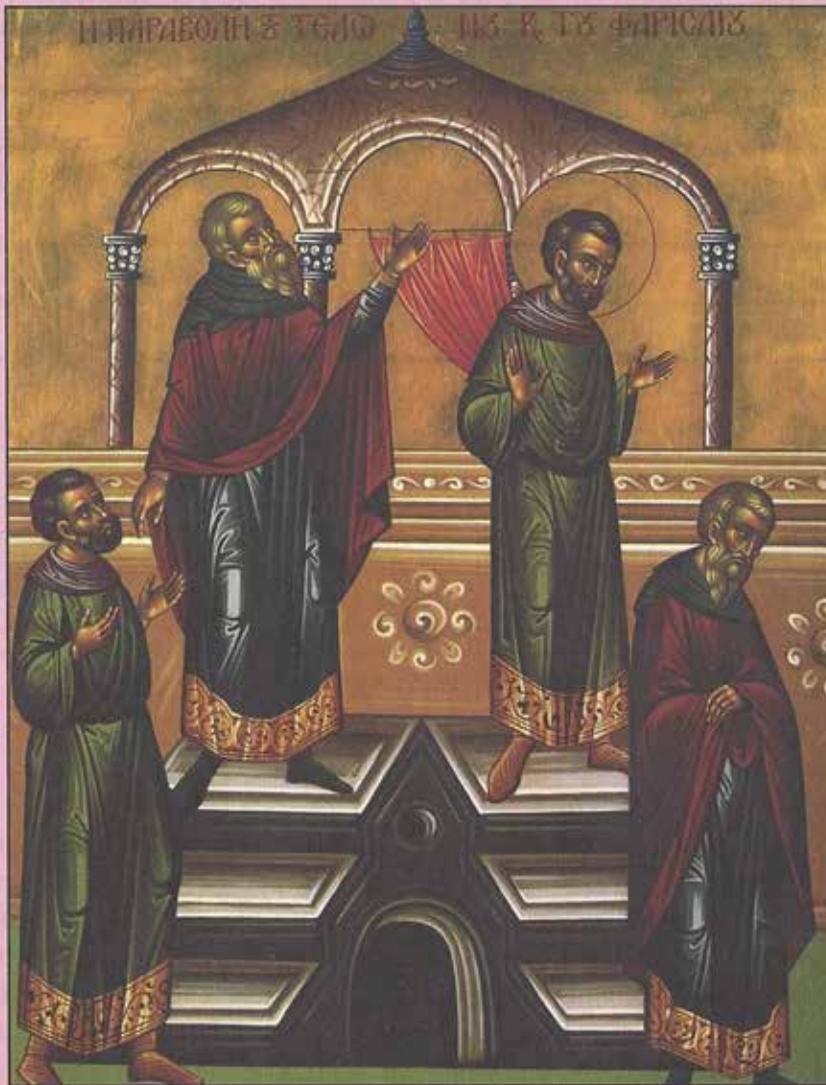


## SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee*

<b>Jan. 21, 2018: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</b>		
Epistle: 2 Tim. 3: 10-15		Gospel: Lk. 18: 10-14
<b>Mon., Jan. 22</b>	8:00	+ All the Victims of Abortion
<b>Tues., Jan. 23</b>	10:00	Funeral: + Evelyn Cheplick
<b>Wed., Jan 24</b>	8:00	God's Blessings on Mariah Addis (Grandfather Howard)
<b>Thurs., Jan. 25</b>	8:00	+ Peter & Nellie Nestor (Family)
<b>Fri., Jan. 26</b>	8:00	+ Howard Smith (Son Howard)
<b>Sat., Jan. 27</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>	
	10:30	Confessions
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Marge Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene Davis)
<b>Sun., Jan. 28</b>	9:00	For Our Parishioners
	11:30	+ Ann & Jacob Jablonski (Daughter Gloria)

## **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, thank-

ing 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 affirms 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 al-

lows 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 falsified 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?"

## The Unwise Proposition to Alter "The Lord's Prayer"

St. Cyprian explains "Lead us not into temptation" as expressing the idea that "the enemy can do nothing against us unless God has allowed it beforehand, so that our fear, our devotion and our wor-

ship may be directed to God - because the Evil One is not permitted to do anything unless he is given authorization".

*"De Dominica Oratione"*

St. Cyprian of Carthage

## Keep Greeting One Another

A reminder to all: just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40 day preparation and fasting period, so now we celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beautiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional "*Christos Razhdayetsia!* *Slavite Yeho!* Christ is Born! Glorify

Him!" During the darkness of the Winter months, do all you can to keep the bright light of Christ burning brightly! Let Christ shine through you!

**Note:** according to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Divine Liturgy Attendance on Snowy Days

It is very rare that the Divine Liturgy is canceled, especially on a Sunday. I want to encourage those of you who must walk further or more importantly, who drive to church, to PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE, when making a determination about attending the Divine Liturgy on the snowy, icy, inclement

weekend or even more so on the weekday. If attendance means putting yourself and others at risk, I am sure the Lord understands if you should decide to pray at home. Please use common sense and a well-informed conscience when making such a decision.

