 2

AGBU 2015 - SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Yerevan 2015: June 22-August 1 (6 weeks)

YSIP 2015 Application Deadline: March 16, 2015

Arrival days: June 20-21

First day of work: June 22

Last day of work: July 30

Departure days: July 31-Aug 1

London 2015: June 30- August 7 (6 weeks)

LSIP 2015 Application Deadline: March 8, 2015

Arrival day: June 29

First day of work: June 30

Last day of work: August 7

Departure days: Aug 8-9

Events at AGBU Chicago:

March 7 (7:30 PM)

Near East Relief: How the World United In Service to Humanity

Parev Monthly & AGBU present a lecture by **Missak Kelechian**

March 13 - *Tour de Armenia*

Author & cyclist **Raffi Youredjian** tells his story of a 1000 kilometer cycling journey through Armenia

March 15 - *Knights of Vartan* Vartanantz program

March 28 (3:30 PM); \$25.00

Children's Dance Party

Parev Monthly & AGBU Present ***Taline Live in Chicago!***

AGBU Onnig Norhad Community Center

7248 N. Harlem Ave, Chicago, IL

FINDING JESUS: FAITH. FACT. FORGERY - New CNN Series

Premier Sunday, March 1 at 9 PM

Finding Jesus discovers fascinating new insights into the historical Jesus, utilizing the latest scientific techniques and archaeological research. The series will air across six, one hour episodes, culminating on Easter Sunday.

ST. JAMES' KHACHKAR PROJECT

Please consider contributing to the historic purchase of our parish *khachkar*. Refer to the *khachkar* letter sent home in November for details or ask Der Hovhan or any Parish Council member.

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| March 4 | Lenten Series: <i>Legacy of Our Martyrs</i> |
| March 8 | <i>Meejeenk</i> |
| March 11 | Lenten Series: <i>Legacy of Our Martyrs</i> |
| March 14 | Saintly Women's Day hosted by Holy Resurrection Armenian Church (South Milwaukee, WI) |
| March 18 | Lenten Series: <i>Legacy of Our Martyrs</i> |
| March 20-22 | ACYOA JRS: Lenten Retreat |
| March 25 | Lenten Series: <i>Legacy of Our Martyrs</i> |
| March 27 | Pilgrimage to St. Martha Catholic Church (Morton Grove) |
| April 19 | Joint Divine Liturgy at All Saints Armenian Church |
| April 24 | Ecumenical Service at St. James Armenian Church |

CONSIDERING TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON, DC FOR THE NATIONAL EVENTS?

Group airline tickets are available through Rainbow Travel.

Rate: \$234 (round-trip).

Leaving Chicago on Thursday, May 7 at 8:30 AM from ORD.

Returning on Sunday, May 10 at 6:30 PM.

Please contact **Rainbow Travel** at 847-668-6269 or rainbowtravel@comcast.net

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ղուկաս 15:1-32

1Բոլոր մաքաւորներն ու մեղաւորները անոր կը մօտենային՝ զինք լսելու համար: 2Իսկ Փարիսեցիները եւ դպիրները կը տրտնջէին ու կը րսէին. «Ասիկա կընդունի մեղաւորները եւ կուտէ անոնց հետ»: 3Ան ալ սա՛ առակը խօսեցաւ անոնց. 4«Ձեզմէ ո՞վ է այն մարդը, որ եթէ ունենայ հարիւր ոչխար ու կորսնցնէ անոնցմէ մէկը, չի ձգեր իննսունինը անապատին մէջ եւ երթար այդ կորսուածին ետեւէն, մինչեւ որ գտնէ զայն: 5Ու երբ գտնէ, ուրախանալով կը դնէ զայն իր ուսերուն վրայ, 6եւ տուն գալով՝ կը հրաւիրէ բարեկամներն ու դրացիները, եւ կըսէ անոնց. “Ուրախացէ՛ք ինծի հետ, որովհետեւ գտայ կորսուած ոչխարս”»: 7Կը յայտարարեմ ձեզի թէ ա՛յսպէս ուրախութիւն պիտի ըլլայ երկինքը մէկ մեղաւորի համար՝ որ կ'ապաշխարէ, քան իննսունինը արդարներու համար՝ որոնց ապաշխարութիւն պետք չէ»: 8«Կամ՝ ո՞վ է այն կինը, որ եթէ տասը դրամ ունենայ ու դրամ մը կորսնցնէ, ճրագ չի վառեր, տունը չաւեր եւ ուշադրութեամբ փնտռեր, մինչեւ որ գտնէ: 9Ու երբ գտնէ, կը հրաւիրէ բարեկամներն ու դրացիները, եւ կըսէ. “Ուրախացէ՛ք ինծի հետ, որովհետեւ գտայ կորսնցուցած դրամս”»: 10Ա՛յդպէս ալ, կը յայտարարեմ ձեզի, ուրախութիւն կըլլայ Աստուծոյ հրեշտակներուն առջեւ մէկ մեղաւորի համար՝ որ կ'ապաշխարէ»: 11Սպա ըսաւ. «Մարդ մը ունէր երկու որդի: 12Անոնցմէ կրտսերը ըսաւ հօրը. “Հա՛յր, տո՛ւր ինծի քու ունեցածէդ ինծի վիճակուելիք բաժինը”»: Ան ալ բաժնեց անոնց իր ունեցածը: 13Շատ օրեր չանցած՝ կրտսեր որդին ժողվեց բոլոր բաները, մեկնեցաւ հեռաւոր երկիր մը, ու հոն փճացուց իր ունեցածը՝ անառակութեամբ ապրելով: 14Երբ ծախսեց ամէնը՝ սաստիկ սով մը եղաւ այդ երկրին մէջ, եւ ինք սկսաւ կարօտութեան մէջ ըլլալ: 15Ուստի գնաց՝ այդ երկրին քաղաքացիներէն մէկուն քով մտաւ. ան ալ իր արտը դրկեց զայն՝ խոզ արածելու համար: 16Կը ցանկար խոզերուն կերած եղջիւրէն իր փորը լեցնել, բայց ո՛չ մէկը կու տար անոր: 17Եւ ինքնիրեն գալով ըսաւ. “Քանի՛ վարձկաններ կան հօրս տունը՝ հացով լիացած, ու

