

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom on the Meeting

Two men come into the church of God, into a sacred realm which in a world that is lost to Him, belongs to Him unreservedly: into His Divine Realm. And one of the men walks boldly into it, takes a stand before God; the other one comes, and doesn't even dare cross the threshold: he is a sinner, and the Realm is holy, like the space around the Burning Bush in the desert which Moses could not enter without having unshod his feet, otherwise than in adoration and the fear of God. And how different the words spoken! Apparently the Pharisee praises God, he gives Him glory – but for what? Because He has made a man like him, a man so holy, so worthy of Him, of God; a man who not only keeps all the commandments of the Law, but goes beyond of what God Himself has commanded, and can expect of man. Indeed, he stands before God praising Him, that he, the Pharisee, is so wonderful that he is God's own glory, the shining, the revelation of God's holiness... The Publican does not dare enter into the holy Realm of God. And the parable is clear: the man who came and stood brokenhearted, ashamed of himself, knowing that he is unworthy of entering this sacred space goes back home forgiven, loved, indeed: accompanied by God Himself Who came into the world to save sinners and Who stands by everyone who *needs* Him, who recognises his need, or not, unto salvation. The Pharisee goes home, but he goes home *less* forgiven; his relationship with God is not the same; *he* is at the center, God is peripheric to him; *he* is at the heart of things, God is subservient to him. It does not mean that what he did was worthless; it simply means that as far as he is concerned, it has born no fruit of holiness in himself. The deeds were good, but they were spoiled, poisoned by pride and by self-assertion...”.

“Let us Attend!”



“Two men went up to the temple to pray...”

A PARISH BULLETIN OF
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH
Olyphant, Pennsylvania

Rev. Paul J. Witek, Ph.D., Acting Rector 201.315.5722

9 February 2025

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord

Bulletin, Sunday, 9 February 2025

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 8. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Leavetaking of the Meeting. Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch in Syria (ca. 257). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Innocent, Bishop of Irkutsk (1805). Ven. Pankratii (Pancratius) of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Ven. Nikífor (Nicephorus—1557) and Gennádii (Gennadius—ca. 1516), of Vazheozérsk. Hieromartyrs Marcellus, Bishop of Sicily, Philagrius, Bishop of Cyprus, and Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina (1st c.).

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10–15

Gospel: Luke 18:10–14

Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish's wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA's daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.

Weekly Schedule:

- Wednesday, 12 February 2025 9AM. Akathist to Sts. Peter and Paul
- Saturday, 15 February 2025: 5:00–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession; 6:00PM Great Vespers

– Sunday, 16 February 2025. Sunday of the Prodigal Son. 9:30AM Divine Liturgy, followed by Coffee Hour Agape Fellowship.

~ A warm welcome to all those who are visiting with us today. Please join us downstairs and join us for Agape Coffee Hour fellowship. All are welcome.

~ Fr. Paul is continuing to bless homes. Please look forward to a call from Father requesting a time to bless your home.

~ To flee from the pride of the Pharisee who boasted of his fasting, the Church gives us this coming week free from fasting.

~ The parish will hold a Lenten food sale on Friday, March 14 from 11am–4pm. Please tell your family and friends. For information about food sale preparation, please see Ann Schalsta.

Ancient Christian Hymn from 2 Timothy 2

*For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.
If we suffer with Him, We shall also reign with Him.
If we deny Him, He also will deny us.
If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.*