

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith

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Marblehead, OH 43440

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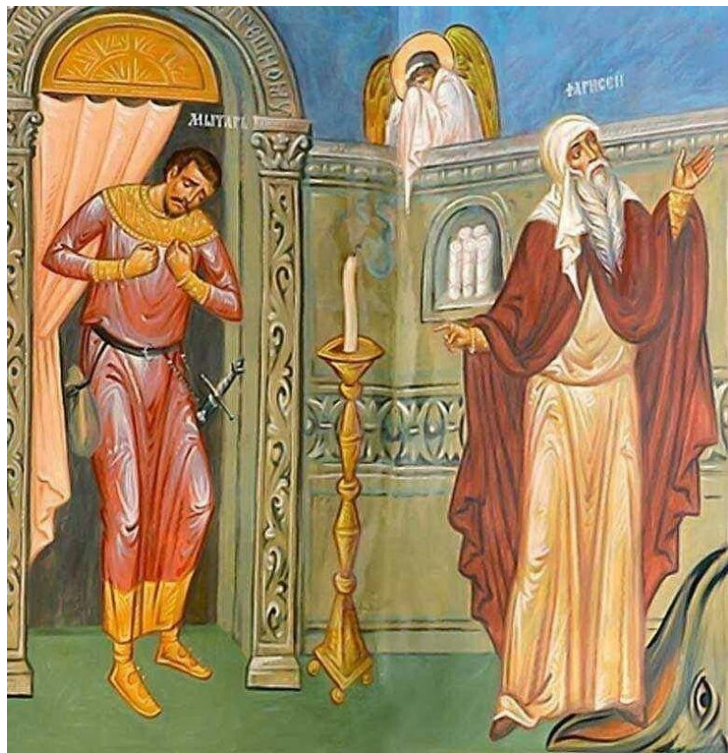
***Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest***

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

EPISTLE: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy my son: 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.



Publican and Pharisee

EPISTLE: Hebrews 7:7-17

Brethren: Beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid

tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron. For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” My name’s sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:10-14

The Lord spoke this parable: “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.”

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

When the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. So, he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave

thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So, when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

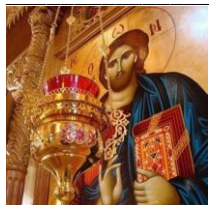
LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MON. Feb 10	Hieromartyr Haralambos; 2 Peter 1:20-2:9, Mk 13:9-13
TUE. Feb 11	Hieromartyr Blaise; 2 Peter 2:9-22, Mk 13:14-23
WED. Feb 12	Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch; 2 Peter 3:1-18, Mk 13:24-31
THU. Feb 13	Saints Martinian, Zoe, and Photina of Caesarea in Palestine; 1 John 1:8-2:6, Mk 13:31-14:2
FRI. Feb 14	Venerable Auxentius, Repose of Saint Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs; 1 John 2:7-17, Mk 14:3-9
SAT. Feb 15	Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy; 2 Tim:3-1-9, Lk 20:46-21:4
4:00 PM	VESPERS
SUN. Feb 16	34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, <i>Sunday of the Prodigal Son - Tone 1</i>
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Patti Owens, 311 Woodbridge Road, Vermilion, OH 44089; **Basil Glovinsky**, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; **Subdeacon Roger Pinta**, P.O. Box 39, Middle Bass, OH 43446; **Ed & Irene Vangeloff**, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870



FEBRUARY REPOSED

Helen Hritsko (1908) No date provided; Alexandra Brendza (1909) No date provided; Steve Danchisen (1909) No date provided; **2-** Nancy Pipenur (2018); **5-** Peter Kowal (2004); **6-** Steve Michael Mazur (1970); **6-** Elizabeth Kravetz Mc Mahon (1984); **12-** Glenn Schoonmaker (2002); **12-** Lawrence Beck (2018); **14-** Rose Polosky (1953); **17-** Stanley Guzy (1986); **20-** Linda Sue Alber & infant (1969); **20-** Dc. Mike Cinalli (2020); **21-** Mary Tomka Matso (1956); **21-** John Richard Elchisco (2021); **22-** Metro Mazur (1973); **22-** Marguerite Bird (2022); **23-** George Elchisco Sr. (1961); **23-** Tom Twarek (2024); **26-** Elizabeth Millie (1998); **29-** Mary Uka Kosteary (1996)

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Tina Rindfleisch / Norb / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Tom Hileman / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášová / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / Ron Royhab / James Bargdill / John Beadle / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

Other Requests: Tom Osborne / Sarah King / Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Catechumen Nickolas Dawenport / Catechumen Joshua Paull / Catechumen Danielle Paull / Catechumen Wrenley Paull / Arimus Paull / Linkoln Paull / Catechumen Joshua Schulden / Catechumen Ryan Stamp / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Christine Zahm / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Michael Heffernan / Susanne / Barbara Heffernan / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debby Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čížmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / Mark Masica / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chris.

