

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE  
MEETING OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON AND ANNA



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee*

## **Feb. 2, 2020: Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee**

Epistle: 2 Tim. 3: 10-15

Gospel: Lk. 18: 10-14

<b>Mon., Feb. 3</b>	8:00	+ Dorothy A. Chezick (Children)
<b>Tues., Feb. 4</b>	8:00	+ Halyna Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
<b>Wed., Feb. 5</b>	8:00	+ Fred Jacobs (Jeff & Jocelyn Doran)
<b>Thurs., Feb. 6</b>	8:00	+ Anna Mae Schurko (Lauren Telep)
<b>Fri., Feb. 7</b>	8:00	+ Daniel & Olga E. Telep (Lauren Telep)
<b>Sat., Feb. 8</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Joseph Muchisky (Family)	
<b>Sun., Feb. 9</b>	9:00	For Our Parishioners 11:30 + Stephen & Amelia Malinchak (Daughter)

## **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 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 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 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.

## **PARISHIONERS LENDING A HELPING HAND**

The Church decorations were taken down on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. With all the volunteers, it was successful and completed in just over an hour. Special thanks to our fellow parishioners: Jeanne and Steve, Lauren, Michaelene, Ann Elaine, Julie, Paul and Rose, Richie, John S., Marlene, Cheryl, Duane, Paula, Paul M. along with Victor and Dino. Decorations were

stored in bins and placed in the Church basement. Taking care of the bows/ribbons for their continuous usage year after year is always done by Dorothy Zinsky. Thanks to the Church Ladies who “watered” and cared for the Poinsettias for for over 6 weeks. We thank everyone especially those who do so many little unknown “tasks” in the upkeep of the church.

## **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.

## **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.

## **NOVENA FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARON**

The Holy Name Society of Saint Ann Maronite Catholic Church is sponsoring a Novena for the Feast

of Saint Maron. The Novena will be prayed in the parish Church located at Sumner Avenue at Price Street in West

Scranton, and runs from Saturday, February 1st to the Feast of Saint Maron, Sunday February 9th. On the two weekends of February 1st and 2nd and February 8th and 9th, the Novena will follow the Saturday 4:30 PM Vigil Mass and the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass; and on the weekdays of February

3rd through the 7th, the weekday Masses will be celebrated at 6:30 PM followed by the Novena. The Novena will include the recitation of the Holy Rosary, a blessing with the Icon of Saint Maron and veneration of the relic of Saint Maron. All are welcome.

### **OUR NEXT SOBORCHYK (DEANERY GATHERING)**

Our next Soborchyk (Deanery Gathering) is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at Scranton's St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church. The snow date is

Wednesday, February 12, 2020. All interested Parishioners are invited to attend. If you would like to attend, please let Father Nestor know as soon as possible.

### **PARISH MEETING**

There will be a Parish Meeting following the 11:30 Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 9, 2020. All Parish Council and Finance Council members are requested to attend. Anyone

else that is interested is invited to attend. We need to discuss several maintenance issues and plan our calendar for the upcoming year.

### **PRE-LENTEN PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER**

Father Myron and his Parish Family of Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church cordially invite you to join them for their annual Pre-Lenten pork and sauerkraut/kapusta dinner on Sunday, February 16, 2020 beginning at 12:15 pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 N. Seventh Ave. - between West Lackawanna Ave. and

West Linden St.

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.

## **MYASOPUSNA PRE-LENTEN DINNER IN NANTICOKE**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is pleased to announce that dinner tickets are now available for their Annual Myasopusna Festival, to be held at the church's banquet hall at 240 Center Street, Nanticoke, on Sunday, February 16, 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, followed 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 February 9th (\$15 at the door). Tickets can be purchased by calling Helen (735-4654) or Geri (824-3880).

## **DEANERY FORGIVENESS VESPERS IN BERWICK**

Everyone is invited to participate in our Deanery Vespers on the Eve of the First Day of the Great Fast. This service will

take place on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 pm at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish, N. Warren St in Berwick, PA

## **2020 L.U.C. LENTEN RETREAT**

The League of Ukrainian Catholics of America has sponsored and held their Annual Lenten Retreat at Sloatsburg's St. Mary's Villa Educational and Retreat Center the week-end before Palm Sunday for 42 years, providing all faithful attending the opportunity to spend time in prayer and to have the chance to satisfy their Easter confession obligations.

This year's Lenten Retreat might be the last retreat held at The Villa as the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate are selling this property.

For the past forty-two years we have been so fortunate to be able to come on Retreat to Sloatsburg's St. Mary's; have been fortunate to enjoy the quiet and comfort of

St. Mary's, away from our everyday cares and chores to leave all behind and spend a few days in prayer and in friendship.

We have been blessed with the many graces received while on retreat and are thankful for the many clergy who have given their time to enrich our spiritual life year after year.

For this year celebrating our Retreat at St. Mary's, Msgr. Martin Canavan has accepted the position of Retreat Director. The theme for this year's retreat is "Standing at the Cross with the Mother of God". As we come to the close of the Great Lent and the beginning of the Great and Holy Week, we pause, gathered together in Jesus' name to reflect on Mary's (the first disciple) place

at the Cross. In the light of her “Let it be done to me according to your word” at the Annunciation for Jesus’s word from the Cross, “It is accomplished!” we attempt to better understand our place in the Love and Mercy of God poured out

on us each and every day.

The dates for year’s retreat are March 27, 28 and 29th. The Lenten Retreat is scheduled for beginning Friday evening at 7:30 pm. The retreat is open to all faithful of all Eparchies.

### **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 16, 2020. The itinerary includes the 44th Annual Ukrainian Street Festival sponsored by New York’s St. George Ukrainian Greek Catholic parish and the 14th Annual Multi-Ethnic Parade and Dance Festival both on the Lower East Side plus a ride on the Staten Island Ferry. Participants are free to do their own thing in the City 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 8:00 am and at Scranton’s St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 8:45 am. Departure for home will be at 8:00 pm. 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 Dorothy at 570 822-5354. 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 2020 is Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko,

Jr. Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

### **Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for February 8 & 9, 2020**

	<b>Altar Boys</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
4:00 pm	Samuel Szczesniak -- Alex Nick	John Sakson
9:00 am	Brennin Marcinko -- Cole Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Jordan Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

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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*