

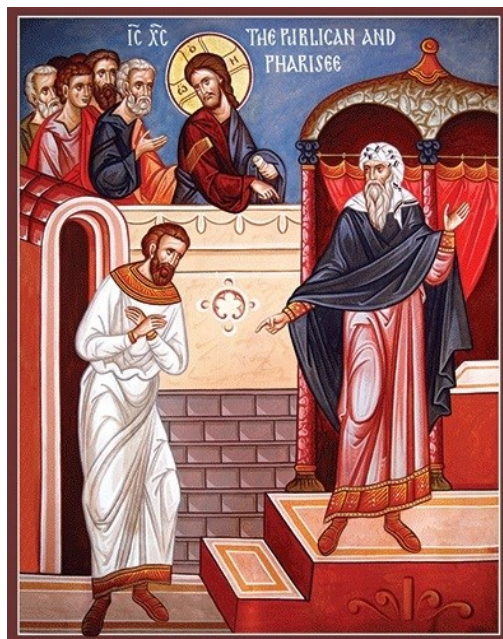
## Today's Scripture Readings

### Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to 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 as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise 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, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



*Glory to Thee,  
O Lord,  
Glory to Thee!*

# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

February 25, 2024

Tone 5



## Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

*Beginning of the  
Lenten Triodion*

*St. Tarasius, Archbishop of  
Constantinople*

### Divine Liturgy

### Readings

*(Readings on Back)*

♦ 2 Timothy 3:10-15

♦ Luke 18:10-14

## The Week Ahead

### Tuesday, Feb. 27

6:00pm - Adult Education

### Saturday, March 2

6:00pm - Great Vespers

### Sunday, March 3

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

### New Catechumen

Congratulations to Bryce Ibarra, who after a period of discernment has been received into the ranks of Catechumen. Bryce will continue his learning of the Orthodox Faith in hopes of being received fully into the Church. Let us all keep Bryce in our prayers!

## Announcements:

### Lenten Pierogi Dinners Prep

We will be making pierogis on Monday, March 4th at 2pm. Hopefully we get enough help to make this our only prep day for our dinners on March 8 & 22. If you can help we would appreciate it.

### Mazlenitsa

Mazlenitsa is a celebration meal on the last day that meat is allowed until Pascha, known as Meatfare Sunday. Every year we have a lunch following liturgy. This year's culinary theme is Mexican. Sunday, March 10. Cost is \$15 per person. Please see Sam Jacob or Fr Joseph to RSVP

### Adult Education

This Tuesday, February 27th at 6pm in the church basement we will have an adult education class on the basic beliefs of Orthodox Christians. This series will be drawn from the book series "The Orthodox Faith" by Fr. Thomas Hopko. A Zoom link will be provided for those who cannot attend in-person.

### Sunday of Orthodoxy

We will once again participate in a Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 24th. The Sunday Liturgy will take place at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 2000 Tower Blvd in Lorain. 9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy. At the conclusion of the Liturgy we will have the Procession of Icons and a Lenten meal. This is a great opportunity to see our fellow Orthodox Christians in Lorain! (This will be in place of Liturgy here at Ss Peter & Paul)

## Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2238 E. 32nd St

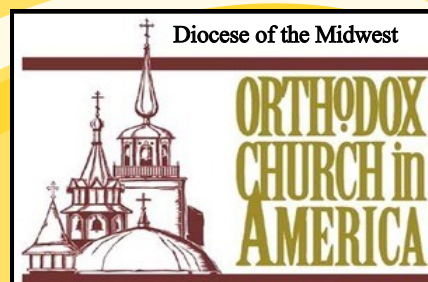
Lorain, OH 44055

Www.OrthodoxLorain.org

Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector

440-668-2209 (cell)

FrJosephMcCartney@gmail.com





## On Today's Gospel Reading

Today is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord in Luke 18:10-14. This is the story of two men, one a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish sect known for its diligent observance of the Law, and the other a Publican, a government official charged with the responsibility of collecting taxes. Both men enter the temple, and the Pharisee stands openly and prays, thanking God that he is not like other men, specifically extortioners, the unjust, adulterers, "or even this tax collector" He then begins to list his religious accomplishments by stating, "I fast twice a week, and I give tithes of all that I possess" In direct contrast to the pride of the Pharisee, the Publican goes to a place where he will not be noticed by others and beats his breast saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" Having told this story, Jesus affirms that it was the Publican who returned home justified and forgiven rather than the Pharisee. He states, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted"

The theme of this parable is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting-point of the journey to Pascha. To repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in the past. The Greek term metanoia means "change of mind." To repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship with God and with others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent, self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him. The Gospel depicts him as a man that is pleased only with himself who thinks that he has complied with all of the requirements of religion. But in his pride, he has falsified the meaning of true religion and faith. He has reduced these to external observations, measuring his piety by the amount of money he gives.

The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a "change of mind." He humbles himself, and his humility justifies him before God. He becomes, in the words of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3), "poor in spirit." He acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he knows that salvation is only found in the mercy of God. Here we find an example of true humility, an essential aspect of repentance. A "change of mind" and the transformation of our lives can only happen when we humble ourselves before God, acknowledge our willingness to turn from sin, and receive His grace into our lives.

Our preparation for Lent thus begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, a restoration of our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness and He blesses by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.