Ես հոս սովամահ կը կորսուիմ: **18** Կանգնիմ, երթամ հօրս քով եւ ըսեմ
 անոր. «Հա՛յր, մեղանչեցի երկինքի դէմ ու քու առջեւդ, **19** Եւ ա՛լ արժանի
 չեմ քու որդիդ կոչուելու. ըրէ՛ զիս վարձկաններէդ մեկուն
 պէս»»: **20** Ուստի կանգնեցաւ ու գնաց իր հօր քով: Մինչ ինք դեռ շատ
 հեռու էր՝ հայրը տեսաւ զայն եւ գթաց. վազելով՝ անոր վիզին վրայ
 ինկաւ ու համբուրեց զայն: **21** Որդին ալ ըսաւ անոր. «Հա՛յր, մեղանչեցի
 երկինքի դէմ ու քու առջեւդ, եւ ա՛լ արժանի չեմ քու որդիդ
 կոչուելու»: **22** Բայց հայրը ըսաւ իր ծառաներուն. «Հանեցէ՛ք առաջին
 պարեգօտը եւ հագցուցէ՛ք անոր, մատանի՛ դրէք անոր ձեռքը ու
 կօշիկներ՝ անոր ոտքերը: **23** Եւ բերէ՛ք պարարտ զուարակը, մորթեցէ՛ք,
 ուտե՛նք ու զուարճանա՛նք. **24** որովհետեւ այս որդիս մեռած էր՝ եւ
 վերապրեցաւ, կորսուած էր՝ ու գտնուեցաւ»: Եւ սկսան զուարճանալ:
25 Անոր երեց որդին արտն էր. երբ եկաւ ու մօտեցաւ տան, լսեց
 նուագարաններու եւ պարերու ձայնը, **26** ու իրեն կանչելով ծառաներէն
 մէկը՝ հարցափորձեց թէ ի՛նչ էր այդ: **27** Ան ալ ըսաւ անոր. «Եղբայրդ
 եկաւ, ու հայրդ մորթեց պարարտ զուարակը, որովհետեւ ողջ առողջ
 վերստացաւ զայն»: **28** Իսկ ինք բարկացաւ եւ չէր ուզեր ներս մտնել.
 ուստի իր հայրը դուրս ելլելով՝ կաղաչէր անոր: **29** Ան ալ
 պատասխանեց իր հօր. «Ահա՛ այսչափ տարի է՝ որ կը ծառայեմ քեզի,
 ու բնա՛ւ քու պատուիրանդ զանց չըրի. սակայն երբէ՛ք ուլ մը չտուիր
 ինձի՝ որ զուարճանայի բարեկամներուս հետ: **30** Բայց երբ եկաւ այդ
 որդիդ՝ որ լափեց քու ունեցածդ պռոնիկներու հետ, մորթեցիր անոր
 պարարտ զուարակը»: **31** Ան ալ ըսաւ անոր. «Որդեա՛կ, դուն միշտ ինձի
 հետ ես, ու ամբողջ ունեցածս քո՛ւկդ է: **32** Սակայն պէտք էր
 զուարճանալ եւ ուրախանալ, որովհետեւ այս եղբայրդ մեռած էր՝ ու
 վերապրեցաւ, կորսուած էր՝ եւ գտնուեցաւ»



Luke 15:1-32

1 Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear
 him. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man
 welcomes sinners and eats with them.” **3** Then Jesus told them this
 parable: **4** “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does
 he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until
 he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes
 home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with

me; I have found my lost sheep.’ 7I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. 8“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ 10In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” 11Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ 20So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. 25“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ 28“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ 31“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Front cover image: Julius Schnorr van Carolsfeld’s engraving *The Prodigal Son* (1851-60) from *Bibel in Bildern*

Writing above altar:

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8).