

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

(Under the Holy Protection of the Mother of God)



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Rev. Father James Fraser

Residence (cell): (304) 918-3297

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: 1/2 hour before Liturgy or by appointment

Holy Mystery of Anointing: prior to surgery or whenever requested

Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation: Arrange with Father Jim

New Parishioners: Welcome! Please see Father for registration



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR JAN 21st to JAN 31st, 2024

Sunday Jan. 21st 10:30 a.m.	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee - pg 125 Readings: 2 Tim 3:10-15; Lk 18:10-14 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Wednesday Jan. 24th 7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy - pg 125 Readings: 2 Peter 3:1-18; Mk 13:24-31 Intention: Mothers Petra and Natalia, by Harold Seger
Friday Jan. 26th 7:00 p.m.	Akathist to the Theotokos, Searcher for the Lost
Sunday Jan. 28th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday of the Prodigal Son - pg 130 Readings: 1 Cor 6:12-20; Lk 15:11-32 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Wednesday Jan. 31st 7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy - pg 130 Readings: 1Jn 3:21-4:6; Mk 14:43-15:1 Intention: Mothers Petra and Natalia, by Harold Seger

We should zealously cultivate watchfulness, my brethren; and when, our mind purified in Christ Jesus, we are exalted by the vision it confers, we should review our sins and our former life, so that shattered and humbled at the thought of them we may never lose the help of Jesus Christ our God in the invisible battle.

St. Hesychius the Presbyter

The Blessing of Homes

The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the ‘family church’ and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God’s spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings.”

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

arizonaorthodox.com



Icon of the Mother of God "Comfort" or "Consolation"

The Vatopedi “Comfort” or “Consolation” Icon of the Mother of God is in the old Vatopedi Monastery on Mt. Athos, in the Church of the Annunciation. It was called “Vatopedi” because near this monastery Arcadius, the son of Emperor Theodosius the Great, fell off a ship into the sea, and by the miraculous intercession of the Mother of God he was carried to shore safe and unharmed. He was found sleeping by a bush, not far from the monastery. From this event the name “Vatopedi” (“the bush of the child”) is derived. The holy Emperor Theodosius the Great, in gratitude for the miraculous deliverance of his son, embellished and generously endowed the Vatopedi Monastery.



On the Vatopedi Icon, the Mother of God is depicted with Her face turned towards Her right shoulder. This is because on January 21, 807, She turned Her face towards the abbot of the monastery, who was standing near the holy icon, about to hand the keys of the monastery to the porter. A voice came from the icon and warned him not to open the monastery gates, because pirates intended to pillage the monastery. The Holy Child then placed His hand over His Mother’s lips, saying, “Do not watch over this sinful flock, Mother, but let them fall under the sword of the pirates.” The Holy Virgin took the hand of Her Son and said again, “Do not open the gates today, but go to the walls and drive off the pirates.” The abbot took precautionary measures, and the monastery was saved.

In memory of this miraculous event, a perpetual lamp burns in front of this wonderworking icon. Every day a Canon of Supplication is chanted in honor of the icon, and on Fridays the Divine Liturgy is celebrated. On Mt. Athos, this icon is called “Paramythia,” “Consolation” (“Otrada”), or “Comfort” (“Uteshenie”).

By permission of the Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org)



Pray for the Sick, Recovering, and Shut-Ins:

Theresa Glagola at The Madison on Bakers Ridge Rd. Room 204

May we keep all our ailing and healing parishioners in our prayers every day.

Please let Father Jim know to include any family and parish members who are ill, hospitalized, or need a visit for blessing, anointing, confession, or request of prayers. Kindly call Father Jim at (304) 918-3297 Thank You.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES go to:

Dan Kniska on Jan. 27th

May God bless you with Peace, Health, and Happiness!

For many happy and blessed years!



Sanctuary Candles Intention is for **+John McCabe**, Offer by Ellen McCabe



Jesus teaches us that prayer is above all a response to God—a response, not an initiative. Prayer is concerned not with me, but with God. The essential act of prayer, in the words of Sister Wendy Beckett, is ‘to stand unprotected before God’.



Offertory Collection for Jan. 14th, 2024

Envelope Offerings	Loose Offerings	Candles	Feast Days	Building Fund	Total
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Church Attendance for Sunday was:



Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

2 Timothy 3:10-15

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Lk 18:10-14

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



Saint Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople - January 25

Saint Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople, a great Father and teacher of the Church, was born into a Christian family of eminent lineage in the year 329, at Arianzos (not far from the city of Cappadocian Nazianzos). His father, also named Gregory (January 1), was Bishop of Nazianzus. The son is the Saint Gregory Nazianzus encountered in Patristic theology. His pious mother, Saint Nonna (August 5), prayed to God for a son, vowing to dedicate him to the Lord. Her prayer was answered, and she named her child Gregory.



When the child learned to read, his mother presented him with the Holy Scripture. Saint Gregory received a complete and extensive education: after working at home with his uncle Saint Amphilochius (November 23), an experienced teacher of rhetoric, he then studied in the schools of Nazianzos, Caesarea in Cappadocia, and Alexandria. Then the saint decided to go to Athens to complete his education.

Saint Gregory was buried at Nazianzos. In the year 950, his holy relics were transferred to Constantinople into the church of the Holy Apostles. Later on, a portion of his relics was transferred to Rome. Read More <https://www.oca.orgsaint-gregory>

Faults of the Pharisee

Many are the faults of the Pharisee. First of all, he is boastful, and without sense, for he praises himself, even though the Sacred Scriptures cry aloud, “Let a neighbor praise you, and not your own mouth: a stranger and not your own lips” (Prov. 27:2). ... Our virtue, therefore, must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless and free from all that can bring reproach. For what profit is there in fasting twice a week, if you so doing serve only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and if it makes you prideful, haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions and make a boast of it; but in another way you provoke God’s anger, by condemning men generally on this account and accusing others. And you yourself are puffed up, though not crowned by the divine decree for righteousness, but on the contrary, heap praises upon yourself. For I am not, he says, as the rest of mankind. Moderate yourself, O Pharisee: “Set a guard, O Lord, over your mouth, keep watch over the door of your lips” (Ps. 140:3).

You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. None of those skilled in the practice of wrestling ever crowns himself; nor does any man receive the crown of himself, but awaits the summons of the arbiter. Lower your pride, for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although, therefore, you fast with puffed up mind, your so doing will not avail you; your labor will be unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with your perfume. Even according to the law of Moses a sacrifice that had a blemish was not capable of being offered to God; for it was said unto him, “Of sheep, and ox, that is offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish therein” (Lev. 22:21). Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God saying, this is not the fast that I have chosen (Cf Isa. 58:5) ... You offer tithes, but you wrong in another way Him Who is honored by you, in that you condemn men generally. This is an act foreign to the mind that fears God.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

