



PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 149/17 February 2019



Thirty-Third Sunday after Pentecost (Publican and the Pharisee – Triodion Begins)

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode Pl. 1.

Let us worship the Word, Who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He

was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

Seasonal Kontakion. Mode 4.

Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican. Let us cry out to the Savior, "Have mercy on us, for through You alone are we reconciled."

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1. Psalm 11.7,1

**You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man
has failed.**

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, 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 Iconion, 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 Gospel According to Matthew 18:10-14

The Lord said 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 you 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 everyone who exalts himself will be

humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Word of the week – Reflection On the Publican and the Pharisee

Let your prayer be completely simple. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase.

- *St. John Climacus*

Faith and contrition make prayer and supplication for the remission of sins effective, once evil deeds have been renounced, but despair and hardness of heart make it ineffectual. Thanksgiving for the benefits received from God is made acceptable by humility and not looking down on those who lack them. It is rendered unacceptable, however, by being conceited, as if those benefits resulted from our own efforts and knowledge, and by condemning those who have not received them. The Pharisee's behaviour and words prove he was afflicted with both these diseases. He went up to the Temple to give thanks, not to make supplication and, like a wretched fool, mingled conceit and condemnation of others with his thanksgiving. For he stood and prayed thus with himself: "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers" (Luke 18:11).

- *St. Gregory Palamas*

A man went into the forest to choose a tree from which to make roof-beams. And he saw two trees, one beside the other. One was smooth and tall, but had rotted away inside, and the other was rough on the outside and ugly, but its core was healthy. The man sighed, and said to himself: "What use is this tree to me if it is rotten inside and useless for beams? The other it is rough and ugly, is at least healthy on the inside and so, if I put a bit more effort into it, I can use it for roof-beams for my house." And, without thinking any more about it, he chose that tree.

So will God choose between two men for His house, and will choose not the one who appears outwardly righteous, but the one whose heart is filled with God's healthy righteousness.

- *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

Amma Syncletiki said: "Imitate the Publican and you will not be condemned with the Pharisee. Choose the meekness of Moses and you will find your heart which is a rock changed into a spring of water."

- *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

Why does it say: *he prayed with himself*? Why not aloud? Because God listens more carefully to what his heart says than his lips. What a man thinks and feels as he prays to God is more important to God than the words his tongue forms. The tongue is capable of

delusion, but the heart does not delude: it shows a man as he is – black or white.

- *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

When lately we made mention of the Pharisee and the Publican, and hypothetically yoked two chariots out of virtue and vice; we pointed out each truth, how great is the gain of humbleness of mind, and how great the damage of pride. For this, even when conjoined with righteousness and fastings and tithes, fell behind; while that, even when yoked with sin, out-stripped the Pharisee's pair, even though the charioteer it had was a poor one. For what was worse than the Publican? But all the same since he made his soul contrite, and called himself a sinner; which indeed he was. He surpassed the Pharisee, who had both fastings to tell of and tithes; and was removed from any vice... Knowing therefore these things, beloved, even if we should have mounted to the very pinnacle of virtue, let us consider ourselves last of all, having learned that pride is able to cast down even from the heavens themselves him who takes not heed, and humbleness of mind to bear up on high from the very abyss of sins him who knows how to be sober. For this it was that placed the Publican before the Pharisee...

- *St. John Chrysostom*



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Wednesday <i>February 20</i>	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Friday <i>February 22</i>	5:30 pm	Akathist
Saturday <i>February 23</i>	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy & Memorial Vespers & Litia
Sunday <i>February 24</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy – Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Announcements:

- **Happy name day** to Theodore Yanka (St. Theodore – Feb. 17th).
- **Triodion begins today** – There are no fasting restrictions this week.
- **Bible study** – Thursday, February 21st, at 6:00 pm.
- **40-Day Memorial for George Chicoloff** – Saturday, Feb. 23rd, at 2pm.
- **House blessings** – Please contact Fr. John to arrange a time.
- **Icon donations** – Please consider contributing to the purchase of an icon for the church. A list of icons is available in the narthex.
- **Coffee hour** is sponsored by Sandra Nasto.

