

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee

**St. Nicholas and St. Basil
Byzantine Catholic Parishes
Liturgical Schedule:**

| | | | |
|--------|-----|----|---|
| Sat. | Feb | 8 | Theodore Great-Martyr 3:30 pm Rosary 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy (SB) for Kristina Ivonaj |
| Sun. | Feb | 9 | SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE 9:45 am Divine Liturgy (SB) for Kristina Ivonaj 11:00 am Moleben to the Theotokos (SN) 11:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Parishioners (SN) |
| Mon. | Feb | 10 | Charalampus Martyr |
| Tue. | Feb | 11 | Blase Bishop-Martyr 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (SB) |
| Wed. | Feb | 12 | Meletius Archbishop 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (SN) for Lieza |
| Thurs. | Feb | 13 | Martynian Venerable 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (SB) |
| Fri. | Feb | 14 | Cyril Apostle to the Slavs 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (SN) – Old Slavic Language |
| Sat. | Feb | 15 | Onesimus Apostle 3:30 pm Rosary 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy (SB) |
| Sun. | Feb | 16 | SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON 9:45 am Divine Liturgy (SB) 11:00 am Moleben for the Jubilee Year (SN) 11:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Parishioners (SN) |

St. Nicholas Parish Weekly Collections 2/2/2025

“My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me”

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|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Offertory | \$ 1615.00 | Candles | \$ 20.00 |
| Holy Days | \$ 255.00 | E-donations | \$ 305.75 |
| Others | \$ 170.00 | <i>Least of my Brethren</i> | \$ 580.00 |

Total: \$ 2,945.75 We thank You for Your big generosity!

Propers: Ton 5, page 146, of the feast - page 321.

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

(Lk 18:10-14)

At that time Jesus told them this parable:

“Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and said this prayer to himself: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and pay tithes on all my income.’

“The tax collector, however, stood some distance away and would not even raise his eyes to heaven. Rather, he kept beating his breast as he said, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ This man, I tell you, returned to his home justified, whereas the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Meaning of this Holy Gospel:

The Pharisees thought their own goodness was so impressive that it could not fail to make them acceptable to God. They held rigorously to the ceremonies and traditions of the law, making a public show of their religiosity, all to be seen by other men, many of whom they despised as being beneath them. The Pharisee in the story is the epitome of one who is self-justifying. Notice that his prayer has no elements of confession. He does not ask forgiveness for his sins, perhaps because he believes he has nothing to confess. Nor is there any word of praise or thanksgiving to God. His prayer is all about him. Even the thanks he does offer is designed to exalt himself and place himself above others whom he treats with disdain. This “prayer” is not heard by God.

Unlike the Pharisee, who stands boldly in the temple reciting his prayers of self-congratulation, the tax collector stood “afar off” or “at a distance,” but certainly far from the Pharisee who would have been offended by the nearness of this man. The posture of tax collector spoke of his unworthiness before God. Unable to even lift his eyes to heaven, the burden of his guilt and shame weighed heavily upon him, and the load he carried had become unbearable. Overcome by his transgressions, he beats his breast in sorrow and repentance and appeals to God for mercy. The prayer he speaks is the very one God is waiting to hear, and his attitude is exactly what God wants from all who come to Him.

The tax collector exhibits precisely what Jesus spoke about in the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”. Being poor in spirit means admitting we have nothing to offer to God to atone for our sin. We come to God as empty, impoverished, despised, bankrupt, pitiable, desperate beggars. The tax collector recognizes his sinful condition and seeks the only thing that can bridge the gap between himself and God. “Have mercy on me,” he cries, and we know from the end of the parable that God heard his prayer for mercy and answered it.

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church
23300 King Drive, 48035 Clinton Township, MI
Phone: (588) 791-1052; Email: stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com

Pastor: Father Mykhailo Solianyuk

Cantors: George Nagrant, Nicholas P. Nagrant, Ann Pawluszka, Steve Terlescki,
John P. Minarish, Richard Baranko and Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore

Confessions: Before each Divine Liturgy in the sacristy or by appointment

Baptisms: Arrange six weeks in advance

Weddings: Arrange six months in advance. Bride or groom must be a member of the parish

Communion: Monthly for sick and shut-ins. Call the church for scheduling

Publican and Pharisee: Humility vs Self-Righteousness

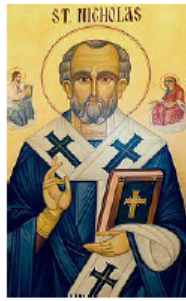
This parable represents to us two chariots on the race course, each with two charioteers in it. In one of the chariots it places righteousness with pride, in the other sin and humility. You see the chariot of sin outstrip that of righteousness, not by its own strength but by the excellence of humility combined with it, but the other is defeated not by righteousness, but by the weight and swelling of pride.

For as humility by its own elasticity rises above the weight of pride, and leaping up reaches to God, so pride by its great weight easily depresses righteousness. Although therefore you are earnest and constant in well doing, yet think you may boast yourself, you are altogether devoid of the fruits of prayer. But you that bears a thousand loads of guilt on your conscience, and only

think this thing of yourself that you are the lowest of all men, shall gain much confidence before God.

