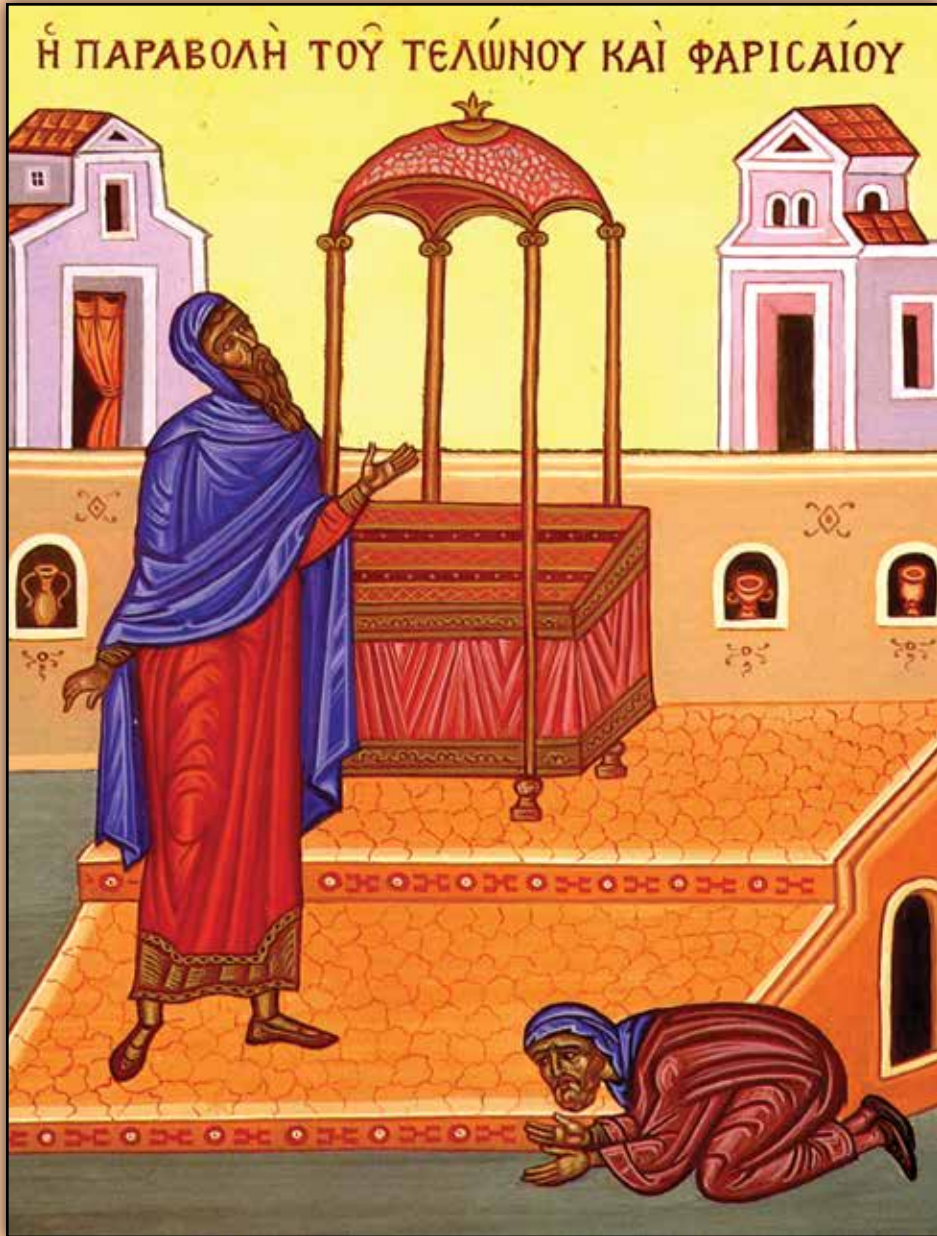


## SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14)*

<b>Jan. 29, 2023: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</b>		
Epistle: 2 Tim 3; 10-15		Gospel: Lk. 18: 10-14
<b>Mon., January 30</b>	9:00	+ Halyna Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
<b>Tues., January 31</b>	9:00	+ Lenny, Andy & John Mitchko (Carol)
<b>Wed., February 1</b>	9:00	+ Linda Romaine Dolph (Czaja Family)
<b>Thurs., Feb. 2</b>	<b>Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon &amp; Anna</b>	
	9:00	+ Andrew & Julia Evanina & Children (Howard Smith)
<b>Fri., Feb. 3</b>	9:00	+ John & Barbara Gadowski (Joseph & Anne Nasevich & Family)
<b>Sat., Feb. 4</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>	
	2:00	Confessions
	4:00	+ George & Marie Chmil (Paul & Rosemary Mizerak)
<b>Sun., Feb. 5</b>	10:30	For Our Parishioners

## SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

### Introduction

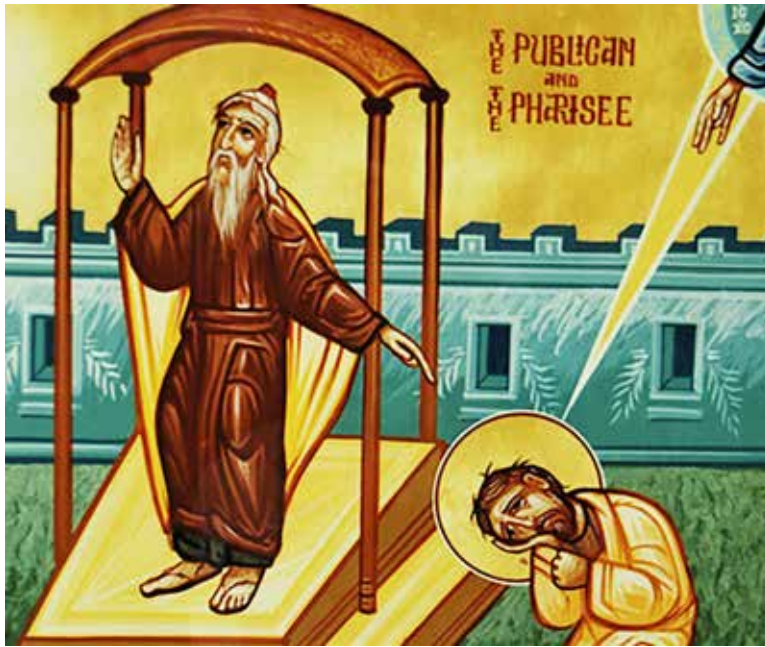
The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Eastern Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity.

### Biblical Story

The name for this Sunday is tak-

en 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 extor-



given 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

tioners, 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 for-

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.

## **IDENTITY - PART 1**

All of us know the date of our birth, but how many of us know the date of our Baptism. It is obviously very important to know the date of our birth, but it is also if not more important to know the date of our Baptism.

