



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Father Bob, Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul & Pani Judy Stoll, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Father Angelo Artemas, Father John Haluszczak, Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Protopresbyter Gerald Ozlanski, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary

Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczyk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Terri Berceli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat & Jan Jennings, Mike Ruzzi, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Sharon Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Theresa Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita

& Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko, John, Kris, & Kait, Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, Kitty Mary, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Lillian Skowvron, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Adam Snow, the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry Tkacik, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, Zoe Oswalt—Fr. Bob's cousin [cancer], Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser [cancer], Bob Mazzuca [cancer], Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega [knee replacement], Christine Mohamed & family, Sue Demko, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Scott McDougall, Andrew Zelleznick, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC Jackie May, Barbara Morvay, David Salsar, N&O, Randy & Adrienne Kuny, Vince Berardinelli, Mason Martin [Karns City HS QB] & family, Martin Mrvos, Jeff McCoy, Lauren & Sloane Valentina Persico, Alexis & baby Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Peter Popichak [Father Bob's cousin], Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Nicholas & Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], and Lauren & Dan... We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our February babies: David Shirley on the 1st, Kevin Tkacik on the 6th, and Kyle James Weiser on the 12th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless their families & friends

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be SAFE!!! God Bless!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and ALL service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. ***If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.***

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 956-6626.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

**SUNDAY, February 16 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING; SUNDAY OF
THE PRODIGAL SON; HOLY & RIGHTEOUS SYMEON THE GOD-BEARER &
ANNA THE PROPHETESS; PROPHET AZARIAS; MARTYRS PAPIAS,
DIODORUS, & CLAUDIANUS; MARTYRS ADRIAN & EUBULUS; MARTYR
BLAISE**

Tone 1

1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Hebrews 9:11-14

Luke 15:11-32; Luke 2:25-38

Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nickolai Pivtoraiko, Evelyn Burlack, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke, Anna Debick, & Peter Popichak [Fr. Bob's cousin]—Fr. Bob

**SUNDAY, February 23 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MEATFARE SUNDAY; SUNDAY OF THE LAST
JUDGMENT; HIEROMARTYR CHARALAMPUS-BISHOP OF MAGNESIA IN
THESSALY & MARTYRS PORPHYRIUS & BAPTUS; MARTYRS ENNATHA,
VALENTINA, & PAULA OF PALESTINE; VENERABLE PROCHORUS OF
PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT ANNA-WIFE OF PRINCE YAROSLAV**

Tone 2
1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2
Matthew 25:31-46

SUNDAY, March 02 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
36TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; FORGIVENESS
SUNDAY; GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE THE TYRO; SAINT MARIAMNE-
SISTER OF APOSTLE PHILIP; UNCOVERING THE RELICS OF MARTYR
MENAS THE MELODIUS OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT THEODORE THE SILENT
OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 3
Romans 13:11-14:4
Matthew 6:14-21

Litany in Blessed Memory of Mary Smith, John Metrick, Andrew Hanczar, Anna Lawrence, Daria Masur, Michael Cicio, Charles Shumsky, Terry Reinhart, Jean Stutchell, Joseph Vangrin, Frank Riznow, & Michael Holupka—Fr. Bob
Monday, March 03 *Great Lent—the Great Fast--Begins*

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 16 FEBRUARY 2025

34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING; SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON; HOLY & RIGHTEOUS SYMEON THE GOD-BEARER & ANNA THE PROPHETESS; PROPHET AZARIAS; MARTYRS PAPIAS, DIODORUS, & CLAUDIANUS; MARTYRS ADRIAN & EUBULUS; MARTYR BLAISE

TROPARION—TONE 1

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...

KONTAKION—TONE 3

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father;
And among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me.
And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal:
I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father;
Receive me a penitent and make me as one of Thy hired Servants.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.

Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished!

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:

Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 1

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.

ALLELUIA VERSES

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!

Zacchaeus Sunday Luke 19:1-10

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (KJV)

The arrival of Zacchaeus Sunday on the Church's calendar is a wake-up call for believers to ready themselves for the approach of Great Lent. Now is the time to turn attention to the condition of the soul.

