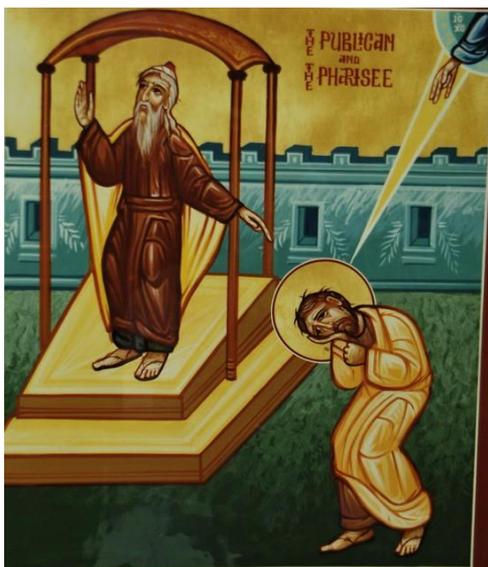


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



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

37th Sunday After Pentecost

February 21st, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: St. Luke 18:10-14

A warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

- *Compline/Adult Ed. (Bible Study/St. Mark) – Wednesday, Feb 24th @ 6pm
- *Great Vespers – Saturday, Feb 27th @ 5pm
- *Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Feb 28th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)
Fellowship After in the Hall
- *This week is a Fast-Free week!!! ☺
- *Parish Council Meeting this Monday Feb 22nd @ 5:30pm
- *If you would like to have your home blessed, please see Fr. Seraphim to setup a day and time.

Our Giving – January 14th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$820.00

Candle Offerings – \$42.75

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by **fasting, prayer** [i.e., *Prayers Before Communion*], **recent confession**, and who were at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. *We should all be at peace with each other too.* If you have any questions about this, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

“A monk also asked Sisoës: How can I attain humility? The saint replied: When someone learns to acknowledge every man as being better than himself, then he has attained humility.”

St. Sisoës the Great

The Prologue of Ohrid: Volume 2 p.26

The 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 (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.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/02/21/2-sunday-of-the-publican-and-the-pharisee-embeginning-of-the-lente>

save the date
04.03.21
virtual event

26TH ANNUAL NICHOLAS TSAKALOS MEMORIAL LENTEN RETREAT
presented by the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, MD

Authentic Christianity: Why Young People are Leaving the Church (and How We Can Inspire Them to Stay)

with speakers

	FR. ANDREW STEPHEN DAMICK Chief Content Officer of Ancient Faith Ministries, Author and Podcaster & STEVEN CHRISTOFOROU Director of Y ² AM (GOARCH) and Host of "Be the Bee"	
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online registration information to follow

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!
Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Presbytera Eva (Koutroulelis), Mary (Federoff) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Newly Illumined Child Lucille Ruth Crews, & the Newly Illumined Servant Ephraim Heller

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!
His Beatitude, Met. Philaret of Minsk (+1/12), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (+1/20), Proto-Pres. Daniel Hubiak (+2/5), Archimandrite Alexander Cutler (+1/26), Archpriest Joseph Gibson (+1/20), Archpriest John Tkachuk (+2/19), Protodeacon John Eby (+2/3)