

January 21, 2024  
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*  
*Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 1: pg.125 and for Publican & Pharisee: Pg. 215

Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN., JAN. 21**  
**8:30 A.M.**  
**SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and PHARISEE**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Gordon Jn. Baptiste**, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

*“Keep Holy” Sunday and the Holydays of Obligation*

**SUN., JAN. 28**  
**8:30 A.M.**  
**SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Lori & Mark**, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh

**Non-Fasting Week**

This week (from the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee to the Sunday of the Prodigal Son) according to our Liturgical calendar, is a fast free week. The prayer of the Pharisee was to boast that he fasts twice a week. In order to eliminate all pride before the beginning of the Great Fast, the holy fathers directed that we do not fast at all this week.

**We are taking down the Christmas decorations in the Church TODAY after Liturgy. If you are able, please stay and help. Thank you!**

*Christ is Among us! He is and Shall be! ~ Christos posred’i nas! Jest’ i budet!*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

January 23: Judy Dzumba, January 24: Mary Elizabeth Olack, David Barnette

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

January 28: Joseph & Marian Yurosky, 40 years!

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

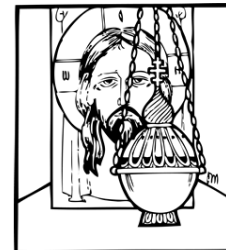
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

**Epistle Readers – January 21: Dan Pinchot – January 28: Joanne Futato**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – January 21: M. Bobanic – January 28: R. Mudron**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

January 21 - 27, 2024

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

**+ John A. Dulick, Jr.**

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Sister, Dottie Hagan

There is a great difference between the Publican and the Pharisee in today's Gospel reading. The Pharisee didn't know who he really was. He kept telling God how different he was from other men. But he never said who he actually was. That is why he could do nothing but talk. The Publican, on the other hand, knew exactly who he was... "I am a sinner," he said. Because he knew himself, he was able to do something about it. He asked for forgiveness.

*“Seeing the dignity to which the humble are raised, and the deep abyss into which the proud fall, let us imitate the virtue of the Publican, and despise the sins of the Pharisee.”*

From Matins

### Upcoming Important Dates:

January 30 .....Three Hierarchs Holy Day  
February 2 ..... Meeting of Our Lord Holy Day  
February 3 ..... First All Souls Saturday  
February 4 ..... Meat-fare Sunday  
February 11 ..... Cheese-fare Sunday  
February 12 ..... First Day of the Great Fast

*We are taking donations throughout the year for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have items to donate, please leave them in the Center marked as for the Flea Market.*

## The Pharisee & The Tax Collector

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14b (NIV)

Each line of the puzzle has one word hidden in a list of random letters. The blank space is a missing letter that belongs to that word. Fill in the missing letter.

1.	B	O	U	E	X	A		T	L	X	Y	H	Z
2.	P	T	E	M	P	L		F	S	E	X	O	N
3.	Q	J	Y	T	M	E		C	Y	D	B	F	X
4.	L	H	E	A	V	E		J	Y	Q	X	U	H
5.	U	V	E	K	P	R		Y	H	F	U	A	V
6.	E	W	N	R	S	I		N	E	R	K	Y	G
7.	P	A	R	A	B	L		T	Q	F	V	Q	Y
8.	C	R	U	J	Y	H		M	B	L	E	Q	W

PARABLE  
TEMPLE

PRAY  
HEAVEN

MERCY  
SINNER

EXALT  
HUMBLE



### Stay for Fellowship Hour

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are thankful that you have come to worship with us today. We invite you to extend to join us following the Sunday Divine Liturgy for Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts every Sunday!

*We invite EVERYONE to **STAY** and join us.*



### A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the first pre-Lenten Sunday, focuses on the famous story from St. Luke's Gospel. It is a story of how **humility** is what is able to "justify" us before God. In many ways, humility is the most significant of virtues, because humility is about knowing who we are and who God is, and not getting the two confused!

Humility is not about debasing ourselves or thinking poorly of ourselves. Rather, it is thinking of ourselves in relation to God and his goodness and grace. It is not about considering ourselves *worthless* - we certainly aren't! It is about recognizing that we are *unworthy* and the God's mercy and grace are what give us our human dignity.