Today is a moment to think about the need for repentance throughout earthly life. Great Lent offers the structure, inspiration, and guidance for complete, honest, and sincere repentance.

Believers exit the Baptismal font united with the Lord Jesus Christ. The journey to the Kingdom of God can be very long. The journey to the Kingdom is filled with dangers, temptations, and perils to the soul.

The Church offers the nourishment and guidance for believers to travel the narrow path to the Kingdom. Repentance is essential throughout life. Believers are constantly challenged to remain faithfully on the road to the Kingdom.

Repentance enables the believer to unite and reunite with Jesus Christ when wayward paths are taken. Immeasurable joy in Jesus Christ is experienced at Baptism. Immeasurable joy occurs when a believer repents.

Zacchaeus is an excellent example of repentance. He put forth considerable effort to see and approach Christ. He gave of his wealth to the poor. He restored bountifully to those he deceived.

Jesus' love, care, and forgiveness are evident in the life of Zacchaeus. Jesus Visited Zacchaeus' house. Jesus plainly said salvation came to the house. The Gospel states clearly Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

Each believer is lost to a certain degree. Personal knowledge about Jesus Christ falls short of the full nature and glory of Christ. Personal efforts to follow Jesus Christ always entails a certain amount of sin that needs removed.

The Gospel account of Zacchaeus assures believers of Jesus' love for sinners willing to repent. Zacchaeus's actions open an avenue of hope for believers seeking to unite and reunite with Christ.

Each person has issues in life. Each person discovers personal sins when honest assessments are made of the heart, mind, and soul. Keeping the condition of the soul in focus throughout life is of utmost importance.

The soul's importance cannot be overestimated. Only through Jesus Christ can purity come to the soul. Only through forgiveness and the love of Christ can the believer travel the path to God's Kingdom and eternal life.

Daily life in the home and in the community challenges the believer to live in purity. Perils to the soul occur in relationships in the home and in the community.

Temptations occur everywhere.

Greed, anger, and ungodly thoughts arise and affect the heart, mind, and soul.

God's Holy Church offers the teachings and nourishment to address temptations, dangers, and perils to the soul.

Zacchaeus is one example of repentance. The Church offers countless examples of repentance in the lives of the saints and martyrs through the centuries.

Being attentive to the teachings of the Church strengthens believers' faithfulness.

Faithfulness to Christ inspires believers to ward off and repel dangers to the soul. Zacchaeus showed by his climbing of the tree the willingness to put forth effort to draw near to Christ.

Living in Jesus Christ requires effort throughout life. Effort is needed to go to church regularly during the year. Expending energy is essential to live according to the teachings of the Church.

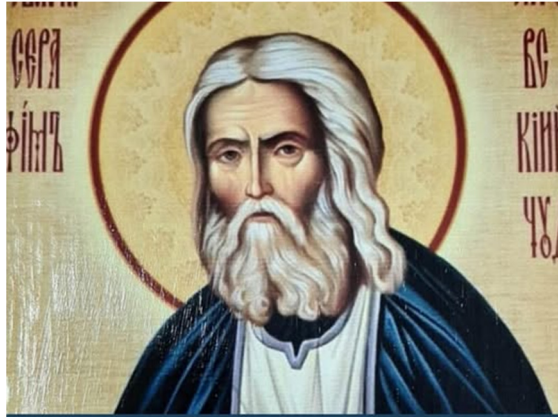
Praying daily takes unyielding commitment. Welcoming that which is good for the heart, mind, and soul to enter the self takes vigilance and attentiveness. Temptations and perils are repelled only with firm resolve.

Jesus Christ responded to Zacchaeus' initiative to draw near. Jesus Christ welcomes believers drawing near in faith. Serious believers view the arrival of Zacchaeus Sunday with great anticipation.

The approach of Great Lent bodes well for the future. Great Lent opens the door wide for hope in the heart, mind, and soul. Opportunities to address personal sin deep in the heart, mind, and soul exist throughout Great Lent.

