

**:: Fr. Alexander Schmemman on Humility ::**

*The Following is an excerpt from **Great Lent**, chapter 2: Preparation for Lent*

[This Sunday] is called the *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee*. On the eve of this day, on Saturday at Vespers, the liturgical book of the Lenten season-- the *Triodion*-- makes its first appearance and texts from it are added to the usual hymns and prayers of the weekly resurrection service. They develop the next major aspect of repentance: *humility*.

The Gospel lesson (Lk. 18:10-4) pictures a man who is always pleased with himself and who thinks that he complies with all the requirements of religion. He is self-assured and proud of himself. In reality, however, he has falsified the meaning of religion. He has reduced it to external observations and he measures his 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. If there is a moral quality almost completely disregarded and even denied today, it is indeed humility. The culture in which we live constantly instills in us the sense of pride, of self-glorification, and of self-righteousness. It is built on the assumption that man can achieve anything by himself and it even pictures God as the one who all the time "gives credit" for man's achievements and good deeds. Humility-- be it individual or corporate, ethnic or national-- is viewed as a sign of weakness, as something unbecoming a real man. Even our churches-- are they not imbued with that same spirit as the Pharisee? Do we not want our every contribution, every "good deed," all that we do "for the Church" to be acknowledged, praised, publicized? ...

The Lenten season begins then by a quest, a prayer for humility which is the beginning of true repentance. For repentance, above everything else, is *a return to the genuine order of things*, the restoration of the right vision. It is, therefore, rooted in humility, and humility-- the divine and beautiful humility-- is its fruit and end. "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..."

*Do you have an announcement for our bulletin? Please call or email Fr. Andrew no later than Friday each week for anything to be included in Sunday's bulletin.*



**St. George Orthodox Church  
of Spring Valley**

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler  
211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362  
www.stgeorgeorthodox.org  
815-664-4540 (church office)  
773-575-3272 (cell)  
frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org

**Sunday, February 21, 2016  
Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican**

**Matins: 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM**

**Epistle Reader:** Kenneth Wiltse

**Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** Matthew and Nan McNatt

**Next Sunday's Coffee Hour:** Matt and Olly Rowan

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5):** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Troparion of St. George the Great Martyr (Tone 4):** Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

**Kontakion for the Pharisee and Publican (Tone 3):** Let us flee the Pharisee's conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican's humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH  
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest  
www.antiochian.org

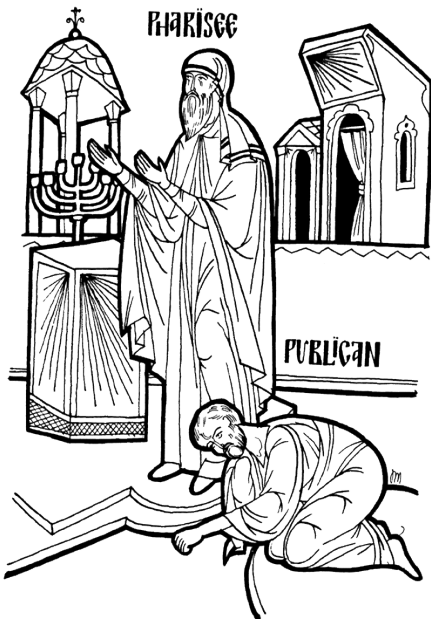
## THE EPISTLE

### For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.  
God is known in Judaea, His Name is great in Israel!

### The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (3:10-15)

My Child Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.



## THE GOSPEL

### For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up 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, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**Birthdays this Week:**  
Brianna Kaleel, Feb. 24  
Kenneth Welgatt, Feb. 25

*Are we forgetting anyone? Please let Fr. Andrew know.*

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, [www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org).*

This week's events and services:

- **Today:** Children's Sunday school downstairs, immediately after Holy Communion.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 23: Service of Healing,** “Akathist to Jesus Christ, Light to those in Darkness,” 7pm. *This will be offered as our contribution to the “Prayers for the Valley” series of services. We will have guests from other local churches this evening, so please come and show your characteristic hospitality!*
- **Saturday, Feb. 27:** Vespers, 6:00 pm.
- **Next Sunday, Feb. 28: Sunday of the Prodigal Son.** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: George Forsa. Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Rowan.

Looking ahead:

- **Monday, March 14:** First day of Great Lent. *Lenten services will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings beginning on this date.*
- **Sunday, April 24:** Palm Sunday
- **Sunday, May 1:** Holy Pascha

**House blessings** continue! Please contact Fr. Andrew to set up a date and time to have your home and/or workplace blessed with the Theophany Holy Water. *Please know it is not necessary to invite Fr. Andrew's entire family, or to provide a meal. All you need to have ready is a place to pray in front of an icon, and a list of living and departed for Fr. Andrew to remember in prayer.* Talk to Father if you have any additional questions.

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### January 2016 Finances for St. George Church

Operating Income: \$ 4477.00  
Operating Expense: \$ 4333.82  
Ending Balance: \$10268.39

*Thank you for your continued support of our church! Please see our treasurer Anyisia Medawar with any questions.*