The icon of the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee shows both men in the manner in which they enter the temple to pray. The Pharisee goes to a very prominent place where others will see him. The positions of his hands indicate that he is addressing God by speaking of his stature and accomplishments. In contrast, the Publican enters and remains in a low place, far from the holiest parts of the temple. His posture shows his openness to God, his humility, and his petition for mercy.

The icon sometimes shows the state of both men as they leave the temple. Following the words of Christ in Luke 18:14, the Publican has now been exalted in the kingdom of God because of his humility. He leaves the temple forgiven, and he shows that he remains open to the will of God. In contrast, the Pharisee leaves the temple unjustified, still in need of forgiveness. Because of his pride and lack of repentance, he will be humbled before God, the One who knows the condition of each person's soul and who will offer the gift of salvation to those who come to Him in true repentance.

## St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople

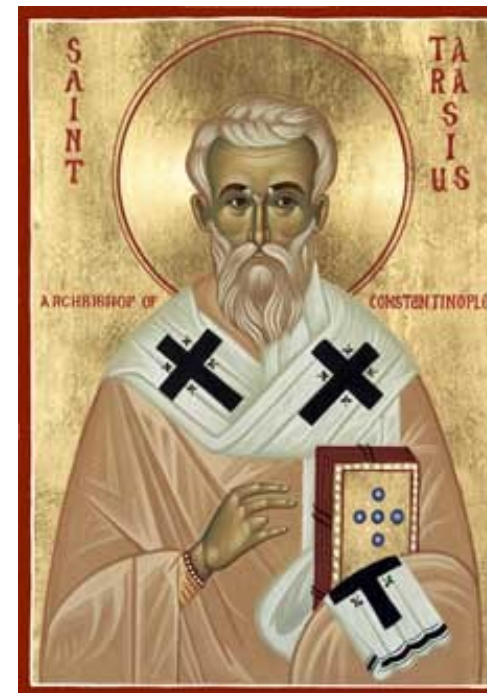
St Tarasius, was born and raised in Constantinople, where he received a fine education. He was rapidly promoted at the court of the emperor Constantine VI and his mother, the holy Empress Irene, and the saint attained the rank of senator.

During these times the Church was agitated by the Iconoclast disturbances. The holy Patriarch Paul although he had formerly supported Iconoclasm, later repented and resigned his office. He withdrew to a monastery, where he took the schema. When the holy Empress Irene and her son the emperor came to him, Saint Paul told them that the most worthy successor to him would be Saint Tarasius (who at this time was still a layman).

Tarasius refused for a long time, not considering himself worthy of such high office, but he then gave in to the common accord on the condition, that an Ecumenical Council be convened to address the Iconoclast heresy.

Proceeding through all the clerical ranks in a short while, Saint Tarasius was elevated to the patriarchal throne in the year 784. In the year 787 the Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea, with Patriarch Tarasius presiding, and 367 bishops attending. The veneration of holy icons was confirmed at the council. Those bishops who repented of their iconoclasm, were again received by the Church.

Saint Tarasius died in the year 806.



### Prayers Appreciated for:

#### Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel  
Catechumen Bryce  
Chris, Marianne,  
Dan,  
Mat. Nadean  
Mat. Krystyna  
Mat. Kathy

#### Departed:

Paula (Seraphima)

#### Tall Candles

Tall Candles are available to sponsor for the health or in memory of a loved one. Tall candles are \$15 each. Contact Fr Joseph for availability.

### WEEKLY READINGS

#### Monday, Feb. 26

St. Porphyrius of Gaza  
2 Peter 1:20-2:9  
Mark 13:9-13

#### Tuesday, Feb. 27

St. Raphael of Brooklyn  
2 Peter 2:9-22  
Mark 13:14-23

#### Wed, Feb. 28

St. Basil the Confessor  
2 Peter 3:1-18  
Mark 13:24-31

#### Thurs, Feb. 29

St. John Cassian  
1 John 1:8-2:6  
Mark 13:31-14:2

#### Friday, March 1

St. Agapius of Vatopedi  
1 John 2:7-17  
Mark 14:3-9

#### Saturday, March 2

St Agathon of Egypt  
2 Timothy 3:1-9  
Luke 20:46-21:4

### FRIDAY NIGHT

## LENTEN PIROGHI DINNERS

Friday March 8th & March 22nd | 4:30 - 7:00 PM



### SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

2238 East 32nd Street | Lorain, OH 44053

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH

Eat In or Carry Out

- 6 Piroghis w/ Cabbage & Noodles and Cole Slaw: \$11
- Lenten Soup (Large Cup): \$4
- Baked Goods: Assorted Prices
- Cabbage & Noodles: \$5/container

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND

Eat In or Carry Out

- 6 Piroghis w/ Cabbage & Noodles and Cole Slaw: \$11
- Lenten Soup (Large Cup): \$4
- Baked Goods: Assorted Prices
- Cabbage & Noodles: \$5/container
- Stuffed Cabbage (pre-order only): \$24/Dozen or \$2/each

To place an order for stuffed cabbage or to pre-order dinners:

Do not call the Church - please send email to [orders@orthodoxlorain.org](mailto:orders@orthodoxlorain.org)  
You will get a confirmation.

PRE-ORDERS FOR  
STUFFED CABBAGE  
DUE BY 3-18-24

