

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

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

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Sunday, February 21, 2021

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – Tone 4. Beginning of the Lenten

Triodion. Saint Makarios of Glinsk Hermitage (19th c.). Ven. Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia (9th c.). St. Eustathius (Eustace), Archbishop of Antioch (377). St. George, Bishop of Amastris on the Black Sea (802-811). “KOZEL’SHCHANSKAYA” Icon of the Mother of God (1881).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/02/21>

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, on which day we begin to use the *Lenten Triodion*

On the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the 10th Sunday before Holy Pascha, we begin our annual journey to Holy Pascha. Thus, at Vespers on the eve of the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, we begin to use the liturgical texts from the *Lenten Triodion*, the liturgical book that contains the texts of the services used during the period of time from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee until Holy Pascha. (Note: Online versions of the *Lenten Triodion* can be found here <http://www.ocf.org/OrthodoxPage/prayers/triodion/triodion.html> and here <https://www.oca.org/lenten-triodion-texts>. It can be profitable during Great Lent to read these *Triodion* texts on the days during Lent when they are appointed to be prayed.)

On the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee the Gospel reading at the Divine Liturgy is from the Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 18th Chapter, Verses 10-14, which is the parable Our Lord Jesus Christ tells about two men who went to the Temple to pray.

The first man was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee’s religious piety, nor the Publican’s repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

(This article is reproduced here, in a lightly edited form, from material about [the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee](https://www.oca.org/) found on the website of the Orthodox Church in America, <https://www.oca.org/>.)

PARISH PRAYER LIST

We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world, especially in this time of pestilence and civil unrest.

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

First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19. Memory Eternal!

Newly Departed

Archimandrite Alexander (Cutler)—monk and priest	d. 1/26/2021
Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak—former OCA Chancellor	d. 2/5/2021
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar	d. 1/20/2021
Archpriest John Tkachuk—Fr. John's uncle through marriage	d. 2/19/2021
Archpriest John Chupeck	d. 2/10/2021
Archpriest Joseph Irvin—retired CT Deanery priest	d. 1/13/2021
Protodeacon John Eby—acquaintance of Fr. John H.	d. 2/3/2021
Kate—acquaintance of the Nimcheks; a tragic passing at a young age	d. 2/18/2021
George Giba—of the Waterbury Parish; once the Waterbury "sexton"	d. 2/17/2021
Thomas Matcheson—associated with the Waterbury Parish	d. 2/8/2021
child Leo—Fr. Andrew Tregubov's grandson	d. 2/5/2021
Sharon—niece of Mat. Ann S.; recent victim of cancer	d. 1/25/2021
Mary Zwanch—buried with family in the Waterbury Parish Cemetery	d. 1/19/2021

Anniversaries of Repose – *Memory Eternal!*

Andrew Letitia	2/21/1952
Akim Dubnansky	2/21/1968
Eva Pavelchak	2/21/1992
John Hriceniak	2/21/2010
Eva Mihailoff	2/21/2016
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
Anna Skalaban	2/24/1961
Ellen (Hasko) Williams	2/24/2001
Olga Rewak	2/24/2006
Emelian Mozelak	2/26/1939
Alexander Oneperko	2/26/1970
Fannie Serduk	2/27/1976
Anna Hriceniak	2/27/1988

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to the present pestilence which is COVID-19, and those working to alleviate their suffering.

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

Archpriest Michael—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores T.—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Darilyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
Donna—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine K.'s daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease

Yelena "Lenna" M.—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; chronically unwell
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery
Rosie D.—ongoing health issues
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues
child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell
Bill M.—has experienced some health issues lately, please keep in prayer
Christopher—friend of Kathy M.; struggling with cancer
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer
Wayne—Donna O.'s father
Vickie—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray
Sam—Vickie's husband, struggling with multiple health issues
Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray
Jody—Jacob J.'s father; recovering from significant back surgery
Sue—acquaintance of the Hopkos; unwell and requiring prayers
Helen—acquaintance of Helena G; in long-term care
Candace—acquaintance of Helena G; in need of prayers
Maria O.—dialysis three times a week; recently injured in fall, now in PA with family
Joanne—acquaintance of the Hopkos; slow recovery from recent illness
Stephen—family member of a parishioner; quite ill and in need of prayers
George K.—our fellow parishioner; unwell at this time
Lorraine—friend of Joan M.; cancerous blood disease
Joseph—friend of Jeanne M.; in need of prayers
Cheryl—prayed for at the request of Carolyn P.
Joan—dear and close friend of Carolyn P.; back surgery
Marcia—wife of newly departed Thomas M.
Antonio—brother-in-law of a parishioner; suffering with COVID-19
Joseph—prayed for at the request of Jeanne M.
Elaine H.—recovering from hip replacement surgery; our fellow parishioner
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering some health problems