Military: Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



VIGILS FOR FEBRUARY 2

Susan Guzy 1 Special Intentions

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Matushka Melania, Ron R., Betty K., Margaret M., David M., Hannah S., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Kathie J., Jerry P., Ed & Irene V, Heidi & Wayne G., Sarah K. and Brett D.
In loving memory of dad
Safe travels for family and friends

Sandy Martin 2 In loving memory of Barb, special intentions

Darlene Mazurik 1 Prayers for thanksgiving, health, and guidance

Natalie Twarek 8 In loving memory of Mary Zivich (birthday 2/4, departed 2/7/2000), For the health and recovery of Ken Kukay, Memory Eternal for Barb Heffernan, For the health & recovery of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery of Kristi's dad, For the health and recovery on Basil, Ron, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Pam, Jim, Heidi, Father Emilian, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Jen, Tony, Bev, Ed, Irene, Father David, Judy, Tina, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Special intentions

FEBRUARY CANDLE SPONSORS



Altar Candles: Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** Available (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, In memory of my dad Steven and birthday memory of my mom Margaret (**\$20**); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** Available (**\$20**)



READERS LIST

Sunday Feb 9 – Jake
Sunday Feb 16 – Tim
Sunday Feb 2 – Jake



ATTENDANCE

02/01 Vespers, **8** attending (3 guests); **02/02** Divine Liturgy, **28** attending (3 guests)

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 20th Monthly social 3rd Thursday 6:00 pm at local restaurant

Feb 22nd Memorial Saturday (*Saturday*)



- Mar 3rd** Beginning of the Great Fast (*Monday*)
- Mar 9th** Daylight Saving Time begins (*Sunday*)
- Mar 15th** Memorial Saturday (*Saturday*)
- Apr 13th** Palm Sunday (*Sunday*)
- Apr 20th** HOLY PASCHA (*Sunday*)



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Tithe	\$ 550.00
Donations	\$ 87.00
Candles	\$ 32.00
Vigils	\$ 45.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 240.00
Building restoration	\$ 100.00
St. Vladimir Seminary	\$ 10.00
Total:	\$1,064.00

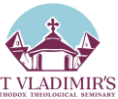
May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!



Happy
Birthday

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

14 – Sandy Martin; **16** – David Mazurik; **22** – Wayne Golob; **24** – Sonya Rose; **25** – Fellar (Michael) Fay; **25** – Heidi Golob *; **26** – Basil Glovinsky



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“St. Vladimir's Seminary” is the charity we donate to for the month of February.



BLESSED CANDLES

If you did not receive a blessed candle last Sunday, we invite you to take one home. They are located in the vestibule in a big vase. These 100% beeswax candles are sponsored by the Parish for your private use.



MIDWINTER FEAST

Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church is inviting you to their Midwinter Feast which will take place on Saturday February 22nd, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM at Saint Mary Byzantine Church Hall, 506 East Main Street, Marblehead, Ohio.

Dinner with Music.

Menu: Cheese and Charcuterie. Garden Salad. Rolls and Butter. Shrimp/Pork Loin with Asparagus/Hollandaise Sauce. Rice/Grains. \$50.00 per person. BYOB. Silent Auction. Fundraiser for replacement of roofs of parish buildings.

Please call 419-626-0375 by February 17th. No tickets at door.



