

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2024**

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

**Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14**

**Kontakion – Tone 4**

**Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / And learn humility  
from the Publican's tears! / Let us cry to our Savior, / have  
mercy on us, / only merciful One!**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Lanie, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and irene.

**\*\*\* To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski\*\*\***

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

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**THE WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**HOLY SPIRIT  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

[www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

**February 25th, 2024**

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE (Beginning of  
the Lenten Triodion)** - 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.

## Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5pm Saturdays

**Hours:** 9:45am Sundays

**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00am Sundays

**Confessions:** Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

**Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

## Dates to Remember

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of February**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of February**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**After brief coffee hour**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of March**

**Great Vespers at 6 pm**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of March (Memorial Saturday)**

**Divine Liturgy at 9 am**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of March (Meatfare Sunday)**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation, and ask any questions you may have.

### Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Today, following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a brief coffee hour followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. At this meeting, there will be a vote for acceptance of the Budget Proposal for 2024 and reflect on parish life during 2023 and in the future. This yearly meeting is a congregational event and, as such, we are all requested to be present.

### Prayer Requested for Archbishop Nathaniel

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has accepted His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel's request for a medical leave of absence from his Archpastoral duties as he deals with serious health complications. For more information please follow the link: [Prayers Requested for Archbishop Nathaniel - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](http://PrayersRequestedforArchbishopNathaniel-OrthodoxChurchinAmerica(oca.org))

### St. Andrew's Camp 2024

Please view St. Andrew's Camp Newsletter so that you and potential campers, camp workers and benefactors, may be kept up to date on the many exciting activities taking place at our Diocesan Camp. St. Andrew's Newsletter will be available at the Narthex and as a attachment with this week's bulletin.

### Blessing of Homes and Blessed Water

The blessing of homes has been a joy to bring the Holy Theophany into many homes this year. If anyone still has not had their homes blessed, but would like the blessing of your home, please contact Father Michael at [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com)

### Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and baby diapers (size newborn to 6-month-old).

### Coffee Social

If you are able, please bring something for coffee social to share with your church family. Anything you bring is greatly appreciated. The bagels are complimentary from Bagel Station, Sparta. Participating in the clean-up is helpful and appreciated.

### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com)