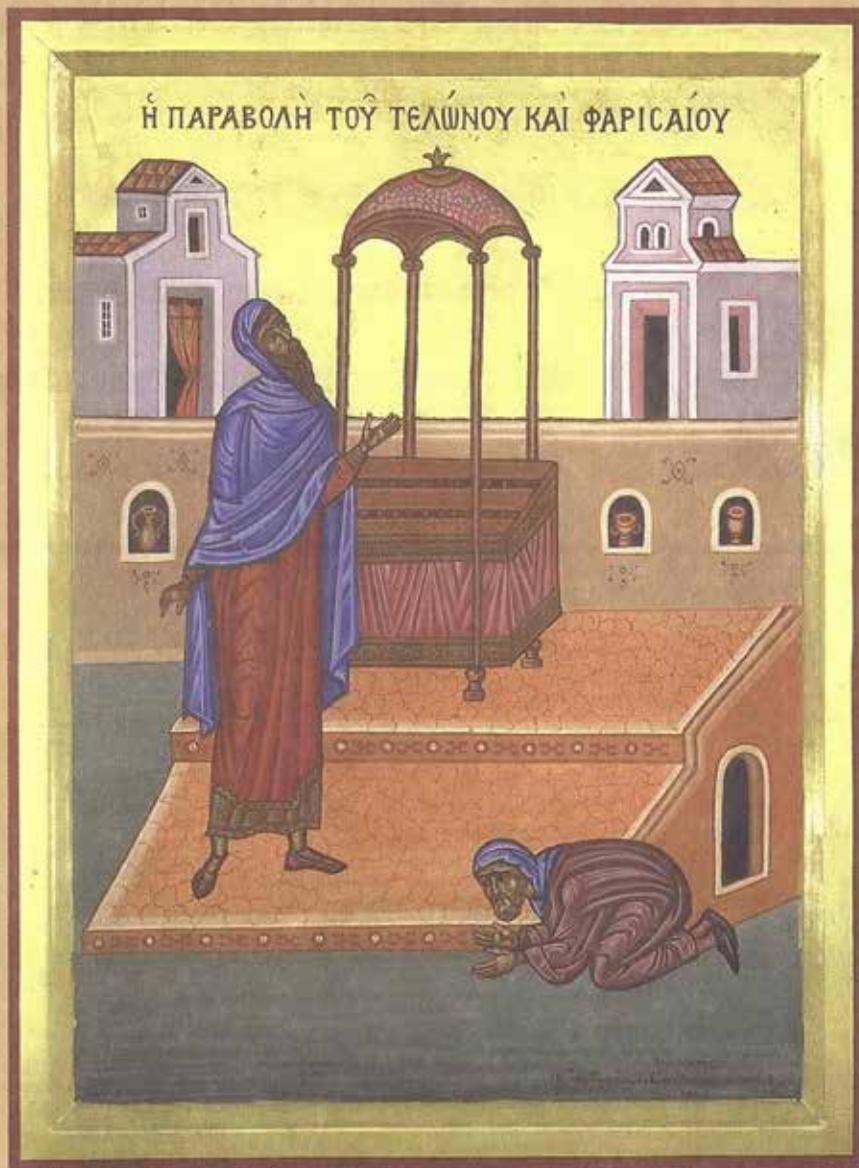


SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee*

## February 5, 2017: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Epistle: 2 Tim. 3: 10-15

Gospel: Lk. 18: 10-14

<b>Mon., Feb. 6</b>	8:00	+ Andrew & Julia Evanina (Grandson Howard)
<b>Tues., Feb. 7</b>	8:00	+ Olga E. Telep (Daughter Lauren Telep)
<b>Wed., Feb. 8</b>	8:00	+ Helen Wartko (Roman & Eileen Kushner)
<b>Thurs. Feb. 9</b>	8:00	+ Ann Jablonski (Elaine Lach)
<b>Fri. Feb. 10</b>	8:00	+ Mary & Patrick Marcinko (Children)
<b>Sat., Feb. 11</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Anna Howansky (Nephews)	
<b>Sun., Feb. 12</b>	9:00	+ Mary Evanina (Nephew Howard) 11:30 For Our Parishioners

### This Weekend's Divine Liturgies

The Divine Liturgies this weekend are being offered for the following intentions:

<b>Sat.</b>	4:00	+ Ann Marie & Jerry Chelak by the Family
<b>Sun.</b>	9:00	For Our Parishioners
	11:30	+ Johanna Dutka by Daughter Katie

### Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

#### Introduction

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for

Eastern Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy

Saturday.

