

### *Humility is the Mark of a Sinner*

In the case of that Pharisee who was praying, the things he said were true. Since he was saying them out of pride and the tax collector was telling his sins with humility, the confession of sins of the last was more pleasing to God than the acknowledgment of the almsgiving of the first. It is more difficult to confess one's sins than one's righteousness. God looks on the one who carries a heavy burden. The tax collector therefore appeared to Him to have had more to bear than the Pharisee had. He went down more justified than the Pharisee did, only because of the fact he was humble. If this Pharisee had been sinful, his prayer would have added iniquity to iniquity, but the Lord purified the tax collector of his iniquity. If just by praying, the Pharisee's prayer provoked God's wrath, then as a result of that provocation, the prayer of the tax collector proved all the more potent.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

The stern Pharisee, who in his self pride not only boasted of himself but also discredited the tax collector in the presence of God, made his justice void by being guilty of pride. Instead of the Pharisee, the tax collector went down justified, because he had given glory to God, the Holy One. He did not dare lift his eyes but sought only to plead for mercy. He accused himself by his posture, by striking his breast, and by entertaining no other motive except propitiation. Be on your guard, therefore, and bear in mind this example of severe loss sustained through arrogance. The one guilty of insolent behavior suffered the loss of his justice and forfeited his reward by his bold self-reliance. He was judged inferior to a humble man and a sinner because in his self-exaltation he did not await the judgment of God but pronounced it himself. Never place yourself above anyone, not even great sinners. Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many terrible transgressions.

*St. Basil the Great*

## SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14)*



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима та Анни  
**SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!*  
 1396 Linden Street, Front Royal, Virginia 22630 • www.ssjoachimandanna.org  
 ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com • (540) 551-3591 • In case of emergency: (202) 262-5040  
 Connect with us on Facebook and watch our live streams: fb.me/ssjoachimandanna

Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator    Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar  
 Subdeacon Kyle Hayes                      Subdeacon David Wallace

**Christ is born! Glorify Him! Христос Рождється! Славимо Його!**

**Reader Great Vespers: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 5:00pm**  
**Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am**  
**Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am**

**JANUARY 24/25, 2026 – SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE;  
 THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIODION (TONE 8)**

*From the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee until the Sunday of the Prodigal Son there is a general exemption from fasting; we may consume meat this Friday.*

**GIVING REPORT** - The in-pew collection for Sunday, January 18 was \$1,494.00.

**FIRST CONFESSION CATECHESIS** - If you have a child who should be preparing to receive the Holy Mystery of Repentance and Confession this year, please contact Elizabeth: mrsewallace@gmail.com

**FAMILY CATECHESIS** - On Wed, **January 28**, after the 6pm Divine Liturgy, Subdeacon David will offer a refresher of the *ABCs of Ukrainian Catholic Worship*. Are you **Anxious about the Anthology?** **Baffled by the Byzantine rites?** **Confounded by its complexity?** We'll review how to sing and remember the eight tones, how to follow the Divine Liturgy in our worship books, and where to find resources to help our participation in our liturgies and services. All are invited. We'll have potluck supper. Two weeks later, on **February 11**, we'll have a similar review of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts as we prepare for our Lenten services. The Great Fast begins Mon, Feb 16.



**Because of the expected inclement weather this weekday, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee on Saturday, January 24, 4:00pm. There will not be a Divine Liturgy on Sunday. This does, of course, fulfill the obligation.**

On the Publican and the Pharisee from *Christ Our Pascha Catechism*:

568. The services of the Triodia guide the Christian liturgically from an awareness of their own sinfulness to a spiritual transfiguration. Great Lent is preceded by four preparatory Sundays: the Sunday of the Publican (Tax Collector) and the Pharisee; the Sunday of the Prodigal Son; Meatfare Sunday; and Cheesefare Sunday. As preparation for Great Lent, on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Church calls us to imitate the humbleness of the Publican and shun the pride of the Pharisee.

782. Repentance forms the foundation of Christian spirituality, since all movement toward God, inaugurated by him and suggested by his grace, is characterized by repentance. The beginning of this movement is a fundamental interior change (conversion) which brings about a new way of seeing oneself, others, and the Lord God. The goal of this movement is liberation from sin and a return to the fullness of life in God. During Matins on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee we sing: "Open to me the doors of repentance, O Giver of life. As we worship in your temple this morning, teach us how to purify the temples of our bodies, and in your compassion, purify me by the goodness of your mercies."

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Fr Mark Fesniak, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gaush, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahon, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Phillip Rexrode, Ivanna Richardson & Family, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Karena Tapsak, and Fr George Worschak. *Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com.*

**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee;**  
**Holy Father Gregory the Theologian**

**Troparion, Tone 8 (p. 357).** You came down from on high, O Merciful One,\* and accepted three days of burial\* to free us from our sufferings.\* O Lord, our life and our resurrection,\* glory be to You.

**Troparion, Tone 1.** Like a shepherd's flute, O Father Gregory\* your theology vanquished the trumpets of orators,\* for searching the depths of the spirit,\* beauty of speech was increased in you.\* Pray Christ God that our souls may be saved.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,*

**Kontakion, Tone 3.** O glorious saint, your tongue, versed in theology,\* loosed the webs of vain philosophers;\* you adorned the Church with a robe of true belief woven on high.\* Wearing it she cries with us, your children:\* Rejoice, O Father, highest mind of theology.

*Now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Kontakion, Tone 3 (p. 602).** Let us bring sighs of sorrow to the Lord as did the Publican\* and approach the Master as sinners,\* for He desires salvation for everyone.\* He grants forgiveness to all who repent.\* For as God, the One-who-is, co-eternal with the Father, He became flesh for us.

**Prokeimenon I, Tone 8 (p. 360).** Pray and give praise to the Lord our God. *verse:* In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel.

**Prokeimenon II, Tone 1.** My mouth shall speak wisdom\* and the meditation of my heart understanding.

**Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10–15.** Timothy my Son, now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of

them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**Alleluia, Tone 8 (or Christmas melody, p. 125).** *verse 1:* Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Saviour. *verse 2:* Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms. *verse 3:* Give heed, O my people, to my law, incline your ears to the words of my mouth. *verse 4:* I will open my mouth in parables, and proclaim secrets from of old.

**Gospel: Luke 18:10–14.** The Lord said his parable, “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**Communion Verses.** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.\* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;\* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

**Alternate ambo prayer, p. 603.**

*This is the final week for Christmas carols.*