

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

February 5, 2017

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

- The Alexis Family is hosting today's Coffee Hour in thanksgiving for their many blessings.
- Parish Council members on duty: Tom Themeles, Greg Curtis, John Grillakis, Charles Hondros

This Week

There is no fasting this week.

Monday, February 6 – 1st call for General Assembly – 7:00 pm – Church Hall

Thursday, February 9 – Parish Council Meeting – 6:30 pm – Church Hall

Friday, February 10 – St. Haralambos the Holy Martyr – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am

Divine Liturgy

For Our Edification

Meat Fare Sunday Spaghetti Luncheon

The Philoptochos has organized a Spaghetti Luncheon for Sunday, February 19, after the Divine Liturgy. The menu will consist of spaghetti with sauce and meatballs, salad,

rolls, beverage and dessert. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets will be sold during Coffee Hour today and next Sunday, February 12.

Wear Red to Promote Heart Health Awareness

February is designated as Heart Health Awareness Month. The National Philoptochos Society has requested that all women celebrate by wearing something red to church next Sunday, February 12.

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.

Haralambos, the Holy Martyr

The Priest/Martyr Haralambos lived in the town of Magnesia in Asia Minor in the 2nd century. He humbly served the Lord his entire life, first as a parish priest and later as a bishop. Late in his life, the Emperor launched a series of brutal persecutions of Christians. The aged bishop refused to hide. Instead, he openly preached Christ's Gospel, even after being arrested and ordered to denounce Him. The Emperor ordered Haralambos to be executed by beheading. Miraculously, the saintly Bishop died only minutes prior to his appointed execution.

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