

The Publican 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. 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.



"Beloved, "He that would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do right; let him seek peace and pursue it." 1 Peter 3:10

Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule:

Sunday Services: Matins at 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

Wednesday and Saturday Vespers Service at 6:30 PM

Confessions:

Saturday 6:00 to 6:30 PM; Sunday 8:30 to 8:50 AM;

Wednesday 6:00 to 6:30 PM; By appointment with Fr. Peter.

Sunday School Classes:

For all children between the ages of 3 and 12 years, each Sunday immediately following Communion.

Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, FL

The Very Reverend Father Peter Shportun (Pastor/Priest)

Telephones: 561. 965-5007 (Church Office) 561.632-7066 (Fr. Peter's Cellular)

Website: www.stmaryschurchwpb.org

Banquet Hall Rentals: Maribel Perez - (561) 721-5696

A Parish of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast;

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



Sunday Worship Guide and Bulletin

February 9, 2025

Leave-taking of the Presentation of our Lord

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

We are glad you have chosen to pray with us at Saint Mary Orthodox Church. Today, THE DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM is celebrated. The service text begins on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR FEBRUARY 9th

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore, God hath blessed thee forever. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of righteous Simeon; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the peoples fall under Thee. (*Refrain*)

A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation.

- During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, the Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ is sung. Following the entrance, then the following hymns.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE CHURCH (Dormition of the Theotokos) IN TONE ONE

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as it meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

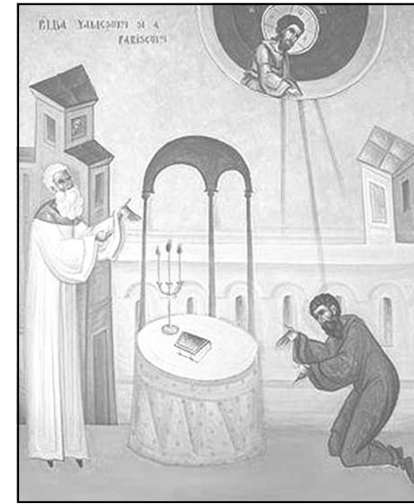
(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

*Prokeimenon Verse: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. 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, and my sufferings; and 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 Parable of the Publican and Pharisee



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 Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

The name of this Sunday is taken 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 extortioners, 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 forgiven 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 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.

Continued >

TIME TO HAVE YOUR HOME BLESSED!

Each year following the Feast of Theophany, it is the tradition of the Orthodox Church to have the priest come and bless our homes. Through the prayers and by the sprinkling of Holy Water blessed on Theophany, the priest invokes God's blessings and protection upon the home and those who live in it, consecrating to God.

To schedule a Home Blessing, you may contact Fr. Peter by doing one of the following:

*Telephone or Text (Fr. Peter's cellular # is 561.632-7066)

*Email at frpshport@gmail.com

*Speak to him following services or during Coffee Hour

When the Fr. Peter comes, please have as many family members present as possible. On a table include an icon and a lit candle; a list of names (living and departed) you want Fr. Peter to pray for. You may also include anything that you may want to have blessed (i.e. icon, cross, personal item, etc.) This is also a wonderful time for you and Fr. Peter to visit. (Note: It is not expected to feed Fr. Peter unless prior arrangements are made).

Fr. Peter will continue to bless homes through February 28th.

2025 Saint Mary's Hafli 'Mediterranean Night' Saturday, February 22nd

Doors Open at 7:30 PM (Cash Bar Cocktail Hour)

Dinner at 8:00 PM

Entertainment by:

Amir Askander

Catering by Sandy James Fine Foods and Productions

\$100 in advance; \$110.00 at the door

For tickets and information contact:

Nabil Aboukhaled 561.502-8588, or Jane Pasley 561.389-0346

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (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, extortionists, 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."

MEGALYNARION OF THE PRESENTATION IN TONE THREE

(Sung instead of 'It is truly meet...')

O Theotokos, thou hope of all Christians; keep and shelter and preserve them that set their hope in thee.

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful contemplate a prefiguring: Every male child that openeth the womb is holy unto God. Therefore, do we magnify the first-born Word, the Son of the Father Who is without beginning, the first-born Child of a Mother who hath not known wedlock.