Why? At the moment of conception and birth we become creatures of our Creator, but at Baptism, we become adoptive

children, adoptive sons and daughters of Our Creator and Father.

At birth, August 12, 1936 I was born Walter, at Baptism, August 23, 1936, I was born an adoptive child, an adoptive son of God the Father. I was born a Jesus person anointed and baptized in Jesus. I became no more just Walter, but Jesus Walter an identity that can never be taken away from me. And so it is with all of us

who have been anointed and baptized in Jesus. It is important to know the date you were anointed and baptized in Jesus and celebrate it accordingly.

At Baptism, a beautiful and meaningful rite of anointing is performed in which our whole being is anointed in Jesus. We are set aside to be a Jesus person in the world around us. The priest performs this rite of anointing before the moment

of Baptism. This rite is extremely meaningful because in the Old Testament only three types of people were anointed: a Prophet, a Priest, and a King which means that in our anointing, we in some way become a Prophet, a Priest, and a king.

*by Fr. Walter J. Wysochansky  
Part 1 of 5*

## **HUMOR... THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL**

The boy listened closely as the rabbi read the Bible. "May I ask a question" he asked. "Sure. Go ahead. Ask your question," replied the rabbi. Well, the Bible says that the children of Israel crossed the

Red Sea, the children of Israel built the Temple, the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?

