

A WORD FOR THE DAY

In the case of that Pharisee who was praying, the things he said were true. Since he was saying them out of pride and the tax collector was telling his sins with humility, the confession of sins of the last was more pleasing to God than the acknowledgement of the almsgiving of the first. It is more difficult to confess one's sins than one's righteousness. God looks on the one who carries a heavy burden.

St. Ephraim the Syrian, Commentary on Tatian's Diatessaron 15.24

That God calls sinners is good news indeed, but it requires of us something much harder than acts of piety; it requires of us that we acknowledge ourselves as sinners! We must not underestimate the difficulty of this, of seeing just how much we stand in need of God. According to St. Isaac of Syria, the one who knows how they truly are is greater than one who can raise the dead.

We must not fool ourselves: we all stand in need of God—on his terms, not ours. God, as Paul put it, has consigned all to sin...so that he might have mercy on all (Rom. 11:32, Gal. 3:22). Our continual temptation is to think that we can pull ourselves out of our situation, improve ourselves to what we think is godly, that we can even emulate the Publican [...] and then be proud of our humility.

If we do any of this, we can be sure that, by our own righteousness, we will have strayed further still from God, just as did the Pharisee; all our religiosity, our ascetic strivings and acts of piety, will be for our condemnation.

Fr. John Behr, Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary, from his book "The Cross Stands while the World Turns", pg. 15.

Another brother asked him [Abba Poemen]: "What is the meaning of never repay evil with evil?" [Rom. 2:17]. Abba Poemen said to him: "This passion works in four ways: first in the heart; second, in the sight; third, in the tongue; fourth, in not doing evil in response to evil. If you can purge your heart, it does not come to the sight. If it comes to the sight, take care not to speak of it. If you do speak of it, quickly prevent yourself from rendering evil for evil.

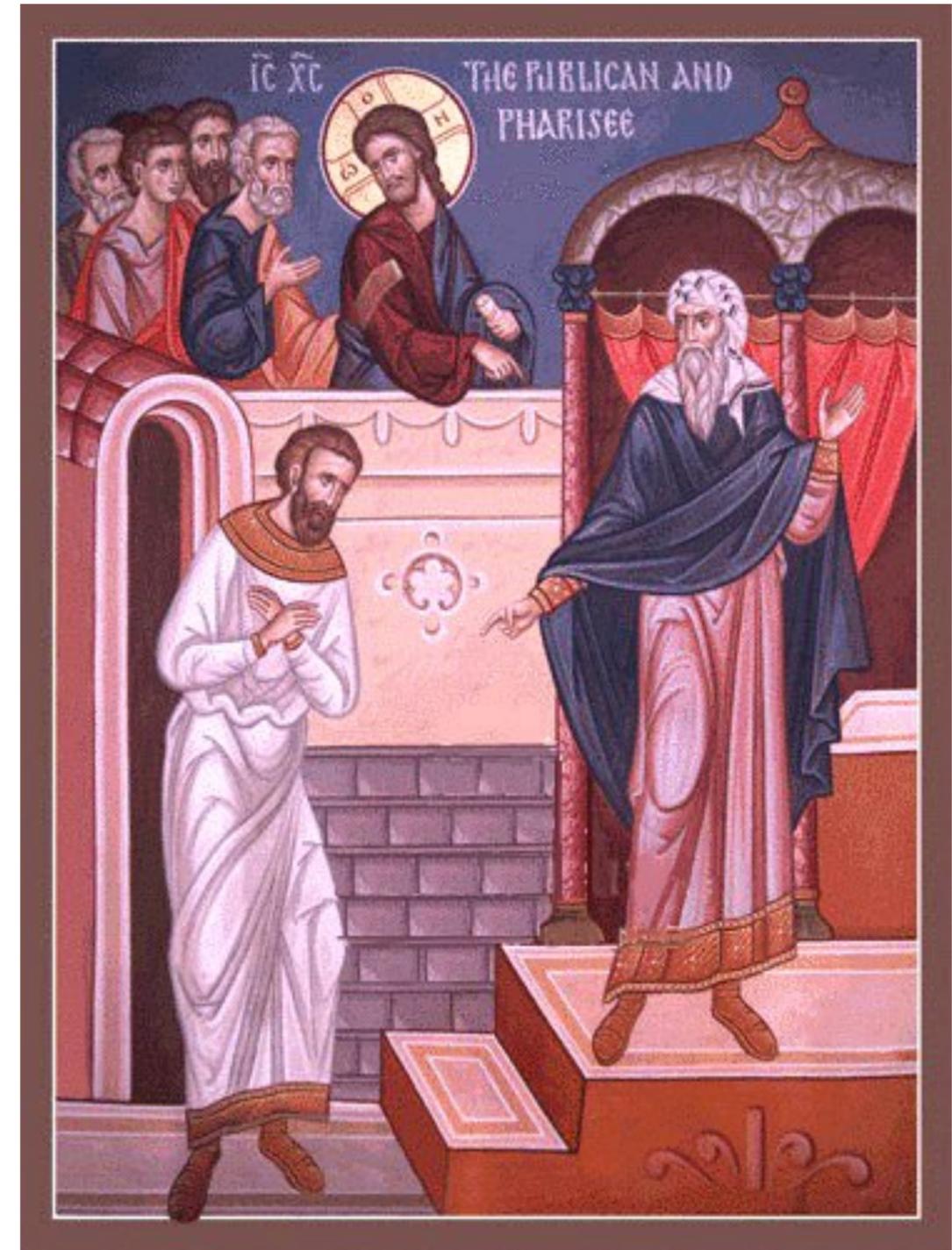
Sayings of the Desert Fathers. Poemen 34.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✝ Orthodox Church In America

