

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

February 17, 2019

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 Steven Koules; 40-day for Florence Tzaneteas; 1-year for George Tsouprakos; 10-year for Mary Kiafas**
- **2nd Call – General Assembly – 12:30 pm – Hellenic Cultural Center**
- **Parish Council members on duty: George Tgibides, Betty Themeles, Thomas Themeles, George Christopulos**

This Week

There is no fasting this week.

For Our Edification

General Assembly Today

Second Call for the General Assembly will be held at 12:30 pm at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

Participants must have paid their 2018 dues. Parishioners may also pay their 2018 obligation in full today before the meeting.

Old business will be a report on the Church Hall Renovation Project.

Under new business, two Parish Council members will be elected for 1-year terms. Also, two Auditors will be chosen, one for two years and one for one year.

Meat Fare Sunday Spaghetti Luncheon

The Philoptochos has organized a Spaghetti Luncheon for Meat Fare Sunday, March 3, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, after the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. Tickets will be sold after Divine Liturgy.

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.