



# St. George Orthodox Church of Prescott

Sunday, February 5, 2017—Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Served by Fr. Jeffrey Frate

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METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

## The Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 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.

## Gospel Reading is from Luke 18:10-14

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."

## PRAYER LIST

Kathy, Mary, Dan and Marcia Hill, Valentina Thommen, Fr. Makarios Mwaura and family (Kenya), Amber Brogger & children, Elena Cook, Walt Thayer, Vera Timotijevic, John Walendziak, Cynthia DeLeone, Roman Benyk, Karen Clark, Vadim, Kristina, Rochelle and Wayne Pedersen, Lisa, Mark and Jeannie Panos, Presvy Jenny Nicolaou Newlin, Maria Carolina, Bill Kountanis, Michele and McKenzie, and Barbara Wright.

For our sons and daughters serving in the U.S. Armed Forces; Jordan Verespe, Don (Spyridon) Hock, Col. Stephen Close, Matthew Bricker, Matt Meyers, Joseph Peck and Brittany Rushing.

And for the departed Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Gabriel Cooke, may his memory be eternal.

And the departed Helen Wells, Bob (Timothy) Hunt, John Tupy, Kayla Mueller, Khrystyna Gavryushenko and the newly departed Kathy Hunt.

As members of an Orthodox Christian family, we are called upon to pray for each other.

If you would like us to remember you or your loved one in our prayers, please contact the church office at 928-777-8750 or e-mail the name of your loved one to [jillnormandin@gmail.com](mailto:jillnormandin@gmail.com)

## For our Visitors this morning!

If this is your first visit to an Orthodox Christian liturgy we welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The Eastern Orthodox Church traces her lineage back to the Day of Pentecost, the birth of the New Testament Church. We are liturgical in worship, using the liturgies developed in the fourth century and attributed to St. John Chrysostom, and St. Basil the Great, also, the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy attributed to St. Gregory Dialogos, Pope of Rome. Liturgy literally means, "work of the people", and it seems these services are attributed to these three saints because they were in every sense of the word champions of the people, caring for their flocks with true wisdom and discernment, and not afraid to suffer on their behalf, and on behalf of the truth. We are the "Church of the Bible" since it was in the bosom of the Church that the New Testament developed and was given birth. We are hierarchical in structure, visibly witnessing to, and manifesting, the reality that the grace of God flows from our one great High Priest and Hierarch, Jesus Christ, through the communion of hierarchs throughout the world to the entire body of the faithful, even to the smallest child. The apex of our worship experience is to commune with God in the Body and Blood of Christ. He Himself taught in the Gospel of St. John, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh...For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed." (Jn 6:51,55) In light of this, the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox Church is essentially Eucharistic, meaning it is offered in thanksgiving to the One Triune God who continuously sends down the Holy Spirit upon us and the bread and wine that we offer, making these humble things, for us the unworthy, the precious Body and Blood of Christ. **Please note that Holy Communion is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves with prayer and fasting to receive the Holy Mysteries.** We do invite you to receive the blessed bread (antidoron) which is offered to all after the dismissal, and please do join us at the conclusion of the Divine Service for our fellowship meal in the hall next door. May the Lord richly bless your worship with us in this morning's Divine Liturgy!

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### APOLYTIKION FOR THE FEAST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

### KONTAKION FOR THE FEAST IN TONE ONE

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Symeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only Friend of man.



## Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Tridion Begins Today (February 5)

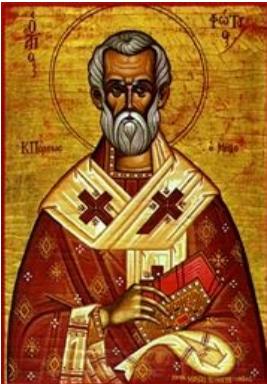
The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

## Agatha the Martyr (February 5)

This Martyr, who was from Panormus (that is, Palermo) or perhaps Catania of Sicily, was a most comely and chaste virgin. After many exceedingly harsh torments, she gave up her spirit in prison at Catania in 251, because she did not consent to the seductions of Quintian, the Governor of Sicily. At her burial, an Angel placed a stone tablet on her grave inscribed with the words, "A righteous mind, self-determining, honor from God, the deliverance of her father-land." The following year this was fulfilled when Mount Etna erupted, spewing forth violent fire from which Catania was manifestly saved by Saint Agatha's prayers. The holy Martyr Agatha, the protectress and chief patroness of Sicily, is, with perhaps the exception of Saint Agnes of Rome, the most highly venerated Virgin Martyr of the West. Saint Damasus, Pope of Rome, and Saint Ambrose of Milan both wrote in praise of her.