No greater joy exists than unity with Jesus Christ. Repentance makes the joy in Jesus Christ a reality. Thank God for Zacchaeus' example. Thank God for Jesus' Christ's forgiveness, goodness, and love.

Zacchaeus Sunday. Venerable and God-bearing Father Euthymius the Great. January 20/February 2, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic



The saints aren't made from other material, they're humans just like us. In this they differ: they took seriously the question of their salvation.

St. Seraphim of Sarov

Righteousness

Matthew 3:15-And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. (KJV)

Righteousness is referenced in several different places in St. Matthew's Gospel. Believers on the journey to the Kingdom of God do well to consider righteousness. Righteousness is prominent in the growth of serious believers in the Christian life. Believers are expected to actively pursue growth in Jesus Christ throughout life.

Matthew 5:6-Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (KJV)

The Beatitudes proclaimed at the Divine Liturgy always reference righteousness. Each Divine Liturgy is an active prayer as well as a new learning experience. Believers benefit from being attentive to and learning from the Divine Liturgy. Participation in the Divine Liturgy is an intended active life-changing experience. The hunger in the soul yearns for righteousness in celebrating the Divine Liturgy.

Matthew 5:10-Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (KJV)

Righteousness comes through living in Christ and repelling all that is not of Christ. The believer is changed by Christ as the believer conforms to Christ's teachings. Believers are expected to actively adhere to and learn from Christ's teachings. The Church offers Christ's teachings to the believer throughout earthly life. Adhering to Jesus Christ's teachings includes suffering for Christ at times in life.

Matthew 5:20-For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. (KJV)

Following Christ does not exempt a believer from experiencing the crosses in life. The Lord Jesus Christ established the lasting example of how to deal life's crosses. Believers benefit from constantly evaluating the state of personal growth in Christ. The Holy Gospel helps believers to measure and assess personal growth in Christ. The Gospel can be used to measure personal growth in Christ and spur repentance.

Matthew 6:33-But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)

Stagnancy in the Christian life denies the believer the full opportunities of life. The journey from the Baptismal font to God's Kingdom requires earnest effort. Sin needs to be repelled and the righteousness of the Gospel actively embraced. Christ's love manifests in the believer choosing to actively live in Jesus Christ. Righteousness is a primary Christian goal throughout the journey of earthly life.

*Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome. Holy Babylas of Sicily. Venerable Xenia of Petersburg. January 24/February 6, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Luke 18:10-14

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, 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. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon 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 that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (KJV)

The current Gospel is a lesson in the benefit of humility. The publican recognized his personal sinfulness and acknowledged it before the Lord. The publican did not praise his own goodness. He sought God's mercy.

Today is a time for honest personal self-examination. Now is the time to accurately judge and acknowledge personal sinfulness before the Lord. Great Lent is approaching. It is time to improve the condition of the soul.

Caring for the soul and seeking purity of the soul is a life-long necessity. Sinfulness enters daily life and must be fiercely addressed. The Lord God is present to help believers cleanse personal sins.

The publican is a lasting example of how to turn to the Lord and seek forgiveness. The Pharisee is an example of what not to do. The Pharisee focused on what he considered his goodness. He did not see his own sins.

Believers grow in Christ when seeing and taking responsibility for their personal sins. Growth in Jesus Christ is unlimited for those willing to vigorously root out and repel personal sin.

God's Holy Church proclaims the Gospel of the Publican and the Pharisee each year for believers to think carefully about personal sin. The soul benefits from the forgiveness possible in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ welcomes believers seriously seeking forgiveness of personal sins. Jesus Christ is present to forgive and blot out personal sins. Jesus Christ will cleanse and brighten the soul.

The Pharisee had a high opinion of himself. He was blinded to his own shortcomings. The Pharisee did not see sinfulness as a part of his life. He looked down on others including the Publican.

Each believer has sufficient work to do on his or her-self. Believers do not benefit by judging others or comparing themselves to others. The standards for the Christian life are clear in Jesus Christ and in Christ's teachings.