Humility is also about how we interact with each other, knowing that God loves, cares for, and is merciful to the other just as much as he is to me. Humility includes allowing God's grace to flow *through me* to my neighbors. St. Gregory of Sinai wrote,

*True humility does not say humble words, nor does it assume humble looks, it does not force oneself either to think humbly of oneself, or to abuse oneself in belittlement.... The manifestations and the various aspects of humility, humility itself is a grace, given from above. There are two kinds of humility, as the holy fathers teach: to deem oneself lowest of all beings, and to ascribe to God all one's good actions. The first is the beginning, the second is the end.*

To be humble is, as St. Paul teaches us, to:

*Let love be genuine....Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* (Romans 12.9-10)

Brothers and sisters, as we are just a few weeks away from Lent, let us pray earnestly for the grace of true humility: that we may not think less of ourselves, but think of ourselves less; and that we may know our dependence on the mercy of God; and that we may outdo one another in showing honor. And may the Lord who has begun a good work in us, bring it to pass.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Geoff*



## ***Sunday of Publican and Pharisee***

*"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."*

Today in the Gospel we are reminded that there are two "ways" in which we can walk in this life and the outcome or goal of those ways are strikingly different. The first of those "ways" is the way of the world, in which financial success and reputation are prioritized and the ultimate goal is personal aggrandizement, no matter the "way" in which it is attained. The second "way" is the way of God, in which charity and honesty are not only prioritized, but are the way and the goal as well.



In other words, the second "way," the way of God, is a good in itself, for this "way" is the life of God or eternal life. Following this second "way" leads one to look beyond themselves and live in a way that is always oriented towards others. Just as God the Father, from all eternity, poured out his life in love to the Son, so the one who walks the second "way" lives a life which is a constant act of self-giving love.

Please notice that both "ways" have an interior and hidden aspect that greatly affect which path or "way" that we walk in this life and ultimately it greatly affects how we will live forever. While one may outwardly appear to be walking in the "way" of God, as the Pharisee in the Gospel must have appeared to those around him, it is possible for that person to actually be walking the opposite path in life due to the hidden or interior disposition of his heart.

### **Questions to Ponder**

*Do we often live a double-life? Do we act polite and nice to those around us while harboring resentment or anger toward those same people? Do we say one thing with our mouths and think another thing with our heart?*

*In the Divine Liturgy do we pray for everyone and ask for God's mercy and forgiveness? Have we truly forgiven others in the way that we ask God to forgive us?*

*Is there someone in our life whom we are angry with or that we have not really forgiven from our heart? Can we find a way to forgive them and show them that we love them?*

*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!*

### **Don't Hide from Yourself**

To sustain my mask before others takes much energy. One clever way to maintain my mask and to avoid seeing myself as I am, is to continuously compare my actions with the actions of those persons whom I consider less than myself. And into what a clever trap I have fallen, for I will always find someone whose outward actions appear to fall short of mine. I will constantly be looking outward toward others and never inward at the movements of my own heart. I will have taken upon myself the heart of the Pharisee, puffed up with emptiness, judgmental and condemning, while thanking God that I am not like another. I will have taken upon myself the heart of the Pharisee, but because of my mask, I will only know myself as the Publican.

*(Sister Seraphim Olsafsky)*

### **Did you Know?**

The observance of Sunday and the Holy Days of Obligation prescribes that we: 1) assist at the Divine Liturgy, and 2) abstain from servile work. Assistance at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday was always a serious obligation in the Church. This obligation was considered so important for the early Christians that they were ready to expose themselves to persecution rather than to miss the celebration of the Holy Liturgy. Among the Church Precepts, reprinted in every Byzantine Rite Catholic Catechism since the time of the Holy Union, we always read in the first place: "On Sundays and Holydays of Obligation abstain from your worldly (daily) work and assist at the Divine Liturgy." This refers to the first printed Ruthenian Catechism, published by Bishop J. J. de Camillis, OSBM of Mukachevo in 1698. Since that time the obligation to attend the Divine Liturgy on Sunday was constantly imposed on our faithful. The precept to **"keep holy" Sunday and the Holydays of Obligation** is a serious one and is binding in conscience, unless there is a sufficient reason excusing us from the obligation. Hence the Synod of Laodicea stated: "whenever they can," and as far as possible.

### **First All-Souls Saturday: (February 3)**

This venerable custom was transmitted to us by our ancestors as a part of our beautiful spiritual heritage. Every year, just before Meat-Fare Saturday, the families give the lists of their departed loved ones (Hramoty) to the pastor with the request that they be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturday. And St. John Chrysostom assures us that: ***"It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on."***

*(Homily on the Acts 21, 4)*

**Members of the family are encouraged to attend these services on the All Souls Saturdays for by their presence and by their personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and indeed keep their memory everlasting!**

### **Thought for the Week...**

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

*Saint John Climacus, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, Step 28.5*

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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik, Dan Pinchot**  
**Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff - Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh**  
**Holy Mystery of Reconciliation** ..... Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment  
**Holy Mysteries of Initiation** ..... Contact the pastor  
**Holy Mystery of Anointing** ..... Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness  
**Holy Mystery of Marriage** ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding  
**Pirohi Sales** ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month  
**St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club** ..... Everyone welcome to participate  
**Opportunities for Stewardship** ... ..Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,  
Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month

*Even if Catholics faithful to tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Christ.*  
St. Athanasius