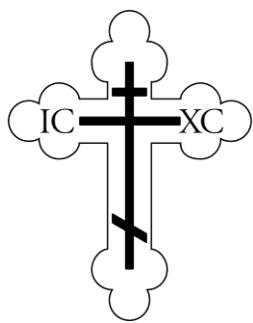
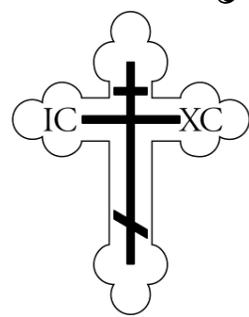


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219) 384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confessions are heard before or
after Vespers or by appointment.

**Welcome visitors!
Please join us in
the parish hall after
Divine Liturgy for
coffee hour.**

February 17, 2019

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

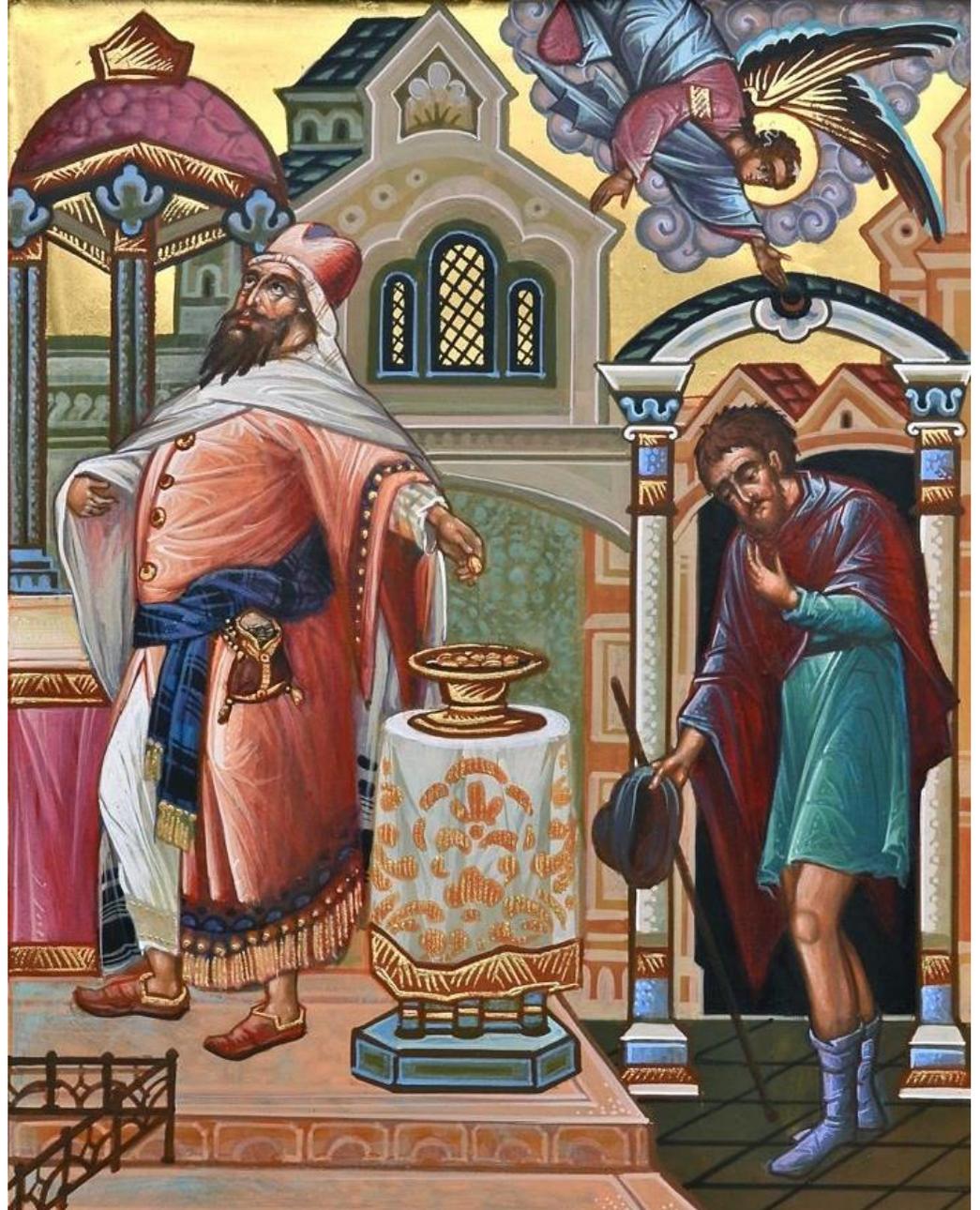
The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the *Triodion* (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

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.

One 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.



HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:
Enccompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.
Deliver us from every form of evil
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//
that He may save our souls.

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Publican and Pharisee

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 3 – Patronal Kontakion

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,
And with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.
Angels and bishops worship.
Apostles and prophets rejoice together,//
Since for our sake she prays to the eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3.10-15

My son Timothy, 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.

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.

Gospel: Luke 18.10-14

Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: “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.”



