

## Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

*A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America*

Fr. John Hopko, Pastor • Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

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## Sunday, February 17, 2019

### 38<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5

#### Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

February 17, annually, is the commemoration of, among others, the Great-Martyr Theodore the Recruit (d. 306 AD) and the Hieromartyr Ghermogen, Patriarch of Moscow (d. 1612 AD)

#### Praying Like a Publican *by Fr. Stephen Freeman*

Sometime back someone said to me, “Whenever I’ve sinned I never feel like praying. I feel unworthy and I just can’t pray.” The statement sounded correct – I’ve had the same feeling often enough. But I kept thinking about it until the question came to me, “What am I waiting to feel before I pray?” In the case at hand, I would suppose one would be waiting not to feel like such a sinner. And then I understood.

There is the story in Scripture of two men who went to pray, one a Pharisee and one a Publican (bad tax-collector for Rome) (Luke 18:10-14). We are told that the Pharisee prayed easily, lifting his eyes to heaven, and thanking God that “he was not like other men.” The publican did not even lift his eyes to heaven but smote his breast and prayed, “Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.” Jesus said it was the publican who “returned home justified” not the Pharisee.

What struck me on reflection, however, was the puzzle of not wanting to pray when I feel guilty of sin. Having sinned, I do not wish to pray, I do not feel worthy of prayer. What am I waiting on? I think, upon reflection, I’m waiting until I feel righteous, like a Pharisee, so I can pray, without realizing that such prayer is almost useless. Indeed, strangely, I pray, “Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me,” with greater ease when I feel like a righteous man than when I feel like a sinner. And this is part of the disease of religion – for make no mistake – religion is frequently a disease. Religious feelings (the Pharisees were masters of them) are deceptive in the extreme. I think I feel like praying, I am in fact feeling “pious.” And it’s a deep tragedy. I am not ready to pray – I’m eaten up with myself as a pious man.

When you feel like a Publican, then you can pray like a Publican. Many times people will tell me, “Father, I can’t serve in the altar today, I don’t feel worthy.” No doubt. But you’re in much greater danger when you do feel worthy. Come in and approach God’s altar knowing you are not worthy and you will find grace and forgiveness.

None of this is to say don’t go to confession. But it’s good for us to say, sometimes, “Father, forgive me, I’ve been so good this week I haven’t felt in the least like a sinner, and this is a great sin and deception.” Now we would be getting somewhere.

To see the truth of ourselves is a very hard thing. And to love God precisely in the truth of ourselves is harder still. But this He wants from us. Pray like a publican. There are so many more times available for prayer if you do. And while you’re there, pray for those who are praying like a Pharisee. May God free us from delusion.

Fr. Stephen Freeman blogs at:

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/glory2godforallthings/>

### Schedule of Services

- 2/16 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 2/17 Sunday**  
**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 2/20 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 2/23 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil  
Followed by Monthly Rite of General Confession
- 2/24 Sunday**  
**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 2/27 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 3/2 Saturday**  
**Pre-Lenten Memorial Saturday**  
5:30 PM – General Memorial Service in Commemoration of All the Departed Faithful  
6:00 PM – Vigil  
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 3/3 Sunday**  
**Sunday of the Last Judgement**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 3/4 Monday**  
7:00 PM – Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council
- 3/6 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 3/9 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil  
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 3/10 Sunday**  
**Forgiveness Sunday**  
**Cheese-fare Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM – Forgiveness Sunday Vespers, with Rite of Forgiveness to begin Great Lent
- 3/11 Monday—First Day of Great Lent**  
7:00 PM – Compline with the Reading of the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

# PARISH PRAYER LIST

**Please pray for all victims of disaster, difficulty and senseless violence throughout the world.**

**+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!***

## ***Newly Departed***

Tessie Felburt—Waterbury parishioner	d. 2/12/19
Thomas Shakun—Matushka Cindy Voytovich's father	d. 2/9/19
Janice Olear—Waterbury parishioner, daughter of Peter Olear	d. 2/9/19
Glen Sheets—Jennifer Wegh's uncle	d. 1/11/19

