



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, February 13

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
Trisagion in memory of Garnette Kerchum and Georgiann Robes

Tuesday, February 15

No Matins or Office Hours
Fr Thomas serving Liturgy in Curtisville

Thursday, February 17

9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
TBD pm Orthodox Men's Group

Saturday, February 19

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir
5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 20

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Publican and Pharisee Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org February 13, 2022

Announcements

➤ **The Orthodox Men's Book Group** will begin a new book for the Lenten period. We will meet each month once. The first meeting will be Tuesday, March 1. The book is "O God Arise" by Father Andrew Stephen Damick. (Please read the first half of the book to prepare for the first meeting.) See Dn Luke Loboda with any questions.

➤ **All men of the parish** are invited to a Men's Night Out this Thursday evening. Time and place TBD. Contact Dn Luke for details!

➤ **Lenten Prayer Partners:** This Lent, we will begin our second Lenten Prayer Partners program with the youth (3rd grade and above) and adults in our parish. **The goal is to create a structured opportunity for youth to have fellowship with adult members of our parish.** Each youth will be paired with an adult to share weekly prayer requests and answer simple get-to-know-you questions. This is not a large time commitment and enriches our church community! **If you are interested in participating, please contact Dn. Luke or Mat. Ashley** (ashley.loboda@gmail.com, #412-715-2163).

➤ **Mark your calendar!** A choir from **St Tikhon's Seminary** will be visiting our parish on **Saturday, April 2 at 5:00 pm** to sing the Vigil service. Join us to be inspired by their beautiful and prayerful singing and help us support the theological education of our young seminarians.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Sandi Tirpak. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Dave Namisnak. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Garnette Kerchum and brother, Raymond; for the health of Sandi Tirpak and Irene Kulchock. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Janice Bosko. From **the Robes family** for the departed servant, Georgiann Robes-2yrs-Memory Eternal. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, Cheryl, John, Gregory, Kayla Elizabeth, and Cindy. From **Jan Widel** for the departed servant, Dave Namisnak. From **Cathy Namisnak** for the departed servant, David Namisnak. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Diana, Bruce, Daniel, and Marina; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Daniel, Nina, Roman, Adick, Sergei, Adrianna, Kristofer, and Elena.

Thank You

➤ to our February donors, **Bob and Marybeth Madalinsky** (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10).



This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Publican & Pharisee

Questions to ask/review:

- What is a publican? (tax collector like Zaccheus and Matthew)
- What did the publican pray when he entered the temple?
- What is a Pharisee? (a respected man of the temple who put heavy emphasis on following details of rules)
- What did the Pharisee pray in the temple?
- Which did God listen to? Why?
- How do you feel when you win a race? Get a prize? Do something good? (pride)
- Have you ever "bragged" about something you did? Why? How does it make you feel? Others feel? (makes us think we are "better" than others, but we are all equal before God)
- How did the pray differently in actions? (Pharisee prayed "with/to" himself; Publican beat his chest with great reverence to God)
- Remember the first beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit". Who in the story followed this? How?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture together before bed: Luke 18:9-14.
- Practice the prayer of St. Ephraim in preparation for lent:

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

- Practice the prostrations between each verse with your child.

Prayer: The Jesus Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 13

Tone 1 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Tone 4 Troparion (*St Nicholas*)

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility, and a teacher of abstinence. Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to you! Because of your poverty riches were granted to you! O holy Bishop Nicholas, pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (*from the Lenten Triodion*)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!
Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!
Let us cry to our Savior:
“Have mercy on us,//
O only merciful One!”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (*Ps. 32:22*)

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Timothy 3:10-15)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering,

love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:10-14)

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

On Religiosity

For real spiritual life one must train oneself to maintain a balance between the manifestations

of inward and outward religiosity. It is essential to keep the law - the commandments of God and the regulations of the Church. But this is not enough. If we began to work for the Lord in this way, then in this work we would be like a man, who, according to the words of Climacus, thinks to swim out of the deep using one hand. It is necessary to possess the humility of the publican as well.

It is necessary to hate the exaltation of the Pharisee and the fall of the publican. The publican went out from the temple more justified; but this does not yet mean that he is in the Kingdom of Heaven. Ephraim the Syrian, the teacher of repentance, the author of the Great-Lenten prayer "O Lord and Master of my life", commands us in this prayer to see our own transgressions, and not to judge our brother. Prayer and good works are in vain if they are performed not for God, but for the world, for our vainglory. Every good work done for show is vain.

According to the unanimous definition of the Fathers of the Church, vainglory is fundamentally "trust in one's own efforts", "a rejection of God", "a driving away of His help". For, in doing something for show, I do it not at all in order to render to God what is due, to return the talent to Him multiplied - this is Thine - but in order that men would praise me. By this, I only assert my own "ego", for I need men here only so that they might render me praise. This is a "visible" idol, according to the definition of the Holy Fathers. I am not serving God here, but men; but I am also serving them not for their sake, but for my own. The Pharisee already rejects God. He comes to the temple and says: I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. Therefore, I am good. Thou didst create me; I still thank Thee. Perhaps Thy help is still needed by the publican, but not by me. I still worship Thee, but Thou art no

longer necessary for me. This is the attitude of a man who puts his "ego", his virtue at the head of his life.

The Pharisee fulfills the law, and the law is difficult, for it is not easy to follow all the prescriptions of the law, even if only that of the Old Testament; but this is in vain, for he has no humility.

The devil met a certain Holy Father and said to him: "I am like thee in all things, except one: thou dost not sleep, and I keep vigil; thou fastest, and I eat nothing; but thou vanquishest me with humility". The faithful followers of Christ are known, not by works, but by humility. I can feed someone in God's name, not ascribing anything to myself - and in this instance I shall have done a truly Christian work. However, if I should do the same thing, but for any other reason, for any other aim -whatever it might be - this work will not be Christ's...

The parable of the publican and the Pharisee is Christ's call to think and to uproot the Pharisaism that lives in each of us. The Church hastens to our aid. On the first Sunday preparatory to Great Lent, the Church says to us in Her Divine services: Come, learn from both the Pharisee and from the publican. From the one learn his works, but by no means his pride; for the work by itself means nothing and does not save. But remember that the publican also is not yet saved, but is only more justified before God than the Pharisee, who was adorned with virtues.

Let us firmly remember Christ's words: Every one that exalts himself shall be humbled; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted (Luke 18:14).