The lives of the saints and martyrs demonstrate the value of personal humility and waging war against personal sin. Wise believers heed the lessons of the present Gospel. Wise believers honestly seek to root out personal sin.

The Gospel shines light on the condition of each soul. Jesus Christ shines through the Gospel to each heart, mind, and soul. God's Holy Church offers the loving environment for cleansing of the soul.

Mindful believers heed the content of the Gospel. Attentive believers apply the Gospel to personal life and seek to grow in Christ. Jesus Christ's Light and Life shines through the Gospel to those with eyes to see and ears to hear.

Each Divine Liturgy is an opportunity to grow in Jesus Christ. Each Divine Liturgy is a direct experience with Jesus Christ. The Gospel provides Divine nourishment for each heart, mind, and soul.

Hearers of the Gospel of the Publican and the Pharisee respond in their individual ways. Adhering to and following the teachings of Jesus Christ rests within each heart, mind, and soul.

God's Holy Church proclaims the Gospel for the benefit of all willing to listen. Peace and joy await willing listeners to the Gospel. Fullness in life and eternal life await those heeding the Gospel teachings.

Thank God for the humility and honesty of the Publican. Thank God for the Church proclaiming the Gospel. Now is the time to seriously pray for God's mercy and forgiveness.

Thank God for mercy being available to sinners. Thank God for the opportunity to repent of sins and be renewed in Jesus Christ. Each moment is an opportunity to repent and begin anew in Christ.

Each Divine Liturgy offers newness and growth in Jesus Christ. The Church stands against the wiles of the devil and the evil of the world. The Church offers God's goodness, mercy, and forgiveness.

The time of life comes only once. Moments of life are not repeated. Believers choose whether to willingly live the life in Christ. Sinfulness has no place in the life in Christ.

Each believer embraces Jesus Christ at Baptism. Following Jesus Christ is intended for the time remaining in life after exiting the Baptismal font. It is always timely to repent of sin to follow Jesus Christ.

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. Transfer of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom. St. Danilo of Karlovac. January 27/February 9, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

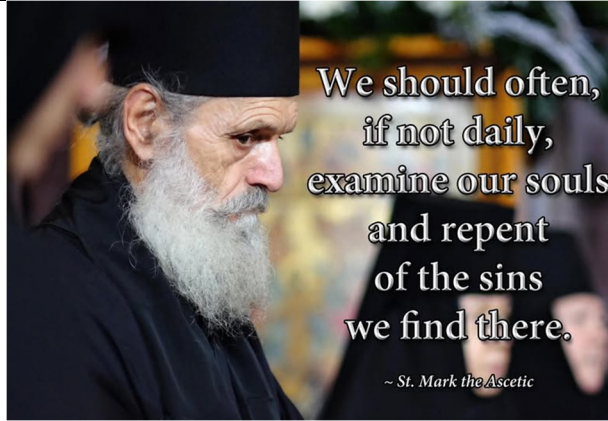


They asked an Abbess: "What are you doing here, locked up in the Monastery for so many years?" She replied: "I am praying to God to place you in Paradise."

***A poem by St. Gregory the Theologian, d. 390.
A prayer for the close of day.***

**Word of God, and Truth itself,
I consecrated this day to you;
But I have played you false.
Night now falls upon me
And finds my own lamp barely bright.
This I prayed over, and foresaw,**

**But even so my feet still stumbled,
And so darkness fell around me,
That hater of salvation.
Oh, my Christ!
Rekindle my little lamp,
And shine on me once more.**



I hate to do this again, but...

We used a large portion of our oil supply when the temperature went below zero and stayed cold for the past three weeks. We are faced with buying another round of heating oil, hopefully before the price goes up again.

If you can find it in your heart—and your budget!—to help us out with a donation, that would be greatly appreciated.

You can send checks to:

**Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
PO Box 3
Slickville, PA 15684-0003
ATTN: OIL FUND**

Please put Heating Oil Donation in the memo section—we will send back an acknowledgement for your records...

Thank you again for your support, and especially for your prayers!

God Bless you all!

Father Bob and the Holy Ghost Parish Family