

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

January 28, 2018

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

- Due to hall renovation, there will be no Coffee Hour until further notice.
- Today is the last day to bring in donations for the House of Hope.
- Parish Council members on duty: George Tgibides, Gregory Curtis, John Grillakis, Athena Hayes

This Week

There is no fasting this week.

Tuesday, January 30 – Three Hierarchs – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm – HAA Program at Hellenic Cultural Center

Friday, February 2 – Presentation of our Lord into the Temple – 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 11, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, after the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets will be sold during Coffee Hour today and next Sunday,

February 4. Reserved seating for tables of 8-10 will be available for meals paid by January 28. If Church service is cancelled due to bad weather, monies will be refunded, upon request only.

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 4.

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.

The Three Hierarchs

On Tuesday, we celebrate the Feast Day of three of the greatest bishops or hierarchs, namely St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. These great Fathers of the Church are considered Patron Saints of Greek Education and Culture because they used their fast learning to teach Orthodoxy, and especially about the Persons of the Holy Trinity.