



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CHURCH

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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2025 | Ἦχος πλάγιος δ΄ | Tone pl. 4

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

The Beginning of the Triodion – A Journey of Humility and Renewal

This Sunday marks the first step on our journey toward Great Lent, as we enter the sacred period of the Triodion, the liturgical book that guides us through the coming weeks of spiritual preparation. The Church, in her wisdom, begins this journey with the Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14), a story that teaches us about the true nature of humility, repentance, and God's boundless mercy.

In the parable, two men enter the Temple to pray. The Pharisee proudly recounts his good works, fasting, and tithing, thanking God that he is not like other sinners. The Publican, standing far off, does not even lift his eyes to heaven but beats his chest in sorrow, crying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Christ tells us that it was the humble Publican—not the self-righteous Pharisee—who went home justified before God.

The lesson of this parable is central to our spiritual lives. Salvation is not earned through outward righteousness alone, but through a heart that humbly seeks God's mercy. As St. John Chrysostom teaches, "Humility is the root, mother, nurse, foundation, and bond of all virtue." True spiritual growth begins when we lay aside pride and open ourselves to the healing grace of God.

At times, we may feel burdened by our sins, believing we are unworthy of God's love. The Publican's prayer reminds us that no matter how far we have strayed, God's mercy is always greater than our sins. "Do not despair, however many times you fall," says St. John Climacus. "Stand up and say: 'Now I have begun!' and you shall be saved." This is the heart of repentance—not dwelling on our failures, but turning back to God with trust in His forgiveness.

The beginning of the Triodion calls us to examine our hearts. Are we truly seeking God's mercy, or are we relying on our own self-righteousness? Are we quick to judge others, or do we recognize our own need for grace? Like the Publican, we are invited to come before God in humility, not with fear, but with confidence in His boundless love.

To emphasize the spirit of renewal, the Church does not impose fasting this week—even on Wednesday and Friday—reminding us that the foundation of our spiritual life is not just discipline, but grace. Fasting, prayer, and repentance are not burdens, but invitations to deeper communion with God, leading us to the joy of His Kingdom.

As we enter this sacred season, let us leave behind the weight of pride and despair, and embrace the hope found in Christ's mercy. No matter where we are on our spiritual path, we are never beyond God's love. Let us, like the Publican, turn to Him with a humble and trusting heart, knowing that He is always ready to receive us with open arms.

Κυριακή του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου

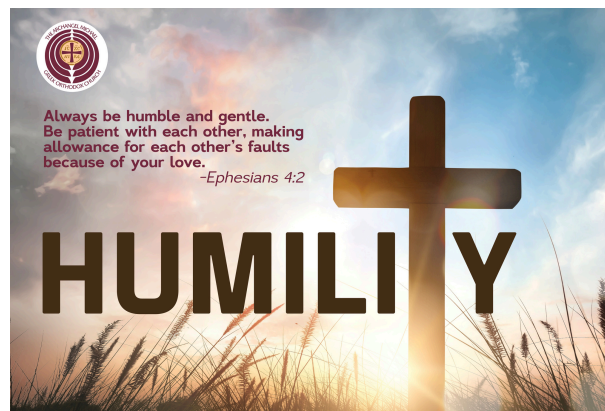
Ἡ Ἐναρξη του Τριωδίου – Περίοδος Μετάνοιας και Ελπίδας

Αυτή την Κυριακή, η Εκκλησία μας εισέρχεται στην περίοδο του Τριωδίου, μια πορεία πνευματικής προετοιμασίας που οδηγεί στη Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή. Η πρώτη διδασκαλία αυτής της πορείας είναι η Παραβολή του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου, που μας διδάσκει την αληθινή ταπείνωση και τη δύναμη της μετάνοιας.

Ο Φαρισαίος προσεύχεται με υπερηφάνεια, υπενθυμίζοντας τις καλές του πράξεις, ενώ ο Τελώνης, γεμάτος συναίσθηση της αμαρτωλότητάς του, προσεύχεται απλά: «Ο Θεός, ιλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἁμαρτωλῷ». Ο Κύριος μας βεβαιώνει ότι εκείνος που ταπεινώθηκε έφυγε δικαιωμένος.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος μας υπενθυμίζει: «Η ταπεινοφροσύνη είναι η ρίζα, η μητέρα, η τροφός, το θεμέλιο και ο δεσμός κάθε αρετής». Η σωτηρία δεν έρχεται μέσα από την αυτοδικαίωση αλλά μέσα από την ειλικρινή μετάνοια. Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης της Κλίμακος μας προτρέπει: «Μην απελπίζεσαι όσες φορές κι αν πέσεις. Σήκω και πες: 'Τώρα ξεκινώ!' και θα σωθείς».

