

(No Bulletin sponsors for this week.)

Readings: **II Timothy 3:10-15** (*Publican and Pharisee, 4th Sunday before lent*)
Luke 18:10-14 (*Publican and Pharisee, 4th Sunday before lent*)

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Lord said 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 you that I am not like other men, extortioners, 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.”

Sunday Services:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month
Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew
Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour - after Divine Liturgy.

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Sunday School meets every Sunday after Communion.

Announcements:

- Our **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioners** will be held today, **February 25th**, after coffee hour. The annual meeting of the parishioners is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, reports by the Rector and Council members, and for other business.
- The **Sisterhood** is planning two **pre-Lenten luncheons** on Sunday **March 10th** (Meatfare), and Sunday **March 17th** (Cheesefare). The cost for these luncheons will be \$5.00 per person, payable at the door. (Children 12 and under are free.) If you would like to contribute a food item to either luncheon, there is a sign-up sheet posted downstairs.
- Dues and assessments are now being collected for the year 2024. Total Parish Membership is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.

Reminders:

- The **Sisterhood’s food drive** is ongoing. Donation bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Please be generous. Thank you!
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers. And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- Please consider mailing your weekly donation to our treasurer:
 Church of the Mother of God, c/o Holly Dawson, treasurer,
 111 Main Ave, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
 Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations. (There is also a donation basket at the candle stand. Or a **Venmo account** can be used for donations to our parish. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson>)
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- **The Grey Book Step Meeting Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.
- **The Living Clean Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee *Beginning of the Lenten Triodion:*

Today, the Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus, is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. The Triodion season, named after the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent, begins.

The focus today is on the two men who went to the Temple to pray—one a pharisee who was a very decent and righteous man of religion, the other a publican who was a truly sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people.

The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned, according to Christ. The second, although genuinely sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God (Lk 18.9).

The meditation here is that we have neither the religious piety of the pharisee nor the repentance of the publican by which alone we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, and to beg for mercy.

To read about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/02/25>

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and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,

Temporary Rector

Email: searbks1@verizon.net Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory
forever

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

*Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!
And learn humility from the Publican’s tears!
Let us cry to our Savior, have mercy on us,
only merciful One!*

Tone 4 – Troparion

February 25, 2024

Today the Church remembers:

Beginning of the Lenten Triodion • St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806)

38th Sunday after Pentecost
Triodion week 1

Tone 5 of the Octoechos.
Fast Free week