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

Alex—John D.'s brother; suffering permanent effects of stroke
Dolores—Bob M.'s mother; resident in long-term eldercare

Expectant Mothers

Katherine and the child to be born of her—Fr. John's nephew's wife and her child

Travelers, Those Soon to be Traveling, and Those Apart from Us

All those who are traveling, soon to be traveling, or apart from us

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

Fr. James Parnell, Chaplain (MAJ)—deploying with the CT ARNG
Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph B.—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua P.—husband of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army officer and pilot
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82nd Airborne Division soldier now home from abroad
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army
Ian H.—Fr. David K.'s son-in-law; overseas deployment, U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

NONE THIS WEEK

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, On Fasting during Great Lent

"It needs also to be said that fasting, as traditionally practiced in the Church, has always been difficult and has always involved hardship. Many of our contemporaries are willing to fast for reasons of health or beauty, in order to lose weight; cannot we Christians do as much for the sake of the heavenly Kingdom? Why should the self-denial gladly accepted by previous generations of Orthodox prove such an intolerable burden to their successors today? Once St. Seraphim of Sarov was asked why the miracles of grace, so abundantly manifest in the past, were no longer apparent in his own day, and to this he replied: 'Only one thing is lacking - a firm resolve'."

Source: Read the full article at <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-true-nature-of-fasting>

A Book to accompany us through Great Lent

The late Fr. Steven Belonick wrote a book entitled *Pilgrimage to Pascha: A Daily Devotional for Great Lent*. This volume has now been published (in an updated posthumous edition prepared by Fr. Steven's wife, Mat. Deborah Belonick) by Ancient Faith Publishers (AFP), and is now available for purchase.

Please note that all royalties from this book will be placed in the "Father Steven Belonick Scholarship Fund" of our Diocese of New England, to help fund the education of seminarians.

For each of the 40 days of Great Lent, the book offers a Scripture reading, an excerpt from the writings of the saints with a reflection, an excerpt from a Lenten hymn, the life of a saint, and a short prayer.

Perhaps, we could purchase a copy of this book, and have it as a companion for our 2021 Lenten journey. (Great Lent begins on March 15, this year.) Here's the link to where this book can be purchased:

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/pilgrimage-to-pascha-a-daily-devotional-for-great-lent/>.

News and Notes

NOTE: All the events announced and scheduled below are subject to adjustment, based on the arrangements being made for the funeral of the newly departed Archpriest John Tkachuk, Fr. John's uncle by marriage, who passed from this life to eternal life on Friday evening, February 19. Updates will be announced via emails and text messages sent to the Paris contacts list. Thank you for your understanding.

Bible Study will be on Wednesday evening this coming week – Bible Study, via “Zoom” – Wednesday evening, February 24, beginning at 7:00 PM: This week, on Wednesday evening, we will be continuing our reading and discussion of the First Letter to the Corinthians. (Last week we left off at Chapter 10, Verse 28.) Each week is an event unto itself, so, please, even if you haven't joined us before, feel free to join us this week, or at any time in the future.

Bible Study Companion Book: If you are interested in reading a book that will serve as a companion to the efforts we are presently making in Bible Study, this book may be a resource for you: *First and Second Corinthians: Straight From the Heart*. This book is written by Fr. Lawrence Farley, who is a priest in British Columbia, Canada, in a parish of the Orthodox Church in America's Archdiocese of Canada. It is published by Conciliar Press, Chesterton, Indiana (<https://store.ancientfaith.com/biblical-studies/>). Fr. Lawrence has written a whole series of accessible commentaries on parts of the Bible. In particular, his commentaries are written to be appreciated by and be useful to Orthodox Christian lay people.

Wednesday Morning Matins Services, via “Zoom”, at 8:00 a.m.: Each Wednesday morning we serve Matins (Morning Prayers) as an online service via video teleconference. Watch your email inbox for details, including the necessary ZOOM link to join the online service.

New Vacuum Cleaner Required: We need a new vacuum cleaner at Church. If you are willing to donate one, or meet the financial costs of the Parish purchasing a new vacuum cleaner, please, contact, Fr. John, at your convenience.

Support from the Parish: If you require financial or pastoral support during this vexing and challenging time, contact Fr. John, personally and confidentially, and he will endeavor to help you get the assistance that you need. All such contacts will be treated with strict confidentiality and great sensitivity. **Don't be shy: If you need help, please, do contact Fr. John.**

Donations to the Parish: Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. Donations to the Parish may be submitted via checks made out to and mailed to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329. Also, a PayPal Donation “button” (<https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>) 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%, plus \$0.30 per transaction. (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 the 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.'"