Το μήνυμα αυτής της Κυριακής είναι μήνυμα ελπίδας. Ο Θεός μας καλεί να επιστρέψουμε κοντά Του, όχι με φόβο, αλλά με εμπιστοσύνη στη συγχώρεσή Του. Καθώς αρχίζει το Τριώδιο, ας κάνουμε μια νέα αρχή, αφήνοντας πίσω μας το βάρος της υπερηφάνειας και της απελπισίας. Ο Χριστός μας περιμένει πάντα με ανοιχτή αγκαλιά.



**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ: Κυριακή τοῦ Τελώνου καὶ
Φαρισαίου. Απόδοσις Υπαπαντής,
Νικηφόρου Μάρτυρος**

**SUNDAY: Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
Leavetaking of Presentation, Nicephoros of
Antioch.**

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον . Ἦχος πλ. δ΄ .
Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ Εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν
κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν
παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε
δόξα σοι.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς. Ἦχος Α.

Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε Παρθένε· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ
ἀνέτειλεν ὁ ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς
ἡμῶν, φωτίζων τοὺς ἐν σκότει. Εὐφραίνου καὶ σὺ
Πρεσβύτα δίκαιε, δεξάμενος ἐν ἀγκάλαις τὸν
ἐλευθερωτὴν τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν, χαριζόμενον ἡμῖν καὶ
τὴν Ἀνάστασιν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῶν Κεκοιμένων. Ἦχος πλ. δ΄

Μνήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τοῦ (τῆς, τῶν) δούλου
(δούλης, δούλων) σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτεν
(ἡμαρτεν, ἡμαρτον) συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ
ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ Σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τῷ (τῇ, τοῖς)
μεταστάντι (μεταστάση, μετασταῖσι) δοῦναι τὴν
ἀνάπαυσιν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. Ἦχος δ΄

Τῶν οὐρανίων στρατιῶν Ἀρχιστράτηγοι,
δυσωποῦμεν ὑμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἵνα ταῖς ὑμῶν
δεήσεσι, τειχίσθητε ἡμᾶς, σκέπη τῶν πτερύγων, τῆς
αὔλου ὑμῶν δόξης, φρουροῦντες ἡμᾶς
προσπίπτοντας, ἐκτενῶς καὶ βοῶντας· Ἐκ τῶν
κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξιάρχαι τῶν ἄνω
Δυνάμεων.

Κοντάκιον Ἦχος α΄

Ὁ μήτραν παρθενικὴν ἀγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ σου, καὶ
χεῖρας τοῦ Συμεὼν εὐλόγησας ὡς ἔπρεπε,
προφθάσας καὶ νῦν ἔσωσας ἡμᾶς Χριστε ὁ Θεός· Ἄλλ
εἰρήνευσον ἐν πολέμοις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ
κραταίωσον Βασιλεῖς οὓς ἠγάπησας, ὁ μόνος
φιλόανθρωπος.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl 4.
You descended from on high, O compassionate
One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free
us from the passions. O Lord, our life and
resurrection, glory to You!

Apolytikion of the Feast. Grave Mode

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for
Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen
from you and He illumined those in darkness. And
you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your
embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows
on us the Resurrection.

Apolytikion for the Departed. Tone Plagal 4th

Remember, O Lord, as You are Good, your servant(s),
and forgive every sin he (she,they) have committed in
this life. For no one is sinless, except You, Who have
power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep. t

Apolytikion of the Church. Tone 4

O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the
unworthy now entreat you in earnest, to fortify us by
your supplications to the Lord, and shelter us beneath
the wings of your spiritual glory, guarding us who run
to you and fervently entreat you: As the Commanders
of the hosts on high, rescue us faithful from dangers of
every kind.

Kontakion Mode 1

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth,
and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of
Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O
Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your
world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in
all, O only benevolent Lord.



Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'. Ψαλμὸς 75.

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστός ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραηλ
μέγα το ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

**Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου το
ἀνάγνωσμα.**

Β' Τιμ 3:10 – 15

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένοντο ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν Λύστροις, οἷους διωγμοὺς ὑπήνεγκα! καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ Κύριος. καὶ πάντες δεοὶ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται· πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρατίνοσ ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀποβρέφουσ τα ἱερά γράμματα οἶδας, τα δυνάμενά σε σοφίσει εἰς σωτηρίαν διαπίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:9-14 Εὐαγγελίου το
Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· ἄνθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸ ἱερόν προσεύξασθαι, ὁ εἷς Φαρισαῖος καὶ ὁ ἕτερος τελώνης. ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεῖς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταῦτα προσήχετο· ὁ Θεός, εὐχαριστῶ σοὶ ὅτι οὐκ εἰμι ὡσπερ οἱ λοιποὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἄρπαγες, ἄδικοι, μοιχοί, ἢ καὶ ὡς οὗτος ὁ τελώνης· νηστεύω δις τοῦ σαββάτου, ἀποδεκατῶ πάντα ὅσα κτῶμαι. καὶ ὁ τελώνης μακρόθεν ἔστως οὐκ ἤθελεν οὐδε τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν ἐπᾶραι, ἀλλ' ἔτυπεν εἰς τὸ στήθος αὐτοῦ λέγων· ὁ Θεός, ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἁμαρτωλῷ. λέγω ὑμῖν, κατέβη οὗτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἢ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος· ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὑψῶν ἑαυτὸν ταπεινωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ ταπεινῶν ἑαυτὸν ὑψωθήσεται.