### **Biblical Story**

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 18:10-14. This is the story of two men, one a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish sect known for its diligent observance of the Law, and the other a Publican, a government official charged with the responsibility of collecting taxes.

Both men enter the temple, and the Pharisee stands openly and prays, thanking God that he is not like other men, specifically extortioners, the unjust, adulterers, “or even this tax collector” (v. 11). He then begins to list his religious accomplishments by stating, “I fast twice a week, and I give tithes of all that I possess” (v. 12).

In direct contrast to the pride of the Pharisee, the Publican goes to a place where he will not be noticed by others and beats his breast saying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” (v. 13).

Having told this story, Jesus af-



firms that it was the Publican who returned home justified and forgiven rather than the Pharisee. He states, “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (v. 14).

The theme of this parable is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting-point of the journey to Pascha. To

repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in the past. The Greek term *metanoia* means “change of mind.” To repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship with God and with others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent, self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him. The Gospel depicts him as a man that is pleased only with himself who thinks that he has complied with all of the requirements of religion. But in his pride, he has fal-

sified the meaning of true religion and faith. He has reduced these to external observations, measuring his piety by the amount of money he gives.

The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a “change of mind.” He humbles himself, and his humility justifies him before God. He becomes, in the words of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3), “poor in spirit.” He acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he knows that salvation is only found in the mercy of God. Here we find an example of true humility, an essential aspect of repentance. A “change of mind” and the transformation of our

lives can only happen when we humble ourselves before God, acknowledge our willingness to turn from sin, and receive His grace into our lives.

Our preparation for Lent thus begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, a restoration of our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness and He blesses by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.

## **Humor... They Died In The Service**

One Sunday morning the pastor noticed little Johnny was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The young man of seven had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up and stood beside him and gazing up at the plaque he said quietly, “Good morning son.”

“Good morning pastor,” replied the young man not taking his eyes off

the plaque. “Sir, what is this?” Johnny asked.

“Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service,” replied the pastor. Soberly, they stood together staring up at the large plaque.

Little Johnny’s voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, “Which service, the 10:30 AM or the 6:30 PM?”

## **More Humor...**

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just

passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the

casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is

again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As they are walking, the husband calls out: "Watch out for the wall!"

### **Holy Name Society Raffle**

The Holy Name Society Raffle drawing is extended to Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in order to give everyone one more week to make their raffle returns.

Please make your raffle returns by next Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> to support our Holy Name Society that in turn helps our Parish.

### **2016 Tax Reports**

Parishioners who want a 2016 end of year financial report for tax purposes

are asked to contact the Parish Office at 570-489-2271.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Do you have a few extra hours to spare?

Traditional Home Health and Hospice is currently seeking volunteers to be part of our team in providing quality care for our hospice patients. Volunteers are an integral part of the Hospice philosophy giving their time and presence to the patients and their fami-

lies we serve. We offer one-on-one patient time, in-office volunteer time & opportunities for student community service hours. No experience is necessary. The qualities we seek are a ready smile, a willingness to lend a hand and an open ear to listen and learn.

Please contact Kathleen Haikes today at 570-207-9286 or 570-955-7553.

### **L.U.C. Meeting**

North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics will meet on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 6:30pm

at Grotto Pizza, 36 Gateway Shopping Center, Edwardsville, PA. Main agenda item will be hosting Convention

2017 to be held the weekend of October 6, 7 and 8 in Wilkes-Barre. For additional information contact Dorothy

Jamula, President at 570 822-5354 or any LUC member of the parish.