And He then goes on to assign the reason of His sentence. For every one who exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted. The word humility has various meanings. There is the humility of virtue, as, a humble and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. There is also a humility arising from sorrows, as, He has humbled my life upon the earth. There is a humility derived from sin, and the pride and insatiability of riches. For can anything be more low and debased than those who grovel in riches and power, and count them great things?

Saint John Chrysostom



St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

Clinton Township, MI

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вѣки!

Announcements for Sunday, February 9, 2025

Next Sunday, February 16th — Adult Enrichment Session: All adult parishioners are invited to a special educational talk, after Divine Liturgy next Sunday, February 16th. **The topic will be: “Jubilee Year. Biblical - theological meaning and practical application today”.** Our middle and high school students are also invited to participate, as are any friends, family members, or guests that you would like to invite to come with you.

Reminders: Our Ladies Mardi Gras Tea Party fundraiser is Sunday, March 2, 2025.

- Tickets are available, but time is quickly running out! You can purchase individual tickets for \$30/person, or \$240 to host your own table of eight. Doors will open at 12:30pm, and the lunch/tea will be served at 1:30pm. Contact Karen Kaufman at 586-419-7075 if interested. **Note: the last day to purchase your tickets will be Sunday, February 23rd.**
- Please consider donating gift basket items for us to raffle off at the Tea, or asking the local businesses that you frequent to make a donation. Gift cards and product donations are much appreciated, and can be incorporated into a basket to be raffled off. If it would help, we have some copies of “begging letters” next to the bulletins in the vestibule that you can give to the owners/managers of the businesses. All donations are tax-deductible, and all donating businesses will be recognized in our program. **Note: All basket item donations need to be delivered to the church hall by Sunday, February 23rd.** Please be sure to provide descriptions of your donated items to Laura Nagrant, for accurate inclusion into the program.
- Parish men—we need your help too! As in past years, we need some parish men to volunteer their time to work at the Ladies Tea. The work would consist of either waiting tables, selling raffle tickets, or helping in the kitchen. A light meal will be provided for all workers. **If you can help, please sign up on the sheet posted next to the Parish Office.** See Brian Hanel, George Nagrant, or Fred Marszalec if you have any questions.
- Finally, we are collecting new and gently-used baskets that can be used for the Tea. If you have any that you would be willing to donate, please drop them off at the back of the hall prior to Sunday, February 23rd. Thank you!

Collection for the war orphans in Ukraine: Unfortunately, the war in Ukraine is still active and many children every day are finding themselves to be alone, without one or both of their parents. To help these war orphans in Ukraine, we are again collecting donations for the children. If you would like to make a contribution, please place your donation in the box located next to our Nativity scene, in the church proper. Checks can be made out to “St. Nicholas Church.”

Non-perishable Food Collection: To further assist those in need within our own community, we are accepting donations of canned and other non-perishable foods. Please place any donations in, on, or next to the black plastic bin that is located in the vestibule. Thank you!

Stewardship Appeal 2024/25: All parishioners within the Eparchy of Parma should have received the Stewardship Appeal information in the mail by now. If you did not receive the mailing, please contact Fr. Mykhailo to verify that we have your information listed correctly on our parish roster. This year's Stewardship Appeal will support the following important needs in the Eparchy: Mission and Outreach; Development of Parishes; Retreats, Renewals, and Family Camp; Works of the Apostolate; Clergy Benevolence Fund; and Support for our Retired and Active Priests. Please visit <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> for more information and to make secure, one-time or monthly donations through the website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign. The overall Stewardship Appeal campaign goal is \$320,000. Our individual parish goal is \$7,950. Thank you in advance for your generosity!!!

From elsewhere within the Eparchy of Parma:

Attention, High School Juniors and Seniors--- Important Scholarship Contest Information: The Cardinal Newman Society is now accepting online applications for the 2025 Newman Guide College Scholarship Contest, which offers high school juniors and seniors a chance to win a \$5,000 scholarship towards attending a Newman Guide Recommended college. The scholarship can potentially total up to \$20,000 with additional grants from participating colleges. This contest aims to promote the value of a faithful Catholic education that integrates faith and science, fosters critical thinking, and forms students in virtue and wisdom. To enter, students must complete an application, meet eligibility requirements, and submit a short statement on their interest in a Catholic education. Please see <https://parma.org/news/important-scholarship-contest-information> for more information. **Application Deadline is February 18th!**

The 12th Annual Women's Retreat will take place March 7-9, 2025, at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, OH. The retreat master will be Fr. Jan Maturkanic. The topic is "Our Lord Jesus Christ- The Path to the Father." For further information or to register, please contact Joan Washburn at 865-696-7809 or stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com.

The 4th Annual Men's Retreat will take place March 14-16, 2025, at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, OH. The retreat master will be Fr. Lukas Mitro, the administrator of Holy Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Parish in Euclid, OH. The topic is "The Beatitudes: The Way of Life." For further information or to register, please contact Karl Busam at 419-626-6811 or karl.busam.77@gmail.com.

For more info: Please see our bulletin, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our website: stnicksdetroit.com