## **THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS COMING TO AN END**

Volunteers are needed! Again, special thanks to the Parishioners who decorated the Church for Christmas. We received so many comments as to how beautifully the Church was decorated.

Taking down the decorations is much easier. Everything is doublechecked to see that it is marked with a ribbon for its proper

location for next Christmas. Lights are wound, everything is stored in bins, etc. and stored in the Church basement. We need the men of the Parish to help with the manger itself, the larger trees, ladders, etc.

Lend us a hand today (Sunday) IMMEDIATELY after the 10:30 Divine Liturgy. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



## **INFO THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW**

Fr. Thomas Loya of Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer Glen, Illinois has a podcast called "Light of the East." As described on the website, "this unique program reveals how the riches of the Eastern Catholic Churches -- their Liturgies, spirituality and relevance -- are a gift to the whole Church and to today's world."

If you are familiar with podcasts, you know that you can listen to them at any time, using a smartphone. You can also find Fr. Loya's podcasts on your computer at "Byzantinecatholic.com/podcast".

Each podcast is just under 30 minutes and there are hundreds of them. You can choose whatever subject that interests you.

## **UKRAINIAN PYSANKY CLASSES**

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant will be offering Ukrainian Pysanky classes in March 2023. The two-hour beginner class will teach the basics to create a traditional Ukrainian pysanky egg. The cost of the class is \$25 for each person. Supplies are included. Classes will be held at 207 River Street, Olyphant, St. Cyril's Parish Hall, with plenty of free parking. Classes will be held on Sunday, March 12th, starting at Noon., and the 2nd class on March 12th at

3:00 p.m. On Sunday, March 26th, starting at noon and the 2nd class on March 26th will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Class size is limited and you must call for a reservation to register. Call Tammy Budnovitch at 570-766-1919.

This is a fundraiser for the church. Available for purchase are individual Pysanky eggs created by Tammy Budnovitch. Other items available for purchase are jewelry, mosaic art, books, and additional pysanky egg supplies.

## 2023 PARISH DUES

We remind our Parish Family Members that at a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that beginning 2021 Parish Dues will be \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

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.

## CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS and HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following Parishioners who celebrated their birthday during January:

Marie Martin	Carol Pompey	Nick Spryn
Melanie Mohila	Rosemarie Sember	John Turko, Sr.

CONGRATULATIONS and HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to **Eugene and Sonia Maslar** who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary during January.

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team Michaelene Davis, and Gloria for the month of January 2023 Jablonski.  
is Team #1: Jerry Sereiditch,

**Sunday Collection for Jan. 21 & 22, 2023: \$**

## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Humility is the Mark of a Sinner*

In the case of that Pharisee who was praying, the things he said were true. Since he was saying them out of pride and the tax collector was telling his sins with humility, the confession of sins of the last was more pleasing to God than the acknowledgment of the almsgiving of the first. It is more difficult to confess one's sins than one's righteousness. God looks on the one who carries a heavy burden. The tax collector therefore appeared to Him to have had more to bear than the Pharisee had. He went down more justified than the Pharisee did, only because of the fact he was humble. If this Pharisee had been sinful, his prayer would have added iniquity to iniquity, but the Lord purified the tax collector of his iniquity. If just by praying, the Pharisee's prayer provoked God's wrath, then as a result of that provocation, the prayer of the tax collector proved all the more potent.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

The stern Pharisee, who in his self pride not

only boasted of himself but also discredited the tax collector in the presence of God, made his justice void by being guilty of pride. Instead of the Pharisee, the tax collector went down justified, because he had given glory to God, the Holy One. He did not dare lift his eyes but sought only to plead for mercy. He accused himself by his posture, by striking his breast, and by entertaining no other motive except propitiation. Be on your guard, therefore, and bear in mind this example of severe loss sustained through arrogance. The one guilty of insolent behavior suffered the loss of his justice and forfeited his reward by his bold self-reliance. He was judged inferior to a humble man and a sinner because in his self-exaltation he did not await the judgment of God but pronounced it himself. Never place yourself above anyone, not even great sinners. Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many terrible transgressions.

*St. Basil the Great*