CLEANING SCHEDULE

- Feb 10, Greg
- Feb 17, Roddie & David
- Feb 24, Bobbie
- Mar 3, Natalie



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

- Feb 9 – Bobbie Royhab
- Feb 16– Natalia
- Feb 23– Parish Potluck Lunch for the Meetfare Sunday
- Mar 2– Parish Potluck Lunch for the Cheesefare Sunday

Please sign up to host coffee hour. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall



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

Commemorated on February 9

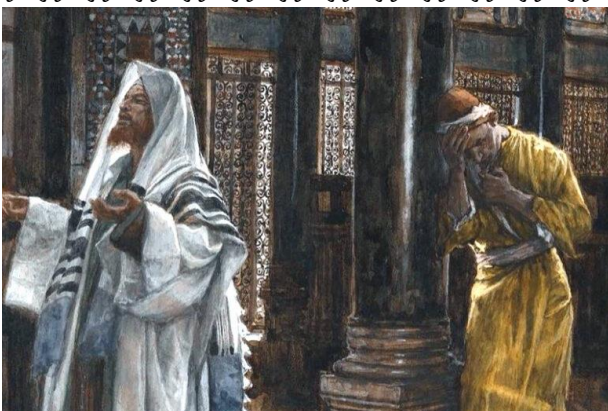
The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the *Triodion* (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

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.

Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark’s Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior’s death and burial.



Sunday Sermon: The Publican and the Pharisee by Fr. Vyacheslav Reznikov

The preparation period for the Great Lent has started, and in today’s readings we hear the familiar words: “Two men went up to the temple to pray”. Many of us are at Church today, but the Lord sees only two. And so it will be in the coming weeks: two sons of the same father, two men standing on the right and left side of the Judge’s throne, one destined for eternal life, and the other for eternal torment.

For now, they are just two people who came to the temple: one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. In the end, the ruthless and self-serving tax collector went home more justified before God than the Pharisee who conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, to quote Apostle Paul.

But is it the only thing that should surprise us? Is not it surprising, for example, that, as Apostle Paul taught, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and

impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. In God's world and church life, surprises and mysteries are abundant. As we say in our prayer "Let your will be done", we ought to have already become accustomed to the feeling of surprise and astonishment and then to the tears of joy and gratitude at the unexpected outcome reflective of His ultimate wisdom.

But let us go back to the Pharisee and the tax collector and consider the mystery of each. The Lord opens up to us the content of the Pharisee's silent prayer: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get." As we hear this prayer, we feel as if the Pharisee is hiding behind the wall of other people's sins. This wall seemed nice and comfortable, as it made him feel good – how gratifying! Yet behind this wall, there is no way to see God!

As for the tax collector... He also has a wall before him, but it is of his sins. They are his own. He has no-one to turn away from or move away from in disdain. At the temple, he is always mindful who he is and before Whom he is standing. He would not even look up to heaven, but beats his breast and says time and again, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

Jesus told this parable "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else." (Luke 18:9). He showed us that just as it is impossible to look ahead and behind at the same time, one cannot see simultaneously one's own sins and the sins of others. By keeping ourselves busy weighing others' sins, we close our eyes to ours and our repentance before God. Yet seeing one's sins for what they are, one will forget about all else, and will, like the tax collector, beat one's breast and say, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

The tax collector sensed himself poor in the spirit; he needed God to cover himself, to hide his 'shameful nakedness' (Revelation .3:18). The Tax collector is open to God and ready to partake of His boundless mercy, and by doing so, he gets the promise of his future richness in the Lord. The Pharisee left with nothing, for he was convinced that he had it all, and he needed no God. So, the Lord, like in the song of the Most Holy Virgin, "filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty."

It would not have been so bad if the Pharisee had at least thanked God for His help in the struggle with his sins. Yet it is obvious that the Pharisee had not struggled, he had not worked hard or shed a drop of his sweat or blood. He had it from his birth, for free. Like the lazy servant, who received from the Lord one bag of gold and gained nothing, he declares boldly: "See, here is what belongs to you!" (Matthew.25:25). The Pharisee prides himself on not having the sins like "other people". But what virtues does he have? Only that he fasts twice a week and gives a tenth of all he gets!

The Holy Church instructs us not to observe a fast the Wednesday and Friday of this week. This should remind us that fasting on Wednesday and Fridays – and even giving away a tenth of our earnings – will be meaningless if we have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23). The three things that matter most are justice for oneself, mercy for the sinners and faithfulness to God to Whom all are of value. They are to be done first, without neglecting the rest.

Yet some are still fasting this week, against the Church's instructions. Why? It could be that they, like the Pharisee from the Parable have nothing to their name. All they have is a pretense, a form and an outward impression to make and take pride in. Take them away, and they will be left naked and worthless, but not before God, but rather before all these other people over whom they had exalted themselves and with whom they had preferred to have nothing in common.

