

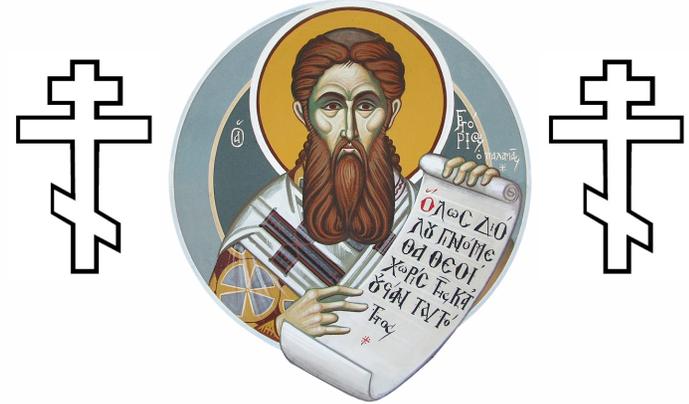
Readings for Next Sunday:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you*, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me*.' So he divided to them *his* livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*." "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" And they began to be merry. "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'" "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'" "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.'" "It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'" "



St. Gregory Palamas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New York
and New Jersey
Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

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Sunday, February 9th, 2020
The Publican and the Pharisee

5 Church St.
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826



Sunday, February 9th, 2020

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Schedule of Services:

Sun. Feb. 16th : Divine Liturgy at 10am
The Hours at 9:40am

Next Week Coffee Hour Social (Feb. 16th): Helen

Announcements:

Thank you to Mila for hosting coffee hour today!

The Building Maintenance Fund/ Rectory donation program sheet is still available downstairs to sign. We have three months left to fill.

Thank you to all who participated in last week's Souper Bowl. We collected \$100, and gave any left-over foods to the Flemington food pantry. So far, we have donated 638lbs to the food pantry, and we were sent a thank you letter for doing so. Keep it up, and please continue to donate to the pantry. Again, this is an easy act of charity in Christ's name.

Please pick up your letters in acknowledgment of your 2019 donations to our parish. They are located downstairs next to the parking lot doorway.

Wrap-up session for "Know the Faith" book today during coffee hour.

Our Sisterhood. If you are a woman, please join our sisterhood of St. Sophia. This is a Christ-centered group and an essential missionary service to our parish. They are having an annual breakfast on Feb. 15th at Clinton Station. Please see Pam H., Michele, or Nellie for details.

The New Jersey Deanery Appreciation Dinner for the 2019 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of the Diocese of NY and NJ, hosted with gratitude by His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at five o'clock in the evening at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church [285 French Hill Road Wayne, New Jersey 07470](https://www.holyresurrection.org/). Family members and parish guests are invited~RSVP by Sunday, February 16, with the number attending to Fr. Stephen Evanina, frstephen@heisrisen.org, 973-568-9654

Upcoming Events

February 22nd (Saturday):

-Panikhida for all our departed loved ones with Vespers at 5 pm.

March 14th-15th:

-Lenten Retreat and visit from Archbishop MICHEAL (more details to come. Please mark this date on your calendar.)

Please remember in your prayers: Living: Alexandra, Galina, Joseph, Johnny, and Cindy Gakos who will be having knee surgery on Feb. 24th.

Words for the Day:

The Lenten season begins then by a quest, a prayer for humility which is the beginning of true repentance. For repentance, above everything else, is a return to the genuine order of things, the restoration of the right vision. It is, therefore, rooted in humility, and humility—the divine and beautiful humility—is its fruit and end. "Let us avoid the high flown speck of the Pharisee," says the Kontakion of this day, "and learn the majesty of the Publican's humble words..." We are at the gates of repentance and at the most solemn moment of the Sunday Vigil; after the Resurrection and the appearance of Christ have been announced—"having beheld the resurrection..." we sing for the first time the troparia which will accompany us throughout the entire Lent:

Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of life,
For my spirit rises early to pray towards your holy temple,
Bearing the temple of my body all defiled;
But in your compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of your mercy.

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, Great Lent, pg. 20.

The stern pharisee, who in his overweening pride not only boasted of himself but also discredited the tax collector in the presence of God, made his justice void by being guilty of pride. Instead of the pharisee, the tax collector went down justified, because he had given glory to god, the holy One. He did not dare lift his eyes but sought only to plead for mercy. He accused himself by his posture, by striking his breast, and by entertaining no other motive except propitiation. Be on your guard, therefore, and bear in mind this example of severe loss sustained through arrogance. The one guilty of insolent behavior suffered the loss of his justice and forfeited his reward by his bold self-reliance. He was judged inferior to a humble man and a sinner because in his self-exaltation he did not await the judgment of God but pronounced it himself. Never place yourself above anyone, not even great sinners. Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many terrible transgressions.

St. Basil the Great, On Humility.