



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee – Beginning of the Lenten Triodion February 21, 2021

Troparion – Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Kontakion – Tone 4

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior: “Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!”

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee – Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to 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 as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise 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, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Service Schedule for the week of February 21 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour and the FOCA Club chicken parm. sandwich sale

Saturday February 27 – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday February 28 – MASKS REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Weekly Giving

February 14 – 16 adults, 9 youth, \$1,503

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday February 20 – Masks required

Sunday February 21 – Masks not required

Saturday February 27 – Masks not required

Sunday February 28 – Masks required

Saturday March 6 – Masks required

Sunday March 7 – Masks not required

Saturday March 13 – Masks not required

Sunday March 14 – Masks required

Saturday March 20 – Masks required

Sunday March 21 – Masks not required

Saturday March 27 – Masks not required

Sunday March 28 – Masks required

Attached are the Lenten Service Calendars for Lent, leading up to Pascha on May 2. The calendars will also be posted on the church website. Please note that masks will be required for all Lenten weekday services, Holy Saturday, and Pascha.

The FOCA Club will finally be selling the chicken parm. sandwiches today during Coffee Hour. We appreciate everyone's patience!

There will be a FOCA Club meeting today during Coffee Hour.

Gertrude Hawk Easter candy is for sale! If you need paper copies of either the brochure or order form, please see a member of the FOCA Club during Coffee Hour. The final day for orders is next Sunday February 28 as the total order must be submitted to Gertrude Hawk on March 1. Thank you!

The FOCA Club's next fundraiser on March 7, Meatfare Sunday, will be a platter of kielbasa, sauerkraut, and potatoes. All orders will be packaged to go. The cost is \$7/order and a sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church. Again, the Club appreciates your support as we fundraise funds for our church and various Orthodox ministries.

Church Flowers: If you are interested in donating flowers for a Sunday or Holy Day, please contact Father Volodymyr. Flowers are placed on both sides of the veneration icon. There are vases available to use for cut flowers.

In order to properly social distance, we ask that parishioners **fill the front pews as well as all pews in the church before congregating in the back. Individuals should attempt to sit in a pew (one at each end) with another individual in order to free up pews for families. If your family is in need of a pew, please ask the person at the candle desk for assistance to see if individuals can be moved to open up a pew.** The choir loft is also available for a family. We must be vigilant in trying to prevent the spread of germs, so please do not attend church services if you have a fever, sniffles, cough, cold, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, etc. If individuals who attended church services are diagnosed with Covid, the church may need to shut down for a period of time. Father Volodymyr live streams Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy every weekend, so if you are home you may still participate in the services on line. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being!