



# THE FORERUNNER

**St John the Baptist Orthodox Church**

211 Cable Avenue – East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

**HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GREGORY OF NYSSA**

American Carpatho-Russian Diocese-Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

The Very Reverend Protopresbyter Joseph Fester

Rectory: 412-824-0246 Mobile: 908 423-9289

Email: protopresbyterjoseph@gmail.com

Website: www.sjbeastpitt.org – Facebook: @stjohneastpit

Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir

Director; Robert Pervuznik, Jr., Parish Council President

9 Sunday	10 Mon	11 Tues	12 Wed	13 Thurs	14 Friday	15 Saturday
8:30 Ch School 9:00 Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour House Blessings 1pm Grysiak 2pm O'Brien 4pm Kisko	House Blessings  5:30 Kalatuhi 7pm Buck		Three Holy Hierarchs At St Nicholas in Homestead 10am Liturgy 7pm CCE House Blessings	House Blessings  4pm C. Stagon 5pm Jeff Stagon 6pm G. Stagon	5pm Great Vespers w/ Litiya	Meeting of our Lord 9am Festal Liturgy Blessing of Candles 5:00 Great Vespers Confessions House Blessings 12pm Gasper 1pm Rosco 2pm Allen/Welch

**WE SAY-** to all who are with us today at St. John's for the first time, *you are welcome here!* We pray that you will consider making St. John's your spiritual home. Please join us after Liturgy downstairs for fellowship.

**OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD-** Sometimes we miss a Sunday and the opportunity to offer our financial gift to the Lord. If we do, please catch up with your gifts. Whether we are here or not, our parish bills continue. Thanks, and God bless!

**Sunday, February 2, 2020 - Attendance 42 - Weekly Offering, \$1198 - Building Fund, \$100 - Membership Dues, \$366 - Memorial Offerings (Mr. Pervuznik), \$215 Needy Fund, \$62 - Vigil Candles Cases, \$105 - Vigil Candles, \$198 - Total \$2,226**

**MANY THANKS-**to everyone who supported our first Pot-Luck Fellowship Hour. Lots of great food and fellowship. That was the goal and it was accomplished. God bless.

**CHANGE OF SCHEDULE-** the Pirohi making session is being moved to Tuesday, February 18 starting at 9am. **NO** Pirohi making this Saturday as previously posted.

**THIS WEEK-** as you can see above, there will be many opportunities to worship. On Wednesday at 10am the Divine Liturgy for the Three Holy Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom at St Nicholas in Homestead. Then on Friday at 5pm (NOTE THE TIME), we will celebrate Great Vespers with Litiya for the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord and the Festal Liturgy and Blessing of Candles on Saturday, February 15 at 9am. Please make every effort to participate in at least one of these beautiful services.

*O Master Who loves mankind, illuminate our hearts with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind to understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, that we may overcome all carnal desires, entering upon a spiritual life and understanding and acting in all things according to Your holy will. For You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father an Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.*

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Monday	2 Peter 1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13	Venerable Ephraim the Syrian
Tuesday	2 Peter 2:9-3:18	Mark 13:14-31	Venerable Alexander (Rublev) Iconographer
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:7-16	Matthew 5:14-19	Three Holy Hierarchs
Thursday	I John 1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2	Holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John
Friday	I John 2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9	St. Brigid of Ireland
Saturday	Hebrews 7:7-17	Luke 2:22-40	The Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
Sunday	1 Cor 6:12-10	Luke 15:11-21	Righteous Symeon the God-Receiver and Anna

**PLANNING AHEAD**

Sunday, February 9  
Friday, February 14  
Saturday, February 15  
Sunday, February 16  
Tuesday, February 18  
  
Sunday, February 23  
Friday, February 28  
Sunday, March 1  
Monday, March 2

**Vespers and Confessions Every Saturday at 5pm**

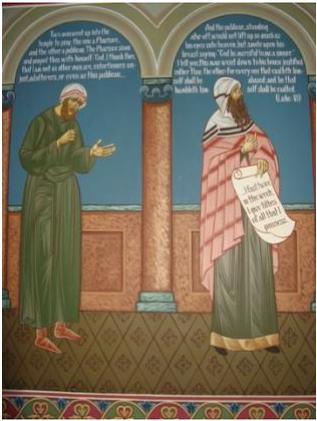
Publican and Pharisee Sunday – **Fast Free Week**  
5pm Great Vespers with Litiya (NOTE TIME CHANGE)  
9am Festal Liturgy – Meeting of our Lord  
Prodigal Son Sunday  
9am Pirohi Making  
7pm Parish Council Meeting  
  
Meatfare Sunday  
Lenten Food Sale  
Cheesefare Sunday – Forgiveness Sunday  
Great Lent Begins

**OUR CCE-** class on the Divine Liturgy continues. All are welcome.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** – Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Pervuznik, Matushka Susanne Senyo, Wally Perkins, Fr Lawrence Barriger, Gina Marie Gaspard, Dannette Wargo, Pani Marie Brancho, Rose Hollis, Marti and Cathilynn Baran, Paul Haruilesko, Fr. John Dixon, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother). Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.