## **International Dinner Club**

ST. MARY'S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH DINNER CLUB, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. will celebrate Valentines's Day with their Italian Menu on Thursday, February 9, 2016. Dinner will start with a Fresh Caesar Salad and a Creamy Tortellini & Sweet Sausage Soup. The Entree

will be Chicken Marsala with Italian Rice with Vegetables and Tender Green Beans with Red Bell Peppers. Dessert will be a Cannoli Cake Supreme. Coffee, Tea, Water & Soda are included. Reservations can be made by Feb. 6th by calling 570-343-5151. There will be seatings at 5:30 and 6:30.

## **Preleten Pork Dinner**

Father Myron Myronyuk and his parish family of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Scranton, cordially invite you to join us for our annual Pre-Lenten SLOW ROASTED PORK DINNER on Sunday, February 12, 2017, beginning at 12:30 pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street. Menu: Slow roasted pork loin with gravy, Ukrainian sweet and sour cabbage

(kapusta), butter and dill potatoes, vegetable, applesauce, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages. Adults \$13.00; Students \$8.00; Age 5 and under free. Advance reservations required: phone Kathleen Izak at 570 346-2414 (please do not call the church). Takeouts available between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon only. Doors open at 11:30am. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing.

## **Myasopusna Celebration**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church announces its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Myasopusna Celebration, a

pre-lenten event, to be held on Meatfare (Myasopusna) Sunday, February 19, 2017. A dinner of holubtsi (stuffed

cabbage), kobasa, roast pork, varenyky (Transfiguration pierogies), kapusta, blackbread, and dessert will be served at the church's banquet hall at 240 Center Street, Hanover Section of Nanticoke, from 12:30 to 2:00pm, with borscht also for sale, as well as Ukrainian and other beverages. Dinner is followed by entertainment un-

til 4:00pm from the Holy Year Choir, Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, and Saint Mary's Traditional Ukrainian Dancers. Doors will open at noon, with Ukrainian crafts on display and for sale throughout the event. Dinner tickets are \$15 and are available at 570-735-4654.

### **All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner**

The Annual "ALL YOU CAN IT" Spaghetti Dinner Sponsored by Eureka Hose Company No.4 will be held on Saturday March 4th at the fire station 717 East Grant St. Olyphant. Dinner includes pasta, salad, bread and

butter, dessert and beverage. Take outs will be from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and serving sit down dinners from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Tickets can be obtained from any member or at the door.

### **Collection Processing Team...**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2017 is Team #2:

Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

**Sunday Collection for January 21 & 22, 2017: \$**

**Sunday Collection for January 28 & 29, 2017: \$**

### **Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for February 11 & 12, 2017**

	<b>Altar Boys</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
4:00 pm	Nicholas Chludzinski -- Michael Roberts	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Joseph Chylak -- Nicholas Chylak	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Thomas Radle -- David Slachtish	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Humbling Ourselves*

A man begins to go astray when he withdraws from humility. He who has abandoned God does the evil spirit oppress, as he did Saul.

The enemy's snares are smeared with honey. He who is attracted by the sweetness of honey becomes caught in the snares and filled with all manner of woe. Love humility and you will never fall into the devil's snare, for, soaring on humility's swift wings you will always remain above the enemy's snares.

Arrogance is like a very tall but rotten tree. All of its branches are brittle, and if someone climbs upon it, he immediately falls from the height he has attained.

Blessed is he who is enriched with good hope and illuminated with good thoughts: his glory is great and everlasting.

Let us strive for sober attention, that we

might recognize our sins and be constantly humbled, that we might not nurture, like the serpent, a high opinion of ourselves or wickedness. Let us love sobriety, that we might have a pure heart and that we might preserve the temple entrusted to us undefiled by sinful corruption.

Wonderous is prayer accompanied by sighs and tears, especially if the tears are shed in secret. He who prays in his mind with faith beholds the Lord before himself. For in Him do we live, move, and exist. If your heart has been hardened, weep before the Lord, that He might shine upon you the illumination of knowledge and grant that with an ardent heart you might be carried up to Him.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)