

23:13-15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous and separate from others, which is what the Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake and all held them to be sinner and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee and sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and profit of humble mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called *Harbinger*, since it declares that the Fast approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue and casts him into Hades; and through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked

### **All Living Creation Yearns For the Love of God**

Every living thing seeks love: man, animals and plants. All people seek God and long for Him, regardless of whether they are believers or unbelievers. Some people call themselves atheists, but they do not know that their hearts long after God. For when someone yearns for justice, love and truth, he is really yearning after God. All people long for love that never changes, and for justice that is always the same.... The only difference is that: some oppose Him and others don't; some yearn after Him consciously, while others are not aware that their yearning is really after God. - Elder Thaddeus of Serbia (+2002)

### **What Activates True Love?**

When grace is operative in the soul of someone who is praying, then he is flooded with the love of God, so that he can no longer bear what he experiences. Afterwards, this love turns towards the world and man, whom he comes to love so much that he seeks to take upon himself the whole of human pain and misfortune so that everyone else might be freed from it. In general he suffers with every grief and misery, and even for animals, so that he weeps when he thinks they are suffering. These are the properties of love, but it is prayer that activates them and calls them forth. This is why those who are advanced in prayer do not cease to pray for the world. To them belongs even the continuation of life, however audacious and strange this may seem. And you should know that, if such people disappear, then the end of this world will come. - Elder Joseph the Hesychast

## **Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin**

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## **February 25, 2024**

### **Sunday Holy Scripture Reading**

**Apostolic Reading:** 2 Timothy 3:10-15

**Gospel:** St. Lukk 18:10-14

**Services:** *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

**Saints of the Day: Triodion—Publican and the Pharisee.** Tarasios, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyrs Reginos, bishop of Skopelos, and Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria; Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis.

### **Hymns of the Day**

#### **Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 5**

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, \* so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. \* Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. \* For our salvation He was pleased \* to be crucified in the flesh, \* and to undergo death, \* and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection.

#### **Apolytikion of the Archangels Tone 4**

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, implore and beseech You that by Your supplications You encircle us in the shelter of the wings of Your immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to You with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

#### **Kontakion to for the Publican and Pharisee Tone 4**

Let us flee the Pharisee's \* exalted parlance; \* let us learn the Publican's \* humble demeanor, and with sighs \* unto the Savior cry out and say, \* To us be gracious, O only forgiving Lord.

### **Divine Services**

**Wed. Feb. 28:** Paraklesis 5pm

**Sat. Feb. 24:** NO Service

### **Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church**

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is "*With the fear of God, faith and love*" that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only

for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

### Bottle Filling Station

We recently installed a new bottle filling station by the restrooms as approved at our December General Assembly. We are in the process of purchasing reusable plastic cups for the coffee hour. This alleviates the need to bring in water bottles and helps lower more plastic going into landfills.

### Orthodox Catechism Class

Following services and coffee hour today, February 25, we will gather in the church for a half hour or so. *All are welcomed to attend!*

### Church Bookstore

Holy Week books are due back in stock by the end of the month. If you are interested in securing a copy, I will be taking orders until Sunday, March 3. The books are \$25.00 each and I will only be accepting cash or checks for the preorders. An array of books for the upcoming Lenten Season are available for purchase at our Church bookstore. Please refer to the flyers by the candle stand for more information. *A little spiritual reading or study, when carried out prior to prayer, is very helpful because the soul is warmed and the mind is transported to the spiritual realm. ~ St. Paisios of Mount Athos*

### Stewardship 2024

Following services on Sunday, December 3, our Chairperson Ruxandra Georgescu offered some words of inspiration for us to be faithful stewards of the Church. Please see Ruxandra for a 2024 packet.

### Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

**Feb. 25:** Zeigenfuss Family

**March 3:** Kaloroumakis Family

**March 10:** Rainford Family

**March 17:** Sponsor Needed

### Church School

Church School will resumed on Sunday, Sept. 10. Please see Sara LaBrie for more information. Please allow the Church School students receive Holy Communion first as meets then.

### Benevolent Fund

We are in need of funds to offer Christmas gifts to our fellow parishioners who are shut-ins and are unable to attend services. We will have a basket in the narthex following services. If you know of anyone in need from our community, please see Fr. Dennis.

### “Thank You!” from the Capital Campaign Committee

The final numbers are in, and the Capital Campaign Committee would like to say “Thank You!” to everyone who contributed to the challenge match last year. \$10,115 was donated, which will dollar for dollar be matched by the Festival account. This means we have \$20,230 more available in our search for a new home for our parish and pushes us over the next milestone, giving us more than \$400k in the New Building Fund account. Thank you all for helping us take a good step forward as we begin the process of raising additional funds, and please look for more from your Capital Campaign Committee this year.

### 2024 GOYA Front Range Lenten Retreat

Registration for this youth retreat opens this coming Tuesday. It will be held from March 29-31. Please see the Metropolis website. <https://www.denver.goarch.org/>

### Lenten Retreat

The weekend of April 5-6, we will have presentations by Fr. Dan Suciu from San Antonio, TX to speak to our community. More details will follow soon.

### No Fasting This Week

The week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is a fast-free week. All foods are permitted every day, even on Wednesday and Friday. The Church relaxes the normal fast to teach us not to be as the Pharisee who boasted before God of his observing a fast twice a week.

### Dates to Remember

**Feb. 25:** Triodion Period Begins

**March 9:** 1st Saturday of Souls

**March 16:** 2nd Saturday of Souls

**March. 18:** Great Lent Begins

**March 23:** 3rd Saturday of Souls

**April 29:** Palm Sunday

**May 5:** Pascha

**June 13:** Ascension of the Lord

**June 23:** Pentecost

*No Apostle Fast this year*

### Greek School

Greek School begins on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 4:30pm. Please contact Alex Ellis at 719.471.0157.

### Bishop Constantine to Visit AMGOC

His Grace Bishop Constantine will preside at the Holy Friday Lamentation Service on May 3. More details to follow.

### Saints of the Day

**The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee:** *The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observances of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they “did all their works to be seen of men” (Matthew. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid.*