

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

February 21, 2016

## *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee* *Triodion Begins*

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	II Timothy 3:10-15	Page 128
Gospel Reading	Luke 18:10-14	Page 129
Creed		Pamphlet
The Lord's Prayer		Page 26
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 29-30
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		Pages 33-34

**Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.**

Memorial Service Page 164

### Today's Calendar

- **Memorials: 40-day for Vaia Veroulis; 1-year for Eva Panagis**
- **Parish Council members on duty: Paris Karahalios, Angelos Kokkinos, Anna Manetta, Damon Manettas**
- **General Assembly Meeting – Church Hall – Following Divine Liturgy**
- **Coffee & Donuts will be served prior to the General Assembly.**

### This Week

**There is no fasting this week.**

### For Our Edification

**General Assembly Meets Today**

Parishioners are encouraged to attend today's General Assembly which will follow the Divine Liturgy.

New business will include an update on the status of the church air conditioner system replacement and the election of two Auditors for two years and one Auditor for one year.

Eligibility for participation is the payment of 2015 dues, which can be paid prior to the assembly.

### **Philoptochos News**

The Ladies Philoptochos Society will conduct its first meeting of this year on Monday, March 7, at 6:30 pm at the Olympia Restaurant.

The local American Heart Association received \$200 from the candy sale the Philoptochos conducted on Heart Sunday.

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

Today's Gospel lesson pictures a man who is always pleased with himself. He is self-assured and proud. He has reduced the meaning of religion to external observations and piety by the amount of money he contributes to the temple. As for the Publican, he *humbles* himself and his *humility* justifies him before God.

Humility is learned by contemplating Christ who said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble in heart." Finally, it is learned by measuring everything by Him, by referring everything to Him. For without Christ, true humility is impossible.

The Lenten season begins by a quest, a prayer for humility, which is the beginning of true repentance. "Let us avoid the high flown speech of the Pharisee, says the Kontakion of this day," and learn the majesty of the Publican's humble words. – "Great Lent – Journey to Pascha" – Alexander Schmemmann

### **Triodion Begins This Week**

Triodion is the beginning of our journey toward Pascha (Easter). The Church, in her wisdom, guides us slowly into the Great Fast and teaches us the true meaning of fasting, beginning with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.

It is ironic that we begin Triodion without fasting. There is no fasting the first week. This is to show us that even though fasting is important, it can become a source of pride and thus become just as worthless to us as the Pharisee who bragged about how much better he was than the Publican.

The name Triodion is derived from the fact that during this period the Canons that are chanted during Orthros are three instead of the usual nine. The hymns that are chanted during this time have a theme of repentance and speak of fasting and prayer.