Feb. 05, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 8. Afterfeast of the Meeting. Repose of St. Theodosius of Chernígov (1696). Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Holy Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily (251). Martyr Theodula of Anazarbus in Cilicia, and with her Martyrs Helladius, Macarius and Evagrius (ca. 304). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, "SEARCH OF THE LOST".



Divine Services

Saturday, Feb. 11th.....Great Vespers.....5:00 pm
(followed by Confessions)

Sunday, Feb. 12th.....Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.....10:00 am
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Hours 9:40 a.m.)

Today's Readings

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

For Next Week, Feb. 12th

Hours and Thanksgiving PrayersIrene Vassos

Epistle:Matushka Mary

Coffee HourBanchi Tafet

Memory Eternal:

Maria Magdalena (Jan.16, mother of Lucian Radulescu),

For the health and well-being of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, Mercy, Michael.

February Birthdays

Birthdays: Paula Colbert (04), Irina Pozniakova (07), Irene Vassos (13), Elanor Chelukhova (21)

Announcements

Stewardship Giving through Talents Pledge Form. For those of us who were not at the All-Parish Assembly last Sunday, there are sign-up sheets for those offerings that we are willing to give for the life of our parish, by use of our time, talents, and energy. These offerings of our talents are just as sacred as any other offering. Please, if you have not completed a "Stewardship Giving through Talents" pledge form, please do so ASAP and return it to Fr. Joseph or any one of the council members. Thank you!

IOCC. For the month of February, our parish will collect monies for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities). This is a trusted organization. Let's encourage one another to donate towards this cause. IOCC helps Orthodox Christians around the world in so many different ways. IOCC especially helps those who are sick and suffering by providing medical attention. They have saved many lives. Our donations will save lives!

No Study group or Daily Vespers this Wednesday. We will continue our studies next Wednesday, as there is a Diocesan Council meeting this Wednesday in Springfield.

No Fasting this Week. The week of Feb. 6th to 12th is a fast-free week. Why? The Church is preparing us for Great Lent, and in her wisdom, she is easing us into the Great Fast. We are looking forward Pascha, and the spiritual preparation that is asked of us as God prepares our hearts and souls by his grace for the resurrection of his Son. This is the last fast-free week before Lent begins. Let's make use of it and bear in mind our spiritual efforts in the weeks to come, and commit ourselves to making an honest effort during Lent this year.

Upcoming Events

Please note the change in time for Great Vespers next Saturday. We will have Great Vespers at 5pm on Saturday so we can make it to the banquet at St. Joseph's.

Banquet for the Christians of Syria February 11th at 6:30pm at St. Joseph's banquet hall, where we had our Anniversary Banquet. Those of us who can help, please see Fadia Makdisi who is coordinating and organizing the event. We thank Fadia for putting so much hard work into preparing for this event!

Kids Movie Night. On Friday, Feb. 24th at 5:30pm, Emilie, Lisa, Tanya, and Fr. Joseph will host a movie night for the children of our parish at the rectory. We will order pizza, have sweets, ice cream, and watch a fun movie. This is a great way to have a good time with our children before the Great Fast begins. Parents, please plan on bringing your children to this fun event.

Last Sunday's Collection	\$1,137
Budget 2017	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget	\$5,702