

# ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

**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.**



**II 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 as for you, 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.

**Luke 18:10-14.** The Lord said: “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 abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The name for 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.

## **SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE, FEBRUARY 5,2012**

**ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Corner of Willow & Grant Street**

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### **Services & Activities**

**Sunday, February 5            9:00 am            Divine Liturgy**

**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**

**Wednesday, February 8    3:00 pm            Akathist**

**Saturday, February 11    3:00 pm            Molieben -- St. Anna**

**4:00 pm            Great Vespers**

**Sunday, February 12        9:00 am            Divine Liturgy**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Fr. Athanasy will be here Saturday with the miracle-working icon of St. Anna for a Molieben to St. Anna.**

**Fr. Alexander Atty, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary will**

**lead a pre-Lenten retreat after Vespers on Saturday, February 25 from 4:45-6:45. Please join us.**

**Please remember in your prayers all of the parishioners of All Saints, their families, neighbors, and friends, all those serving in the Armed Forces, all missionaries (especially Christina), all clergy, monastics, and seminarians, the sick and suffering, those in nursing homes, hospitals and prisons, especially for those for whom we have been asked to pray, and for all the newly departed, (among them the Archpriest Michael Romanchak, Matushka Barbara Pavelchak, Matuska Joanne Pianovich, and Matushka Eleanor Krell). If you would like Fr. Gabriel to remember the living or the departed at the Divine Liturgy, please give the names to Fr. Gabriel to remember at the Proskomedia.**

**ALL SAINTS "O" CLUB WILL HOST A FUN & GAMES NIGHT SATURDAY NIGHT FEBRUARY 18, 2012 AFTER VESPERS. FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE SEE JONI REZANKA OR MARY BRZUCHALSKI IF YOU ARE ATTENDING. OR, SIGN YOUR NAME ON THE LIST THAT WILL BE ON THE CANDLE STAND.**

**"O" CLUB MEMBERS: See Joni Rezanka to pay your annual dues. New members are always Welcome!**

**WHITE ALTAR COVERS NEEDED. Please give your donations to Joni Rezanka.**

**BABY SHOWER for Jelena Lalovic on Saturday, February 18 at noon. See Clarise Bandru or Joannie Rezanka.**

**EUREKA HOSE CO. NO. 4 ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER SATURDAY MARCH 3 AT FIRE STATION 717 E. GRANT ST. TAKE OUT 3-5PM; EAT IN 5-8PM. ALL U CAN EAT: PASTA, BEVERAGE & DESERT; TICKETS AT DOOR OR FROM ANY MEMBER. CONTACT: JOHN CHINCHILLA 383-2255.**

**PLEASE HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR!!!!!! PLEASE FORM A NEW COFFEE HOUR TEAM OR JOIN A COFFEE HOUR TEAM! This is an important part of our parish outreach. See Julie Cohen. Thank you to the Starfursky Families (Steve, Pat & Ken) for the coffee hour today and to the Gim & Lopatofsky Families for coffee hour next week.**

**SPONSORSHIPS: WE COULD USE SPONSORS FOR THE FOLLOWING FOR FEBRUARY, PLEASE!!! Bulletin (\$30) – Web Site (\$25) – Shut-in mailings (\$25) – Thank you to all of our Donors and Sponsors!**

**SAMPLE PLEDGE CARDS: Please prayerfully consider handing in your pledge card as soon as possible to help us with our budgeting for 2012.**

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The name for 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.

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. The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a “change of mind.” He 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. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, a restoration of our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. 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. (From the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Website [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)).***