“What is the Church, if not a place where the sick meet their physician? Those sick from sin come to confess their sickness to God and to find medicine and healing from Him who is the true Healer of all human suffering and weakness and the Giver of all good things. Do the healthy go to hospital to boast of their health to the doctor? But this Pharisee did not come to the Temple with a whole and healthy soul, but as a man seriously ill with unrighteousness who, in the delirium of his sickness, no longer knows he is ill.”

- St. Nikolai Velimirovich

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Chris Velo
Stephen Dearman
ArchPr. John Mason
Richard Smith
Jeanine Andjelich

Ev.Mem. Nikodim Tsarev ('17)
Anna Sawochka ('64)
Anna Graban ('68)
Alice Erbesti (2018)

Health & Salvation:	Carol	Brittany
Protopr. George	Peter	Jennifer
Mat. Anna	Janie	David
Archpr. Peter	Tom	Roger
Archpr. John	Elizabeth	Tina
Pr. John	Tina	Chris
Pr. Christopher	Adam	Benjamin
Mat. Jennifer	Myah	Juliana
Andrew	Margaret	Joseph
Gideon	Diane	Cathy
Kevin	Madelin	Laurie
Jon	Villian	Lennox
Tanya	Deborah	Laila
Kimberly	Claudia	Richard
Gail	John	Paula
William	Carisa	Christopher
Jovan	Natalia	Brian
Charles	Elizabeth	Jennifer
Barbara	Tom	Janet
Theodore	Paul	Nicholas
Michael	Alexander	Kevin
Julia	Darlene	Barbara
Warren	Mira	Thomas
Loretta	Kristin	Allyson
Gilbert	Mitchel	

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will hold our **annual meeting today**. Extra reports are still available in the Narthex, if you need one. If you are visiting us this morning, please join us for lunch before the meeting.

As a sign that we do not put faith in our own works like the Pharisee, who boasted that he “fasts twice a week,” the Church prescribes **no fasting this week**.

St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church is hosting a **Trivia Night** next Sunday, February 24, from 4-7pm at the Moose Lodge in Chesterton. For more information, pick up a flyer in the Narthex.

House blessings continue. I will be in Portage and Chesterton for daytime blessings this week and Cedar Lake and Lowell the week after. Please sign up if you haven't yet.

Mark your calendars:

Feb 24: **St. Elizabeth's Trivia Night:** Moose Lodge in Chesterton @ 4pm

Feb 27: **Fellowship Night @ 6pm**

Feb 28: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Mar 6: **Parish Council meeting @ 7pm**

Mar 11: **Clean Monday**—the beginning of Great Lent

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,746

Mortgage: \$483

Parents Who End Up Going It Alone by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

Anyone who joins the Church does so as a broken person. We come to the Church as if it were a hospital. We seek healing and rest for our souls and bodies. One of the major changes we have seen in the Church over the last 35 years deals with the question, "What is a family?" The idea of an intact family, in which father and mother come together in their only marriage — and both of whom are Orthodox Christians with their own children — is not as common as we would think.

More and more, Orthodox parishes and their priests are dealing with a variety of issues in this regard.

- Single parent families as a result of divorce or having children out of wedlock. As a bishop I know I am not

doing what needs to be done to see that the needs of single parent families are being addressed.

- Families in which both parents are not Orthodox Christians, which is quite common in all Orthodox Churches in this country.
- Reconstituted families, in which previously divorced couples re-marry, bringing into the marriage their own children. The couple may both be Orthodox, or in some instances only one of them is Orthodox, while the other comes from another Christian faith background. Thus, the children may have been baptized in a different faith tradition.

Today, I would like to speak about the single parent family. Of this group there may be some parents that do well financially with good-paying jobs. Some may receive generous monthly child support from their ex-spouses. Thus, they may have the financial means to seek necessary support for such services as house cleaning or live-in caretakers/daycare to help tend to the children. My guess is that this group would be in the minority. I think many single parents have full time jobs that may not pay as well, making it necessary to live check to check. Whether single parents are divorced or have had children out of wedlock, they may not receive appropriate financial support from their ex-spouses or the other parents of the children born out of wedlock. They may not have the means to pay for domestic support services. Single parents then face the demands of daily home life without the support of a spouse. Besides working 40 hours a week, they still need to prepare meals, keep the house clean and the laundry done, and pay the bills, including the cost of day care for children. When all is said and done, is there room for church? For those single parents who have their own parents (children's grandparents) close by, they are a Godsend as they provide support in many areas and they do it for nothing. Thank God for the love and concern of grandparents who can still fulfill this role.

As I reflect on what we can do in parishes to support single parent families (and those single parents who are seeking and willing to receive this help), the following things come to mind:

- Can parishes support single parents by asking parishioners to prepare meals for such families?
- Can parishes engage a couple of people who would be willing to do house cleaning when needed?
- What can be done in parishes to link single parents up to appropriate childcare relief?
- I think it would be great if a priest or someone he appoints could form a support group in the parish for single parents. The group could focus on how single parents can live out their Orthodox faith in the context of the reality they live in.

I wish to thank parishes that may already be doing some of the above things. It would also be great to hear from single parents about what the Church can do better to support them.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon our single parents. Thank you for embracing your labors with joy and love, especially at times when this is difficult.

With love in Christ,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!