

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

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**Sunday February 21, 2021 SUNDAY OF THE
PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – Tone 4.**
*Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Saint Makarios of
Glinsk Hermitage (19th c.). Ven. Timothy of Symbola in
Bithynia (9th c.). St. Eustathius (Eustace), Archbishop of
Antioch (377). St. George, Bishop of Amastris on the
Black Sea (802-811). “KOZEL’SHCHANSKAYA” Icon
of the Mother of God (1881).*

This Week’s Schedule

Thursday 2/25 Study Group 10:00 a.m.

Saturday 2/27 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 2/28 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Hours 8:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Please Note Services will also stream Online

Reader Schedule

DATE	3RD HOUR	6th Hour	EPISTLE
Feb-21	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Feb-28	SCHOMORUCHA	PECK	LEWIS
Mar-7	LEWIS	BUNITSKY	CAREY

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 4 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!
Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!
Let us cry to our Savior:
“Have mercy on us, //
O only merciful One!”

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You
made them all.

(Ps. 103:26)

*V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very
great! (Ps. 103:1)*

Epistle 2 Timothy 3:10-15

*But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life,
purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,
persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at
Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of
them all the Lord delivered me.
Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer
persecution.*

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (Ps. 44:3b)

V. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity. (Ps. 44:6)

Gospel Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week's Announcements

Parish Council Meeting Just a reminder that we will be having our February parish council meeting this Thursday, Feb. 25th at 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Please email Jeff Kendall if you cannot attend.

Study Group Seven of us met on Zoom this past Thursday to finish chapter 18 of St. Matthew and start chapter 19. In the coming weeks, our study of St. Matthew will bring us to our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. It will be great timing with the study of these particular gospel lessons given the Lenten season. Consider joining us during the Lenten season for our Thursday study group. We will continue to meet on Zoom at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

Sacraments for Those Staying Home Recognizing the need for many to quarantine due to the deadliness of the pandemic, Fr. Barnabas is available to meet individually on Wednesdays and Fridays to offer Confession and Communion for those still at home. Fr. Barnabas is also willing to meet in other creative ways, like on your porch, to assure everyone remains connected. Please email or call the office to set up a time for the Sacraments.

Great Lent to Begin Our Lenten journey will begin with Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday, March 15th following Liturgy. All should make a sincere effort to begin the Lenten season with this service and the "Mutual Rite of Forgiveness". On Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity, and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us. If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14-18)."

Questions Everyone Should ask themselves Before coming to In-Person Worship: Do you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, and or trouble breathing? Persistent pain, pressure or tightness in chest? Any recent loss of taste/smell or gastrointestinal upset? Any contact with anyone with C-19? **If you answer YES to any of these questions you should stay at home.**

Dealing with the Devil

The words of Jesus Christ in Mark 13: 9-13 warn the disciples of difficult times to come.

The events He foretells are frightening: "They will deliver you up to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues...And brother will deliver up brother to death and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for My name's sake."

But before telling them all these things, He urges the disciples to "take heed to yourselves," which is also translated as "watch out for yourselves" or "beware." This warning could simply mean that they must prepare for the trouble that is coming.

But it might also mean that they must be ready to face that trouble without letting it overcome them. The devil uses whatever he can to tempt us away from faith, and making us despair when we suffer unjustly for the faith can be one of his weapons. That is why Christ adds this promise to His warning: "But he who endures to the end will be saved."

A man who did allow the devil's temptation to overcome him is the monk Erasmus of the Kiev Caves. He came from a very wealthy family, and decided that the best way to spend his money was to beautify the monastery church with icons and precious relics. He used up his fortune doing this, and continued to live his personal life as a monk without possessions or wealth.

The devil found a way to use Erasmus' generous beautifying of the church against him by making him doubt what he had done. Why, the devil tempted him, didn't you use your money to help the poor? What good is a beautiful church?