## ***Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!***

Adam Mihailoff—Kathy Mihailoff's father	2/17/2001
Eva Mihailoff—Kathy Mihailoff's mother	2/21/2016
William Papach	2/17/1969
Matushka Pearl Markovich	2/17/1978
Steven Suslenko	2/18/1960
Anna Wittick	2/19/1921
Vladimir Koltko	2/19/1961
Jacob Zarick	2/19/1970
Stephen Rosko	2/19/1986
Jeffrey Thomas Moore	2/19/2012
Roman Zhyr	2/20/1946
Anna Rosko	2/20/2017
Andrew Letitia	2/21/1952
Akim Dubnansky	2/21/1968
Eva Pavelchak	2/21/1992
John Hriceniak	2/21/2010
Sophia Ivanchuk	2/22/1929
Alexei Gys	2/22/1937
Nellie Koltko	2/22/1998
Tekla Grayson	2/23/1960
Andrew Kaschak	2/23/1977
Mary Sarofin	2/23/2003

## **THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP**

### ***Persons captive and suffering for the Faith***

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

### ***Those who are sick and suffering***

Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering in perilous illness  
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)  
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment  
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers  
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer  
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer  
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke  
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin  
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges  
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease  
Dayrl—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease  
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer  
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease  
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers  
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; chronic health challenges  
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week  
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma  
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; rehabbing after bilateral lung transplant  
Carol Johnson—still unwell and in need of our prayerful support  
Beverly Kuzmich—still recovering from broken wrist  
Irene Vassos—member of Diocesan Council; injured in fall  
Nina Gorbachev—has now suffered a stroke; very unwell  
Tanya Beach—suffered a brain hemorrhage; in critical condition

### ***Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities***

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol  
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut  
Mary Fomenko—shut-in at home  
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

### ***Expectant Mothers***

Breanna and the child to be born of her – The Serevs' niece and her baby

### ***Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces***

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic")  
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps  
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot, now in Afghanistan

### ***Birthdays***

George Klachany	2/20
Mark Orelup	2/20

# NEWS AND NOTES

**Please pray for Tanya Beach:** Tanya Beach, a member of the Waterbury Parish who has been regularly attending services here in the Terryville Parish, suffered a brain hemorrhage this past week, due to causes unknown. At the time of this writing (Saturday afternoon, February 16), Tanya is in critical condition in Yale/New Haven Hospital, where she has undergone tests and procedures in an effort to relieve her symptoms. Please keep Tanya and her family and loved ones in your prayers.

**Two Funerals in the Waterbury Parish this week:** The funerals of Janice Olear and Tessie Felburt will take place this week in the Waterbury Parish. For details, please see Fr. John.

**Sunday, March 3: Brief, Special, One-Issue Parish Meeting:** Immediately after the conclusion of the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, March 3, there will be a very brief, special, one-issue meeting of the Terryville Parish. The purpose of that meeting will be to elect Melanie Osuch, formally and officially, as the Parish's Financial Secretary to finish out the term of Tim Osuch who, unfortunately, recently had to give up that office. Presently, by decision of the Parish Council, Melanie is our Parish's Acting Financial Secretary.

**Meat-Fare Sunday Charitable Brunch, March 3:** On Sunday, March 3, following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will have a Meat-fare Sunday Charitable Brunch, hosted by Paul Senetcen and Friends. All proceeds from that event will benefit the Plymouth Community Food Pantry.

