



# St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 (609) 393-1234  
Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi V. Rev. Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus  
saintvladimir.org  
facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666

## SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION FEBRUARY 9, 2025

### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

#### **Troparion – Tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

#### **Troparion – Tone 1**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, // Who grants us the Resurrection!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior: "Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!"

#### **Kontakion – Tone 1**

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, // O only Lover of Man!

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 8**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!  
V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 3**

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

#### **Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Beginning of the Lenten Triodion**

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the Triodion (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances. The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation. Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark's Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior's death and burial.

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL 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.

### **Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17**

Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron. For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

### **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."

### **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in

Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED** (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

**For the Sick / Caregiver**

**For the Deceased**

Dorothy (1/19)	Deborah (1/26)	John
Michael (1/19)	Betty (2/2)	
Charlotte (1/19)	Tamara (2/2)	
Subdeacon Sergius (1/19)	Trudy (2/2)	
Melody (1/19)	Anthony (2/9)	
Liam (1/26)	Carmin (2/9)	
Kelly (1/26)	Marianne (2/9)	
Alexandra (1/26)	Julie (2/9)	
Father Paul (1/26)	Thomas (2/9)	
Matushka Mary (1/26)		

**SERVICES**

**Service Schedule for the Week of February 9**

**Sunday February 9** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by FOCA Soup Sale and Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Saturday February 15** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday February 16** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**DONATIONS**

**Weekly Giving**

February 2 – 93 adults, 29 youth, \$4,031

**ORTHODOXY 101**

**Candles**

In the Orthodox church, lighting candles before the Divine Liturgy symbolizes a person's faith, love for God, and their desire to offer a prayerful offering by representing the "Light of Christ" through the burning flame. It is customary to light candles upon entering the church, placing them in the candle stands before the icons of saints, as a sign of devotion, and to accompany personal prayers.

- \* The flame of the candle represents the divine light of Christ, signifying that we are called to be "children of light".
- \* Lighting a candle is seen as an act of prayer, where the burning flame signifies the ascension of our prayers to God.
- \* Candles are often placed in front of icons of saints as a way to show reverence and ask for their intercession.
- \* Individuals typically light candles with specific intentions in mind, praying for their own needs or the needs of loved ones.
- \* The burning candle symbolizes our prayers rising to heaven and the light of Christ in our midst.

It is not proper to light candles at certain times during the service – generally the same times when you should not enter the church, such as during the Little and Great Entrances, when the priest is censuring or giving the sermon, during the reading of the Epistle or Gospel, or during the singing of "The Creed" and "Our Father".

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the winter weather predicted for Saturday into Sunday, the FOCA Club Soup Sale is being postponed today and will be held next Sunday, February 16.

Funeral services for John Stefero will be held on Thursday, February 13: Viewing 11 AM to 12 PM, followed by the funeral service. John will be buried in the Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Penna.

Valentine's Day will be celebrated this Friday: *"Be My Valentine."* This is a phrase that conjures up a lot of different images associated with the celebration of Valentine's Day - cards with hearts and little poems on them, candy and flowers given to someone one we love, young and old alike expressing their affection for their sweethearts. February 14th, for our culture, means cards, candy and flowers. Somehow, this feast of the church has been skewed to include snapshots from pagan mythology, such as cupid, with the focus of the day only on romantic love. For most, it is a shock to hear that this is a day to remember and celebrate the life and martyrdom of a Christian Saint. In the Gospel according to John, we read: *"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."* (John 15:13) St. Valentine demonstrated this love when he laid down his life for his friends. This is the kind of love that Valentine's Day is really about. For Christians, Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate the love of God. That love was shown to us in the life and death of Our Lord and the life and death of martyrs like St. Valentine. This is a love with a depth of commitment that goes deeper than any other love in that it surpasses even the desire to survive. It is the love of a God willing to suffer so that his creatures could know salvation. It is the love of a man willing to risk death so that others can know eternal life.

Thank you to all who donated to the Legacy of Life Foundation fundraiser. We made our goal of \$500 plus change from the baby bottles, in addition to the diapers, and clothing. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Julie

Reminder to please clean up Christmas decorations at the parish cemeteries. Per the Cemetery By-Laws, all decorations are to be removed three weeks after the holiday. There is no trash collection at the cemeteries, so please take your items home with you. Thank you.

There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the back of the church for house blessings. Please sign up if you would like your house blessed, and Father Volodymyr will contact you to schedule a time.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Luwam Tesfa – February 10

Catarina Kasmer – February 10

Aidan Godun – February 14

Inna Lebedeva – February 15

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

## COFFEE HOUR

**\* If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.**

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

### SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall -

Let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

*If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.*

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Feb. 9 Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Stefania Balasa  
Feb. 16 Karina Kotelnicki, Paul & Patty Denko  
Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel  
Mar. 2 **NO MEAT** Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson  
Mar. 9 **FAST** John Cassar, Christina DiDonato  
Mar. 16 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova  
Mar. 23 **FAST** Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell  
Mar. 30 **FAST** Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt  
Apr. 6 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla Strauss  
Apr. 13 **FAST** Alex Godun, Melody Stavisky  
Apr. 20 **PASCHA – No Coffee Hour**  
Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado  
May 4 James & Olga Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey  
May 11 Nina Schmidt, Monia & Jim Pitra  
May 18 Anne Cheslock, Darice Keyes  
May 25 Inna Lebedeva, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav  
June 1 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina  
June 8 Grace Ramus, Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa  
June 15 Sami Bachir, Tyler Burger  
June 22 **FAST** Matthew Anderson, Ramazi Shubitidze  
June 29 Nancy Mitsos, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky  
July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay  
July 13 **FOCA Club & Ladies Altar Society** – Enhanced Coffee Hour for St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration  
July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones  
July 27 Amber Touch, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick

*Have a healthy, blessed week!*