## Photius the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople (February 6)

As for the thrice-blessed Photius, the great and most resplendent Father and teacher of the Church, the Confessor of the Faith and Equal to the Apostles, he lived during the years of the emperors Michael (the son of Theophilus), Basil the Macedonian, and Leo his son. He was the son of pious parents, Sergius and Irene, who suffered for the Faith under the Iconoclast Emperor Theophilus; he was also a nephew of Saint Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople (see Feb. 25). He was born in Constantinople, where he excelled in the foremost imperial ministries, while ever practicing a virtuous and godly life. An upright and honorable man of singular learning and erudition, he was raised to the apostolic, ecumenical, and patriarchal throne of Constantinople in the year 857.

The many struggles that this thrice-blessed one undertook for the Orthodox Faith against the Manichaeans, the Iconoclasts, and other heretics, and the attacks and assaults that he endured from Nicholas I, the haughty and ambitious Pope of Rome, and the great persecutions and distresses he suffered, are beyond number. Contending against the Latin error of the filioque, that is, the doctrine that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son, he demonstrated clearly with his Mystagogy on the Holy Spirit how the filioque destroys the unity and equality of the Trinity. He has left us many theological writings, panegyric homilies, and epistles, including one to Boris, the Sovereign of Bulgaria, in which he set forth for him the history and teachings of the Seven Ecumenical Councils. Having tended the Church of Christ in holiness and in an evangelical manner, and with fervent zeal having rooted out all the tares of every alien teaching, he departed to the Lord in the Monastery of the Armenians on February 6, 891.

# This Week at St. George

**Sunday, February 5, 2017**

**8:30AM**

**Matins**

**9:30AM**

**Divine Liturgy**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

**6:30PM**

**Vespers Followed by Choir Rehearsal**

**Saturday, February 11, 2017**

**5:00PM**

**Great Vespers**

## Daily Orthros

Daily Orthros will be served Monday—Friday at 9am.

## Home Blessings

If you would like your home blessed during this season of Theophany contact Fr Jeffrey via phone or email.

## Project Mexico

If anyone is interested in attending Project Mexico, see Fr. Jeffrey, currently there are 3 spaces available. The deadline for deposits was extended to February 8th.

## Child Protection Training

On Wednesday February 15th there will be a mandatory child-protection training meeting for all Church School teachers, and anyone else who works with children in the Church.

## High School Movie Night

On Saturday February 18th we will host another High School Movie night. We will watch the Russian film, The Priest, about a priest assigned to serve a small village in Russia during the Nazi occupation of the region.

## Prayer for Evangelism in Ourselves and in Our Community

God of truth and love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Hear our prayer for those who do not know You. That they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth, and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world. Sustain, inspire, and enlighten Your servants who bring them the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith; sustain our faith when it is still fragile. Continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church, and raise up new missionaries who will follow You to the ends of the world. Make us witnesses to Your goodness full of love, full of strength, and full of faith for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world. Through the prayers of all the missionary saints, Have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

If you have bulletin announcements, please contact Jill Normandin by Thursday to have your announcement included in the Sunday bulletin. Email [jillnormandin@gmail.com](mailto:jillnormandin@gmail.com) or call 928-533-3977 (email is preferable so no details are missed).

**St. George Parish Council: Gina Clark, President, George Rizk, Vice President, Kally Key, Treasurer, Laretta Gioia , Secretary and Council Members, Ty Freedman, Matt Maxwell, Kenny Scott, Robert Smith, and Raymond Zogob.**