

**February 9th, 2025**

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

**Epistle Reading: Hebrews 7:7-17; 2 Tim. 3:10-15  
Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40; 18:10-14**

**Troparion — 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 Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, 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, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Tanya and John Francis and Pamela.

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

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**The WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**HOLY SPIRIT  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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

**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN (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 8<sup>th</sup> of February**  
Great Vespers at 5 pm

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of February**  
Divine Liturgy at 10 am

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of February**  
Great Vespers at 5 pm

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of February**  
Divine Liturgy at 10 am  
**PARISH YEARLY MEETING**

Following Divine Liturgy and brief Coffee Hour

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of February**  
Great Vespers at 6 pm

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February**  
**MEMORIAL SATURDAY**  
Divine Liturgy at 9 am  
Great Vespers at 5 pm

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of February**  
Divine Liturgy at 10 am

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Visitor Welcome

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

### Many Blessed Years!

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of January, Harper May Trevenen, daughter of Stephanie Trevenen-Holtz was baptized into the Holy Orthodox Faith and took a baptismal name Lydia. Please keep newly baptized handmaiden of God Lydia in your prayers.

### Blessing of the homes

We are again with the opportunity to bless the homes of all our parishioners. If you would like your home to be blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact Father Michael at [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com). Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

### Fast Free Week

In the preparation for the Great Lent, the Church assigned next week as fast free week. As such, we are not called to fast on Wednesday and Friday.

### ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, after a brief coffee hour, we will have our Annual Parish Meeting. At this meeting, we will vote for acceptance of the Budget Proposal for 2025. We will also reflect on Parish life throughout the year 2024. We will remember all the achievements of our Parish as well as point out all our shortcomings that hopefully, we will address during 2025. Parish Annual Meeting is the congregational event and as such we are all expected to be present.

### International Religious Freedom Summit

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon participated in the International Religious Freedom Summit held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. For more information please follow the link:

<https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-participates-in-international-religious-freedom-summit>

### Sussex Help Center Announcement

Sussex Help Center is in need for soups, stews and items for school lunches for children. This is an ongoing HSOC outreach program and thank you for your support and contribution.

### 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).