

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
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OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky
Choir Director: Wash King

Sunday, February 21, 2021
37th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Sun...February 21...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Church Council Meeting
Sun...February 28...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Prayer List: *HEAVENLY FATHER ... Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent your only begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit us and heal us, Your servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Son Jesus Christ; grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your word to pray for each other that we may be healed. You are the source of healing and to You, we give glory; to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birozik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Joseph Tosca, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

February Birthdays: 1- Michael Kulick, 3- Michael Tatusko, 7- Ira James, 9-Wendy Kulick, 15- Claire Remington, 22- Peter Harahus, 26- Catherine Hedes, 26- George Yurchak

If anyone is in need of a priest please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772. Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

Candles (February 21):

Flowers... For the Health of **George Yurchak (96th Birthday)** offered by Helen Yurchak

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Barbara Teno** offered by Ted Bogosh

Altar Candles... For the Health of **Martha Stafiniak** offered by Ted Bogosh

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Harry Wyshosky** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses ... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **Kathryn (Harahuess) Yurchak** offered by Russell & Geri King

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod...For the Health of **George Yurchak** offered by Helen Yurchak

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (*Epistle*)

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.

Luke 18:10-14 (*Gospel*)

“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.”

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Edward Conarty (husband of the late Mary Chmel Conarty) who fell asleep in the Lord on 2/11/21
Memory Eternal!

Financials 2/8-14/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 9 - Altar Candles 100 - Offerings 346 – Non-Envelope 50 - Holy Days 27 – Donations 0 = Total \$532.00; – Building Fund 20.00
– Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. – Thank you

A LESSON ON PRAYER

Prayer is important to our religious life. In general, there are two forms of prayer - Private and Public, that is alone or together in community.

During the course of His earthly life, Jesus taught us about both forms. He Himself went up to a mount and prayed alone with His Heavenly Father, as He did also in Gethsemane. He taught people to pray "in secret," to close the door and commune with God. But He also urged people to pray publicly, especially at worship. "Where two or three are together in My Name, there am I amongst them." Christ went regularly to the temple in sanctification of the Sabbath. And so we, too, gather each Lord's Day, to pray together as the Family of God.

But there are ingredients to TRUE prayer, whether private or public. The parable of the Publican and the Pharisee points to a factor that, on the one hand, kills effective prayer; and a factor, on the other hand, that facilitates true communion with the Lord.

We see the pride, the hypocrisy, the failure of love in the example of the Pharisee, who stood before the crowd in the temple and bragged about his righteousness. We also see the true humility, the need for God and forgiveness on the part of the Publican who stood back and beat his breast praying "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

Christ ended his teaching with this: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." May we heed this warning against hypocrisy.

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The Parable of the Publican and Pharisee

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).

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

Kontakion — Tone 4

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!

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins. Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances. The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee’s religious piety, nor the Publican’s repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Venerable Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia

Saint Timothy of Symbola was of Italian descent. He became a monk at a young age and pursued asceticism at a monastery called “Symbola”, in Asia Minor near Mount Olympus. At that time Theoctistus was the archimandrite of the monastery. Saint Timothy was the disciple of Theoctistus and also of Saint Platon of the Studion Monastery (April 5).

Attaining a high degree of spiritual perfection, he received from God the gift of healing the sick and casting out unclean spirits. He spent many years as a hermit, roaming the wilderness, the mountains and forests, both day and night offering up prayer to the Lord God. He died at a great old age, in the year 795.

Saint Eustathius, Archbishop of Antioch

Saint Eustathius, Archbishop of Antioch (323-331) was born in Side, Pamphylia in 324. He was Bishop of Beroea (modern Aleppo), and enjoyed the love and esteem of the people, and at the request of his flock he was elevated by the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (325) to the See of Antioch.

Saint Eustathius was a learned theologian, and was also distinguished by his broad knowledge in secular sciences. When the heresy of Arius began to spread in the East (Arianism denied the consubstantiality of the Son of God with the Father), Saint Eustathius struggled zealously for the purity of the Orthodox Faith through his words and his writings.

The First Ecumenical Council was convened in the year 325 by the holy God-crowned Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337). The first to preside over this Council was Saint Eustathius. The Council condemned the heretical teachings of Arius and incorporated the Orthodox confession into the Symbol of Faith (the Nicene Creed).

But the mad Arius, as Saint Eustathius called him, refused to renounce his errors. He and those who shared his opinion were excommunicated from the Church by the Council. Among the bishops who signed the Nicene Symbol of Faith were some who sympathized with the heresy of Arius, but signed the Acts of the Council through fear of excommunication.

After the Council, his enemies plotted against Saint Eustathius. With great cunning they gained his consent to convene a local Council at Antioch. Having bribed a certain profligate woman, they persuaded her to appear at the Council with an infant at her breast, and falsely declare that Saint Eustathius was the father of the infant.

The Arians declared Saint Eustathius deposed, violating the Apostolic Rule that accusations against the clergy must be substantiated by two witnesses. Without a trial he was sent off into exile in Thrace. But the lie was soon unmasked: the woman repented after falling grievously ill. She summoned the clergy, and in the presence of many people, she confessed her sin.

Saint Constantine the Great died around this time, and his son Constantius (337-361), who shared the heretical views of Arius and favored the Arian bishops, succeeded his father on the throne. Even in exile, Saint Eustathius struggled for Orthodoxy with the same zeal. He died in exile, in the city of Philippi or Trajanopolis, in the year 337.

Convened in the year 381 at Constantinople, the Second Ecumenical Council confirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith, which Saint Eustathius had so vigorously defended. The Arian heresy was once again anathematized.

In the year 482 the relics of Saint Eustathius were reverently transferred from Philippi to Antioch, to the great joy of the people of Antioch, who had not ceased to honor and love their patriarch.