

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

The Sunday following the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, and with the Vespers of the previous evening the Lenten Triodion formally enters the liturgical life of the Church. This moment is not incidental. The Church deliberately places humility, not fasting or ascetic achievement, at the threshold of the Lenten journey.

Christ tells of two men who go up to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee is outwardly righteous. He fasts, he prays, and he gives alms. These are holy practices, and the Church never condemns them. Indeed, they are precisely the practices the Triodion will soon call us to embrace. The Pharisee's failure lies not in his discipline, but in his self justification. He measures himself against another man and finds himself superior, trusting in visible righteousness rather than divine mercy.

The Publican, by contrast, brings nothing but humility. Despised by society and conscious of his sin, he does not dare to lift his eyes to heaven. His simple prayer, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner," reveals the inner posture that alone can justify a human person before God, as Christ Himself declares. As the Triodion repeatedly insists, humility is not weakness but truth, the courage to stand honestly before God without excuses or comparisons.

The Church sets this Gospel at the beginning of the Triodion to warn us from the outset. Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are means, not ends. Without humility they become distorted and even destructive. For this reason, the Church suspends the usual Wednesday and Friday fast during this week, teaching us liturgically that it is better not to fast than to fast with pride.

Two weeks before the Great Fast begins, the Church also prescribes the weekday reading of Saint Mark's Gospel, directing our attention toward the end times, the Passion, and the burial of Christ. In this way, repentance is framed not as self improvement but as preparation for death, resurrection, and Pascha. We enter Lent not claiming virtue, but crying with the Publican, Lord, have mercy.

Text & Icon adapted from oca.org



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

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February 1, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE

COMMEMORATIONS:

FOREFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE, TRYPHON THE MARTYR, PERPETUA & HER COMPANIONS, OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA, ANASTASIOS THE NEW MARTYR OF NAVPLION, THE FOUR MARTYRS ANDRIANUS, POLYEUKTOS, PLATO AND GEORGE WHO CONTESTED IN MEGARA, TIMOTHY THE CONFESSOR, BRIDGET OF IRELAND

Tone 1 - Eothinon 1
Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 18:10-14

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 1 - While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding thy most pure Body, thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto thee, O Giver of life: Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to thy kingdom! Glory to thy providence, O thou who alone art the Lover of mankind!

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION - Tone 1 - The Heavens' choir looked down from the vaults of the Heavens, and gazing on the earth, they beheld with amazement the First-born of all creation brought forth as a suckling babe to the Temple by a pure and virginal mother; and with us, they now do sing a hymn for the Forefeast, * astonished and full of awe.

TODAY:

- ◆ **ORTHROS & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.**
- ◆ *Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.*
- ◆ **DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.**
- ◆ Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.
- ◆ **Trisagion Memorial (Khalifa), 11:15 a.m.**
- ◆ Vespers & Artoklasia for Presentation; Candle Blessing, 6:00 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 12:30pm - 5:00pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:	Next Week (Feb. 8)
COFFEE HOUR: Khalifa & Kotsatos Families (Memorial for Nagib)	Teen SOYO
PROSPHORA BREAD: Kristi Moore & Sissy Hill	Gabriela Plesa
ALTAR CANDLES: - - -	Rice-Eliana's Birthday
USHERS: Steve Kulp & Chris Howe	Radu Chebelev & Mike Taggart
CLEANING TEAM: Nick M., Chris H., Shirley D., Sarah M.	Beraki H., Val H., Mark Z., Robert S.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Calvin S., Mary T., Gabriel M.,	Morgan T., Mark Z., Rose N., Simon K.

Mark Your Calendar

Last Judgment (Meat Fare)
February 15

Parish Trip to Visit Metr. SABA
Saturday, February 21

Forgiveness Sunday
(Cheese Fare)
February 22

Stay for Forgiveness Vespers
at 1:00 pm

St. Philip Lenten Retreat
Saturday, March 14
**“The Highway to Heaven is a
Staircase: A Study of the Sermon
on the Mount”**
led by H. Paul Finley

Great & Holy Pascha
April 12

Are you good with Social Media?
*Hades Embittered is seeking
a Social Media Coordinator to join
their team. If interested see or con-
tact Rdr. Nicholas for more details:*
781-491-2231

FEBRUARY OUTREACH
COLLECTION:
Paper Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those to whom they reach out. Sze-Tatiana Louise-Ruth Hieromonk Silouan Aristides Sergei Ludmilla Catherine Christine Maria John James James Steven Sophia Elias Zotikos Paraskevi Barbara Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries Priest Nathan, Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples Families struggling to conceive Expectant and new mothers and their babies The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	+Archimandrite Daniel +Matushka Martha +Najezda (February Parish Diptychs) +Frank +Kristina +John +Steve +John +Hertanse +Thomas +Wendy-Susanna <hr/> <u>Catechumens</u> Matthew H Martin (Ernie) R Sean, Meghan, and John T Robert S Carolyn D Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L John C Daniel, Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C Adaele S Jeff & Jasmine, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe V Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M Hannah B Samuel & Emilie, Ari & Addison P James B Nicole P Dylan Ryan M Mission Chapel: Christopher & Nailah M Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael, Kassandra

This Week:

Mon, Feb. 2:	The Meeting of Our Lord Orthros, 7:45 a.m. Baptismal Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. Festal Potluck, 11:30 a.m. Daily Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
Tues, Feb. 3:	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
Wed, Feb. 4:	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Little Compline, 6:30 p.m. FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m. Patristic Discussion, 7:15 p.m.
Thurs, Feb. 5:	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Daily Vespers, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.
Fri, Feb. 6:	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m. Q&A w/ Fr. Noah, 7:30 p.m.
Sat, Feb. 7:	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Baptism (Gabounia), 12:00 p.m. Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m. Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
Sun, Feb. 8:	The Prodigal Son Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m. Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 1/24: 133 Divine Liturgy 1/25 (snow): 50

OFFERINGS 1/25: Candles, \$150. Collections, \$232. Needy Fund, \$122.02. Stewardship, \$17,072.52. Pastoral Discretion: \$97.52. Mission Chapel, \$1502.22. Pro-Life, \$50. Building Fund: \$2,500. Total received: \$21,732.28.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!