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 4. Psalm 75.

Pray and return to the Lord Your God.

Verse: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

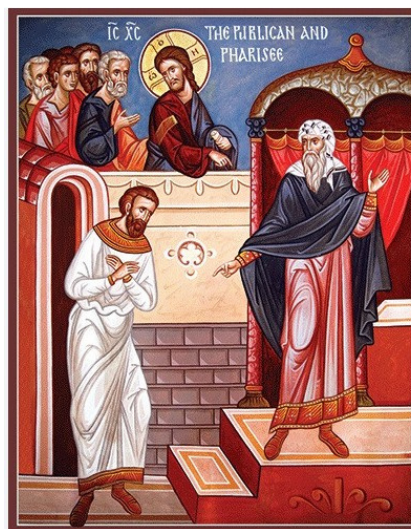
The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy.

2 Tim. 3:10 – 15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel According to Luke 18:9-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into 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 like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up 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, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."



SYNTAXARION

Feb. 10 ~ St. Haralambos, Hiermartyr; St. Anastasios, Pat. of Jerusalem
 Feb. 11 ~ St. Vlassios, Martyr of Sebaste, St. Theodora the Empress
 Feb. 12 ~ St. Meletios, Abp. of Antioch, St. Antonius, Abp. of Constantinople
 Feb. 13 ~ St. Martinianos the Righteous, Saints Aquilla & Priscilla the Apostles
 Feb. 14 ~ St. Auxentius of the Mountain, St. Cyril, Enlightener of the Slavs
 Feb. 15 ~ St. Onesimus of the 70; St. Anthimus the Elder of Chios*
 *denotes Challenge Liturgy



*Honor Your Godparents
& Godchildren*

Archangel Michael Ladies Philoptochos

**10th Annual
Godparents' Brunch**

Sunday, Feb 9th, 2025
Immediately Following the Divine Liturgy

Archangel Michael Church
Angeliades Fellowship Hall
100 Fairway Drive, Port Washington

\$25 pp. \$15 children ages 4-12, ages 3 and under complimentary

If you, or someone you know, would like a home, hospital, or nursing home visit, please call the Church office to schedule an appointment with Fr. John or Fr. Nikolaos.

EVENTS



The Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church
Port Washington

Little Angels

"God is Love"

Please join us Saturday,
February 15th, 9:30 - 10:45 am
for Playtime & Building Friendships
with our 'Little Valentines'

- fun crafts - yummy treats
- music - movement
- Our special time in Church

Future Little Angel Dates:
March 15th, April 26th,
May 3rd and June 14th

Feb. 11th ~ Young at Heart and
Cooking Club *(New Date!)*

Feb. 15th ~ Little Angels, Camp Hellas Registration begins

Feb. 27th ~ Philoptochos Event *(New Date!)*

March 3rd ~ LENT BEGINS

March 11th ~ AMC Blood Drive

April 5th ~ Lenten Retreat *(Save the Date!)*

April 27th ~ GLI Glendi *(New Date!)*

MEMORIALS

9 Days for Nick Neocleous

9 Days for Marie Scarpas

6 Months for Peter Mesologites

1 Year for Efstathios Adamidis

1 Year for Michael Theotokas

7 Years for Andreas Louca

9 Years for Michael Kolombos

13 Years for Aspasia Germanakos

25 Years for Leonidas Papavasiliou

28 Years for Chrystalla Neocleous

and

Trisagion for Antonios Haralambos Lampropoulos

May their Memory be Eternal!



Today we begin the Pre-Lenten season of TRIODION

beginning with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, where the Gospel reading highlights the contrast between self-righteousness and true repentance.



SAVE THE DATE

AMC
Port Washington, NY

CAMP HELLAS

Registration will open
February 15, 2025

GRADE SCHOOL SESSION

WEEK 1: JUNE 30 - JULY 3
(EXTENDED DAYS FOR JULY 4 HOLIDAY)

WEEK 2: JULY 7 - 11

WEEK 3: JULY 14 - 18

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM - 3:30PM
OPEN TO GRADES 1-6

7-8 GRADERS MAY BE COUNSELORS IN TRAINING TO EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE



SAVE THE DATE

The Archangel Michael Church Port Washington

Lenten Retreat

April 5, 2025 at 10:30 am
Angeliades Fellowship Hall
A light lunch will be served

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Jeannie Constantinou

Eugenia Constantinou holds a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies (1980) and a Master of Arts degree in Practical Theology from the University of San Diego (1992). She received a Master of Theology degree from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in 1996 where she specialized in Orthodox Theology and Patristics. She also received a Master of Theology from Harvard Divinity School in 1998 where she specialized in the New Testament.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO FOLLOW