

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee*

<b>February 10, 2019: Sunday of Publican and Pharisee</b>	
Epistle: 1 Tim. 4: 9-15 <span style="float: right;">Gospel: Lk. 19: 1-10</span>	
<b>Mon., Feb. 11</b>	8:00 + Martha Augustine (Leo Danylak)
<b>Tues., Feb. 12</b>	8:00 + Leo & Julia Anderson (Mildred Klapatch)
<b>Wed., Feb. 13</b>	8:00 + Fred Jacobs (Mathilda & Joe Dubiel)
<b>Thurs., Feb. 14</b>	8:00 Health & God's Blessings on Michael O'Halloran (Howard Smith)
<b>Fri., Feb. 15</b>	8:00 + Jacob & Ann Jablonski (Gloria Jablonski)
<b>Sat., Feb. 16</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 10:30 Confessions 2:00 Confessions 4:00 pm + Mary Zenzel (Stephen Borowski)
<b>Sun., Feb. 17</b>	9:00 + Elaine Gruzesky (Leo Danylak) 11:30 For Our Parishioners

## 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.

### Biblical Story

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Je-

sus 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 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 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 falsified the mean-

ing 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.

## **Its Cold Outside...**

After the 9:00 Divine Liturgy, come over to the Little Hall for some hot coffee or tea.

Also, looking for volunteers to

have a coffee hour after the other Divine Liturgies. If interested, please call Father Nestor to make arrangements.

## **Enlarging Your Circle of Friendship**

Often times when we come to church we find ourselves mingling with the same group of people; people with whom we may have a special affinity or perhaps people with whom we may have formed lasting friendships – and this is a great and wonderful thing! Yet, at the same time, we mustn't pass

up the opportunity to interact with and get to know people outside our circle of friends. There is nothing better than a unified parish, whose circle of friendship includes everyone. Take a moment each Saturday and Sunday to get to know someone different – you won't regret it.

## **Our Condolences**

In your Christian Charity, please remember soul of + Gloria Hughes who recently fell asleep in the Lord. + Glo-

ria's funeral was held on Monday, January 28, 2019. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

## **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.

## **St. Cyril's 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.

## **St. Cyril's Holy Name Society Meeting**

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society will meet next Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> following the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. All

members are invited and encouraged to attend this monthly meeting.

## **St. Mary's Valentine Dinner**

St. Mary's Scranton - Valentine Dinner: February 14, 6PM Seating. \$20. St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave. Italian Cuisine. Menu: Insalata Italiana Fresca (Fresh Salad of Mixed greens, Roma tomatoes with Italian garden dressing); Minestra Di Cerimonia Nuziale Italiana (Homemade Italian Wedding Soup);

Pollo Cacciatore (Chicken Cacciatore over Fettucine); Riso Italiano Verdure (Italian Rice with Vegetables); Torta alla Fragola (Special Valentine Strawberry Shortcake). Coffee, Tea, Water and Soda included. Cash bar available. Reserve by end of day February 11. 570-343-5151.

## **Myasopusna Celebration**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church announces its 14<sup>th</sup> annual Myasopusna Celebration, a Pre-Lenten event, to be held on Meatfare (Myasopusna) Sunday, February 24, 2019. A dinner of holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), kobasa, varenyky (Transfiguration pierogies), kapusta, blackbread, and dessert will be served at the Church's Banquet Hall at 240 Center St., Hanover Section of Nanticoke, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm., with borscht also available,

as well as Ukrainian and other beverages. Dinner is followed by entertainment until 4:00 pm from the Holy Year Choir, Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, and St. Mary's Traditional Ukrainian Dancers. Doors will open at noon, with Ukrainian crafts on display and for sale throughout the event. Dinner tickets are \$13 if purchased before 2/17, \$15 afterwards, by calling 570-735-4654 or 570-824-3880.

## **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 and sauerkraut/kapusta dinner on Sunday, February 24, 2019, 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 cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread

and rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages.

Adults \$13.00; Students \$8.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the delightful Ihor and Regina Duo.

Advance reservations for both sit-down and take-out are required and can be made with Maria Black at 570 503-1514 before Tuesday, February 19th. Take-outs available at 11:30a.m. but no later than 12 noon. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing.

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

The North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics will meet on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 5:00 pm at Grotto Pizza, 36 Gateway Shopping Center, Edwardsville. Discussion will fo-

cus on the National Board structure, the upcoming Lenten Retreat, the May bus trip to New York City, and 2019 meeting schedule.

## **Piggie Dinner**

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre will hold a take-out Piggie / Holubtsi Dinner on Sunday, March 3, 2019. Dinners may be picked up between 11:30 am and 2:00 pm at the Parish School Hall, corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-

Barre. Dinner includes Piggies (meat stuffed cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter and dessert. Dinners will be \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children (12 and under). Walk-Ins Welcome but Reservations are encouraged, call (570)829-3051.

## **Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop**

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant will again

be offering Pysanky Classes. At this time there will be three dates, March

10, 17, & 24, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The beginner class is approximately two hours long. The cost will be \$20 and includes the supplies needed to make your egg. For more information

or to sign up for the class, please call Sonia Maslar at 570-489-9608 or Tammy Budnovitch at 570-766-1919 (after 5 pm).

## Springtime Bus Trip

The North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 18, 2019. The Itinerary includes Brooklyn's Brighton Beach [Little Odessa] and the 43rd Annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Participants are free to do their own thing for all or part of the day if they so wish. Bus will pick up at Edwardsville's St. Vladimir Church, 70 Zerby Avenue at 8:00am and

at Scranton's St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 8:45am. Departure for home will be at 8:00pm. Cost is \$45.00 per person. Full nonrefundable advance payment reserves a seat. For further information and reservations call Paul at 570 563-2275 or Janina at 570 759-2824. Early reservations are recommended as this is a very popular trip and the 55 passenger bus is expected to fill quickly.

## Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2019 is Team #2:

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

## Sunday Collection for February 2 & 3, 2019: \$

### Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for February 16 & 17, 2019

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Samuel Sczesniak -- Nicholas Borowski	Michael Shumek
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko -- Nicholas Chylak	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Thomas Radle -- Brian Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Faults of the Pharisee*

Many are the faults of the Pharisee. First of all, he is boastful, and without sense, for he praises himself, even though the Sacred Scriptures cry aloud, "Let a neighbor praise you, and not your own mouth: a stranger and not your own lips" (Prov. 27:2). ... Our virtue, therefore, must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless and free from all that can bring reproach. For what profit is there in fasting twice a week, if you so doing serve only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and if it makes you prideful, haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions and make a boast of it; but in another way you provoke God's anger, by condemning men generally on this account and accusing others. And you yourself are puffed up, though not crowned by the divine decree for righteousness, but on the contrary, heap praises upon yourself. For I am not, he says, as the rest of mankind. Moderate yourself, O Pharisee: "Set a guard, O Lord, over your mouth, keep watch over the door of your lips" (Ps. 140:3).

You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. None of those skilled in the practice of wrestling ever crowns himself; nor does any man receive the crown of himself, but awaits the summons of the arbiter. Lower your pride, for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although, therefore, you fast with puffed up mind, your so doing will not avail you; your labor will be unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with your perfume. Even according to the law of Moses a sacrifice that had a blemish was not capable of being offered to God; for it was said unto him, "Of sheep, and ox, that is offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish therein" (Lev. 22:21). Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God saying, this is not the fast that I have chosen (Cf Isa. 58:5) ... You offer tithes, but you wrong in another way Him Who is honored by you, in that you condemn men generally. This is an act foreign to the mind that fears God.

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*