## Christmas Season Coming to a Conclusion

When it was time to decorate the church, we had a wonderful turnout of volunteers. Soon, it will be time to take down the decorations. We have scheduled this

for Sunday, January 28 following the 11:30 Divine Liturgy. Come and give us a hand with this project. Thank you for your help!

## Our Condolences

In your Christian Charity, please remember the souls of our Parishioners who recently fell asleep in the Lord.

- **Mary Vladika** was buried from St. Cyril's Church on Tuesday, January 16, 2017.

- **Evelyn Cheplick** will be buried from St. Cyril's Church on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

May their memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

## Holy Name Society Raffle

Once again St. Cyril's Holy Name Society mailed raffle tickets to our Parishioners. Please support the work of St. Cyril's Holy Name Society by dropping

your returns into the Sunday Collection Basket as soon as possible. Additional tickets may be obtained from any Holy Name Society member.

## Myasopusna 2018

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church is pleased to announce that dinner tickets

are now available for our Annual Myasopusna Festival, held at the church's

banquet hall at 240 Center Street, Nanticoke, on Sunday, February 4, from noon to 4 pm. The Myasopusna (Meatfare) Festival is the parish's pre-lenten celebration, preceding the Great Fast. Dinner (a platter of holuptsi, kobasi, pyrohy, borscht, black bread and butter, and a homemade dessert) will be served from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, fol-

lowed by live Ukrainian dance performances by Saint Mary's Ukrainian Dancers. A variety of Ukrainian crafts will be on display and for sale. Dinner tickets are \$13 if purchased by January 29 (\$15 at the door). Tickets can be purchased by calling Helen (735-4654) or Geri (824-3880).

## **Pre-Lenten Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner**

Father Myron Myronyuk and his parish family of Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church cordially invite you to join us for our annual Pre-Lenten PORK & SAUERKRAUT/KAPUSTA DINNER on Sunday, February 4, 2018, beginning at 12:15pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue - between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street.

Menu: slow roasted pork loin, gravy, Ukrainian kapusta (sweet and sour cab-

bage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages. Adults \$13.00; Students \$8.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free. Advance reservations for both sit-down and take-out are required and can be made with Maria at 570 503-1514 no later than Tuesday, January 30th. Take-outs available between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon only. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing.

## **Bus Trip**

Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is sponsoring a spring-time bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 19, 2018. There will be two stops in Manhattan: the 911 Memorial Museum at Ground Zero and the 42nd annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival on the Lower East Side. Adults \$70.00; Seniors 65+ \$64.00; Youth 7 to 17 yrs. \$62.00. Participants can follow the above two-stop

itinerary or are free to do their own thing for part or all of the day. For those not visiting the Museum, the cost is \$44.00. Departure from St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue will be at 8:00am and departure from New York City for home will be at 8:30 pm. For additional details and to make reservations contact Dave Pietryka at 570 954-8517 or Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275. Due to the large

number of visitors, Museum staff strongly recommends early confirmation of number of tickets to be ordered, therefore we ask that reservations and nonrefundable pay-

ment be made preferably before April 1. Check should be made out to St. Vladimir Church.

### Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2018 is Team #1: William Vervan, Sr., Roger Barren, and Jerry Sereditch.

### Sunday Collection for January 13 & 14, 2018: \$

### Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for January 27 & 28, 2018

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nicholas Borowski -- Nicholas Muchisky	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko -- John Nasevich	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	David Slachtish -- Thomas Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

### House Blessing Request

Fr. Nestor:

I (we) would like you to come and bless my (our) home, if possible, this year during the Theophany Season (2018).

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Father Nestor will call to arrange a convenient time.

## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-489-2271 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: [stcyrils.weconnect.com](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)

E-Mail: [sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net](mailto:sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net)



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Pride vs. Humility*

This parable represents to us two chariots on the race course, each with two charioteers in it. In one of the chariots it places righteousness with pride, in the other sin and humility. You see the chariot of sin outstrip that of righteousness, not by its own strength but by the excellence of humility combined with it, but the other is defeated not by righteousness, but by the weight and swelling of pride.

For as humility by its own elasticity rises above the weight of pride, and leaping up reaches to God, so pride by its great weight easily depresses righteousness. Although therefore you are earnest and constant in well doing, yet think you may boast yourself, you are altogether devoid of the fruits of prayer. But you that bears a thousand loads of guilt on your conscience, and only think this thing of yourself that you are the

lowest of all men, shall gain much confidence before God.

And He then goes on to assign the reason of His sentence. For everyone who exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted. The word humility has various meanings. There is the humility of virtue, as, a humble and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. There is also a humility arising from sorrows, as, He has humbled my life upon the earth. There is a humility derived from sin, and the pride and insatiability of riches. For can anything be more low and debased than those who grovel in riches and power, and count them great things?

*St. John Chrysostom*

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