Erasmus allowed these evil questions to drive him into despair, which was his real sin. He drifted into an unhealthy, unfruitful way of living. When he became deathly ill, his monastic brothers were sure that it was too late for him to repent. But the Mother of God appeared to him as he lay dying. She understood that he had wanted to honor her by making the church beautiful, and she assured him that he would be given time to repent, and would be received into the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Church remembers another person who was tempted by the devil: Saint Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople. At the end of a life spent honorably serving God, he was attacked by demons trying to make him despair by accusing him of various sins. But rather than give in, he

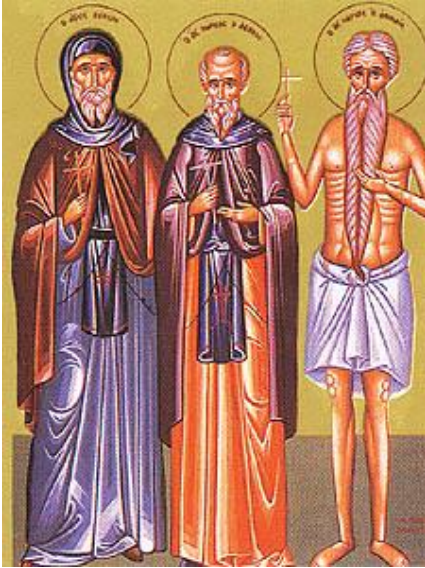
shouted back at them, "I am not guilty of that sin!" and flailed the air with his arms, driving them off. When he finally died, he was at peace and his face was radiant.

Whatever ways the devil finds to tempt us into despair, it's good to remember the promise of Christ: The person who endures to the end will be saved.

Getting Our Facts Straight

Saint Mark the Ascetic was revered for his gentleness and for his ability to write with clarity about the "facts" of the Christian faith.

There is not much information about Saint Mark's life, but he lived in the fifth century and knew many of the great Church leaders of that time, including Saint John Chrysostom, who was probably his teacher and mentor. At the age of forty he was tonsured a monk, and spent the next several decades as a hermit in the desert of the northwestern Nile Delta in Egypt.



He prayed with the Scriptures so closely that he learned them by heart. But, studious as he was, he did not ignore the living creatures around him. He paid attention to what was happening to them.

That is why he once noticed that the offspring of a hyena was blind, and wept for it. Because of his compassion the young animal's sight was restored. The mother hyena, in gratitude, brought him a sheepskin. While appreciating the mother's gift, he made it clear to her

that she was never to kill the sheep of the poor people who lived in the neighboring villages.

Saint Mark produced many writings, and in these we see his concern that people should have true knowledge, real facts, about the Christian life. So among his words are these: "Even though knowledge is true, it is still not firmly established if unaccompanied by works. For when we have totally neglected to practice something, our knowledge of it will gradually disappear." He is stating a basic fact: Just as God acted for us

by becoming man and overcoming death, He wants us to have an active faith, not just an intellectual one.

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

A Story Told by Elder Paisios about a Young Monk Setting His Cell on Fire to “Disinfect” It after It Was “Defiled” by a Woman

Reflecting on how a person’s thoughts are indicative of his spiritual state, Venerable Elder Paisios once said, “People interpret the reality in accordance with their own thoughts. Any event or phenomenon can be viewed from either the good or the bad side.

Once, I heard about an incident that happened in a monastery located near a residential area. Little by little, houses began to appear around this monastery until it became surrounded by them on all sides. The brethren celebrated Vespers at midnight, together with matins. The lay people from the surrounding area also came to services.

Once, a young monk, leaving for the service, forgot to close the door of his cell, and a woman entered it. When the monk found out about this, he became awfully excited. “What a disaster! The cell is defiled! What am I going to do now?”

Without thinking twice, he grabbed a bottle of alcohol, poured its contents onto the floor and set it on fire. “Here, let’s disinfect this floor...”

Having burned the floor in his cell, he was a hair’s breadth from burning down the entire monastery, but he did not burn down his thoughts, and that’s what really had to be burned down, because it was the thought that contained evil. If the monk had seen things in the positive light and said to himself that the woman entered his cell out of reverence, wanting to receive the blessing of the monastic grace and bring it home with her, then a spiritual change would have occurred to him and he would have glorified God...

A person’s spiritual state becomes evident from the quality of his thoughts.

People judge things and events in accordance with what they have in themselves. Lacking spirituality, they draw erroneous conclusions and treat others unfairly.

Prayers for the Departed: Metropolitan Theodosius, Archbishop David, Mitred Archpriest Eugene Pianovich, Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Daniel Kovalak, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke Wales, Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, Stephanie Hojnicky, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest, Paula Daubert, Elizabeth Clause, Jamie Clause, David Telep

Prayers for Catechmens Kristin Mackenzie,, Andrew Ashton

Date	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>
21-Feb	Sulpizi	Carey
28-Feb	Hojnicki/ Najemy	Baldychev/Shatley/Sylvest
7-Mar	Telep/Baldychev	Sulpizi

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

- Great Fast Begins.....March 15th**
- Holy Pascha..... May 2nd**
- Ascension.....June 10th**
- Pentecost.....June 20th**