COMMUNION HYMN OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

- *After receiving Communion, please read the 'Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion' on pages 128 -131 in the Red Service Book.*

TRISAGION (MEMORIAL) SERVICE

A 40 Day Trisagion Service will be prayed today for the repose of Gloria Yedlinsky. Offered by Scott & Nadine Smith. Memory Eternal!

REMOVAL OF MARRIAGE CROWNS

Chase Birchenough and Shannon Pasley who were united in the Sacrament of Marriage on Sunday, February 2nd. May the Lord our God crown their marriage with glory and honor!

- *Sunday School Classes are held each Sunday morning following Communion. Please allow the children to receive Communion first in order that classes may begin promptly.*

INSTALLATION AND BLESSING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Peter will install and bless the 2025 Parish Council. Members of the Parish Council are as follows: Mark Samra (*Chairman*), Gary Johnson (*Vice Chairman*), Sam Pasley (*Treasurer*), Shannon Pasley (*Secretary*). *Members*: Nabil Aboukhaled, Judy Chalhub, Crystal Senore, Elena Sora, Crystal Senore, Michael Zein; Steve Antolik (*Choir*), Jane Pasley (*Ladies Society*), Pam Weidmann (*Sunday School*). May the Lord our God bless their ministry to our church.

OFFERINGS

HOLY BREAD

- Offered by Scott & Nadine Smith in memory of Gloria Yedlinsky (40 days).
- Offered for the health and well-being of Valerica, Daniela, Andrei, Rachel, Fr. Gherman, Petru, Sarah, Basil, Lucia, Maria, Ioana, Joachim.

ALTAR VIGIL CANDLE

- In glory of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- In memory of Gloria Yedlinsky, offered by Scott & Nadine Smith.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

FOR THE LIVING

“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” James 5: 14

For the Good Health of the Servants of God: Archpriest Michael & Matushka Annette Zaparyniuk, Michael, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Leon & Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Raouf & Virginie Saballeil, Sabah Shalhoub, Natalia Powell.

For peace in the Middle East, the Ukraine and throughout the world.

For all Christians, and people suffering from violence, war, persecution, captivity, hunger, and homelessness here and throughout this world.

For those serving in our armed forces here and abroad: Christopher Smith, Jonathan Shportun, Alexios Gavrilos.

FOR THE DEPARTED

“With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest O Lord to the souls of Thy servants...”

Ethan Densley (*newly departed 2/3/25*), Zakia Salloum (*newly departed 1/16/25*), Roula Janin (*1/13/25*), Gloria Yedlinsky (*newly departed 1/1/25*), Jodet Rae (*8/4/24*), George Souaid (*7/7/24*), Alice (Esper) Kelly (*6/13/24*), Elia Jabbour (*6/6/24*).

COFFEE HOUR

A beautiful way to celebrate an occasion, honor a loved one's memory or simply show your love for Saint Mary's is to host a Sunday Coffee Hour. It is also a great way to contribute to our parish fellowship. Coffee Hour hosts are needed for the coming months. Coffee Hours need not be extravagant, - muffins, donuts, fruits and drinks (the church will provide the coffee). Please speak with Jane Pasley or Khouryia Myriam for more details and to host a Coffee Hour.

Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by Pamela Weidmann and family.

UPCOMING AT SAINT MARY'S

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Today (February 9th) at 12:00 PM, in the Conference Room.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, February 11th: 6:30 - 8:00 PM, in the Banquet Hall.

We will continue the study of the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome to attend. Please bring your bibles. To listen to the Podcast of all our Bible Studies: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kings-patriot-podcast>

VISITING THE ZOO

On Sunday, February 16th, our Parents Group is sponsoring an outing for children and their parents to Palm Beach Zoo following next Sunday's International Luncheon. If you have not done so already, please speak to Pamela Weidmann to indicate your participation.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON

Sunday, February 16th

In the Banquet Hall during Coffee Hour

Please bring a dish for 10 to 12 people representing your ethnic background, or your favorite recipe.

SOUL (MEATFARE) SATURDAY DIVINE LITURGY AND TRISAGION (MEMORIAL) PRAYERS

Saturday, February 22nd - 9:00 AM

If you wish to have the names of your departed loved ones remembered in prayer on Soul Saturday, please include their names on the commemoration list in the Church Narthex.