**The “Penguin Plunge”:** A Special Olympics Fundraiser, March 3: On Sunday, March 3, Paul and Claudia Senecten’s daughter, Sarah Gaulin, together with her husband Justin, will once again be participating in a fundraiser for Special Olympics Connecticut. Sarah and Justin are now accepting sponsorships for taking a plunge in the wintry waters of Long Island Sound at Ocean Beach Park, New London, CT. To sponsor Sarah and Justin in their “Penguin Plunge” you may mail a check payable to “Connecticut Special Olympics” to Sarah at her home address: Sarah Gaulin, 15 Virginia Road, Oakdale, CT 06370-1554. You may also contribute on-line at [www.soct.org](http://www.soct.org), in the section of that website dedicated to the New London, CT, Penguin Plunge. (If giving on-line, select Ways to Give, Penguin Plunge, Shoreline Plunge, and enter “Sarah Gaulin” under Name of Participant.) Please consider giving Sarah and Justin your support through a sponsorship donation. Thank you for your consideration!

**Choir Rehearsals in Preparation for the Lenten and Paschal Seasons:** We will have weekly Choir Rehearsals just before Great Lent and during Great Lent, in order to prepare ourselves for our many liturgical services during the Lenten and Paschal seasons. The first of these weekly rehearsals will take place on Saturday, March 2. In advance, we thank our Choir for their efforts on our behalf. God bless you, dear Choir members!

**Great Lent begins on Monday, March 11:** Our celebration of Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, the annual commemoration of Our Lord’s victory over sin and death, comes early in the calendar this year, falling on Sunday, April 28. This means that Great Lent will soon be upon us, in a month’s time, beginning on Monday, March 11. We should begin planning now, well in advance, for how we will make our annual Lenten journey this year. We should be thinking and praying about our Lenten disciplines and Paschal priorities, committing ourselves to honor the Fast and to celebrate the Feast. May God strengthen us to plan for and then to keep Great Lent in an appropriate and honorable way, and to make a beautiful and spiritually profitable journey to the celebration of Holy Pascha.

**Terryville/Plymouth Clergy Association Lenten Luncheons:** Each year the Terryville/Plymouth Clergy Association sponsors a series of Lenten Luncheons over a succession of Tuesdays during the weeks of Great Lent. This year that series will likely once again take place, but the decision has been made by Fr. John, with the consultation and consent of the Parish Council, that our Parish will not be hosting one of those luncheons this year. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please, contact Fr. John, directly. Thank you.

**Sunday, March 24, Second Sunday in Great Lent, Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation:** Beginning at 4:00 PM, on Sunday afternoon, March 24, the Second Sunday of Great Lent and the Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation, our Parish will be hosting a Connecticut Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers Service. That service will be followed by a Lenten “bring-and-share” meal. Watch this space in the Parish bulletin for further details.

**Help with Completing Tax Returns:** The United Way of West Central CT, serving Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, and Plymouth/Terryville, is once again offering free tax preparation through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). In order to qualify, a household’s income must be less than \$56,000.00. Appointments are required, and may be set up by telephoning (860) 356-2000. Also, the United Way has partnered with H&R Block to bring MyFreeTaxes to households with incomes of less than \$66,000.00. MyFreeTaxes ([www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com)) is a secure and free way to file state and federal taxes online.

**Weather Related Cancellations:** If we need to cancel parish services and/or other events due to bad weather, those announcements will appear on NBC Connecticut Television and on the NBC Connecticut Internet website. We will, also, send out an email to the Parish email group and post an announcement on the Parish website. Finally, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information. *(NOTE: If you need to have your email address added to the Parish email group, please contact Fr. John.)*

**Online Donations to the Parish:** A PayPal Donation “button” is located on our parish website to make online donations possible. Our parish is registered as a charity with PayPal, so we have slightly lower fees connected to the use of that means of receiving donations. For us, PayPal’s fees are 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

# Readings from Holy Scripture

## *Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Publican and the Pharisee*

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (2 Tim. 3:10-15)**

My Son Timothy: You have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 18:10-14)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up 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 every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## *Scripture Readings for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

### **The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:12-20)**

Brothers and Sisters: "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"--and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 15:11-32)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"