**February Memorial – Newly Departed,** Robert Pervuznik, Sr., Michael Fitzurka, Stelian Popescu, Milos Konjevich. **Perpetual:** Michael Babich, Steve Babich, John Babich Sr, Eleanor Seminick, Dennis Durmis, Serge Rosco, Andrew Hospodor, Louise Nickels, Charles and Mary Rose Schnarrs, John and Julia Majewski, Mary Fedoris, Anastasia Kalita, Linda Edwards. Andrew Kondrich, John Popovich, Julia Zeleznik, Mary Chabala, Anna Matronic, Michael Suvak, Mary Kosak, John Malinich, Michael Bock, Michael Sterchak, Mary Melton, Mary Zura, Kata Cvetnich, Wilburt Weidenhof, William Rosenbayger, Joseph Durick, Mary Sapida, Helen Petrovay, George Yakubik, Nicholas Rosenbayger, Anna Dugan, Susan Gegas, Mary Cvetnich, Lewis Volk, Katherine Sabo, Rose Michalov, Joseph Fester.

**MANY YEARS !** - Alice Bires 2/7 Ashley Kocan Yeargers 2/8 Joe Monde 2/9 Brandon Novak 2/9 Eric Brancho 2/13 Denise Kocan 2/20 Rebecca Barclay 2/23 Philip Novak 2/24



## Preparing for Great Lent

### *The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee*

Last week we heard about Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus overcame a temptation which is very familiar to us, that of vanity; vanity that consists in attaching ourselves to things of no value and trying to derive through them the admiration of other people who have no right to judge, because they also are prisoners of the same smallness of mind and smallness of heart. Vanity, in the words of St John Climacus, is arrogance before God and cowardice before men; a desire not to be judged, not to be condemned, but to be admired, to be praised, to be approved of, even for things that are not worthy of approval, just to be

approved.

I suggested last week that we must concentrate our attention on that particular sin of ours and ask ourselves how dependent am I on the judgement of men, how indifferent am I to the judgement of my own conscience and beyond it, through it, of God Himself? How much do I look for approval and admiration of things that are unworthy of me, not only to speak of God?

Today we are confronted with a third image; we are confronted with the story of the Pharisee and of the Publican (St Luke XVIII: 10-14). The Publican was aware of his unworthiness, he was aware that he was unworthy of presenting himself before the face of God, but also of being admitted into the company of respectable people, people of whom God would approve. He came to the door of the Temple and could not cross the threshold because he knew that in this world – soiled, polluted, desecrated by human sin, by blood and evil in all its forms, the Temple was a place which was devoted to God alone. All the rest of the world, to use a phrase of Satan tempting Christ, all the rest of the world "has been betrayed into my hands by man". But the Temple is a space which men of faith, frail indeed but believing in God, cut out of this realm of horror to be a vision of divine beauty, a dwelling place for the One who has nowhere to rest His Head in a world that was stolen from Him and betrayed into the hands of the adversary.

As the Publican stood on the threshold he knew that he belonged to the realm of evil, and had no access into the realm of God; and yet, he felt the difference, he felt horror at himself and a sense of worship, of adoration with regard to the Divine Realm. He beat his chest and asked for mercy because there was nothing else he could hope for and count on. And the Pharisee stood right in the middle of the Church; he had walked in and taken his stand there as one who had the right to be there. Why? Not because he was a man of pure heart, but because he was faithful to every one of the formal rules established by the Synagogue, as a number of us are faithful to the outer, external rules of life that do not

penetrate even through our skin, which do not reach our heart, which do not give a new shape and meaning to our thoughts.

So, again, we are confronted by two men and asked by Christ: who are you? Are you one who is so deeply aware of the sanctity of God that he knows that, apart from a God who would step down to us to heal and save, there is no access to Him. Or are we like the Pharisee who would say to God, throw it in His face: I have done all that is prescribed. You have nothing to ask of me!.. We are not that arrogant because we have not even the courage of being arrogant as the Pharisee was, neither have we got the constancy of courage to be as faithful as he was to the full of the life of the law.

Let us ask ourselves then: Do we emulate the Pharisee in deed, outwardly faithful to all the tenets of our Christian Faith? And beyond this, do we allow our Faith to transform our heart, to rule our will, to enlighten our mind?

This is the task which the Gospel offers us. Think about it. It will be one more step to pronouncing upon ourselves a judgement so that we are not condemned.

(Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh - SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE - 1993, February 7th)

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**IT WAS BROUGHT** -to my attention this past week by one of our parishioners that they saved hundreds of dollars in monthly prescription costs by using the "Good Rx" discount card at their pharmacy. Maybe many of you have seen the Good Rx commercial on TV. Our parishioner started off with a \$307 monthly cost for a new drug they must take. They first went to their regular pharmacy and discovered that the same drug, using the Good Rx card would only cost \$141 per month. But, doing some more investigation, they found out that if they went to another pharmacy, in this case a Rite Aid, the monthly cost was only \$64! You can't combine the Good Rx discount card with other existing benefits you may have, such as Medicare or a supplemental or State insurance programs, but as a stand-alone discount card, it may offer you substantial savings. Not all pharmacies charge or discount the same amount. Some discount more than others. In the above example, Giant Eagle Pharmacy, which participates in the Good Rx program charged \$141 for the drug in question, while Rite-Aid charged only \$64. So, shop around, call different pharmacies that honor the Good Rx card and maybe you can save a bundle of money every month. If you are connected to the Internet you can go to: [www.GoodRx.com/save](http://www.GoodRx.com/save) . Put in your zip code and the name of the drug and see how much you can save. Again, this is not insurance, nor can it be combined with insurance, it is a discount card and some drugs covered by your insurance may be less expensive than using the discount card, but others may not. So, check it out.

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