

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



## Mailing:

733 Starkweather Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

[www.sttheodosius.org](http://www.sttheodosius.org)

Eric Seddon, Parish Secretary  
1(216) 574-4886

Protodeacon Daniel Boerio  
1(216) 513-5307  
[dboerio79@yahoo.com](mailto:dboerio79@yahoo.com)

Subdeacon Michael Tabeling,  
Sacristan

Reader Julius Kovach,  
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Erin Zawolowycz  
Ambo Editor

## Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Please check weekly schedule  
for specific days (last page)

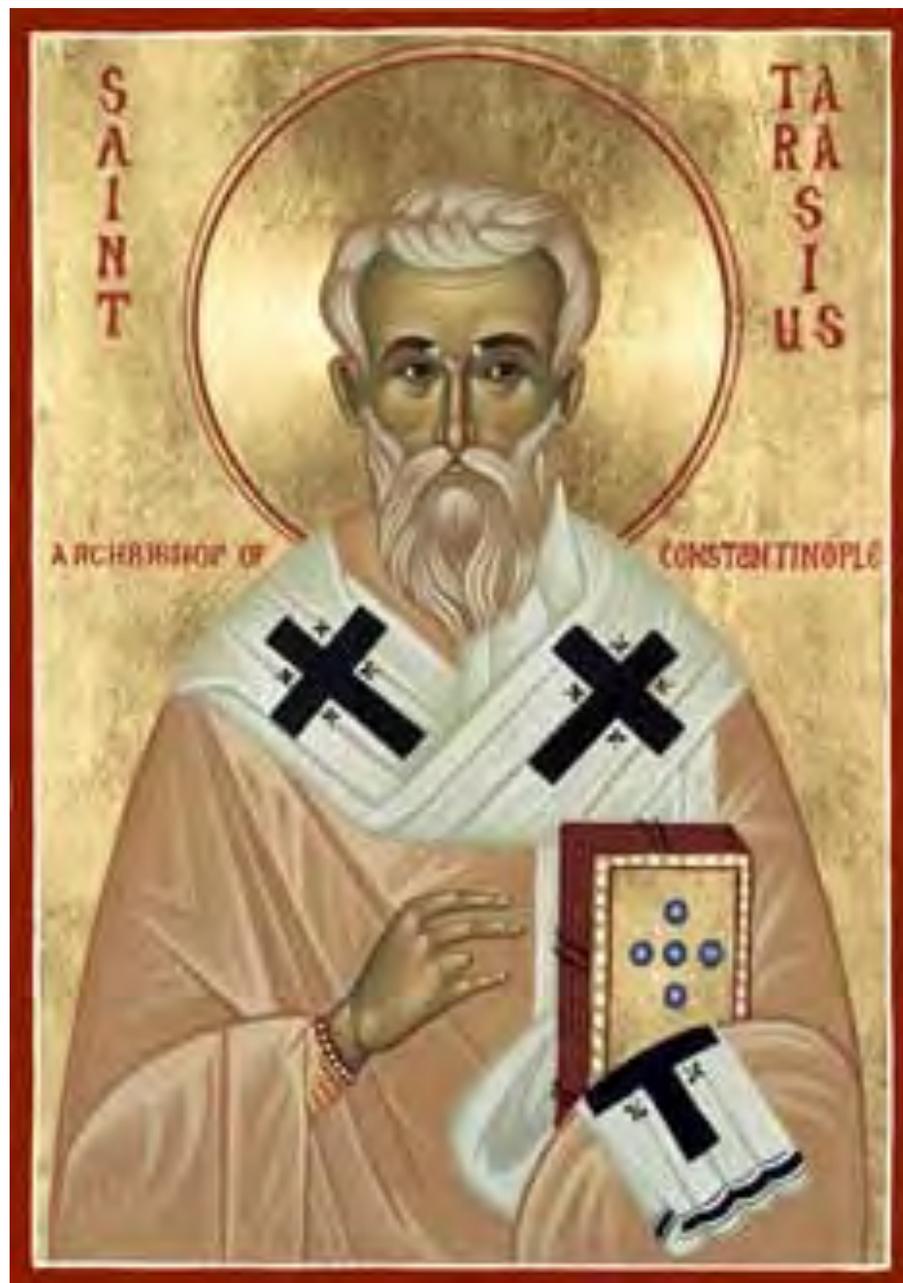
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tion should be submitted to:

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FEBRUARY 21, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN  
AND THE PHARISEE



St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (February 25)

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**Saint Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople** was of illustrious lineage. He was born and raised in Constantinople, where he received a fine education. He was rapidly promoted at the court of the emperor Constantine VI Porphyrogenitos (780-797) and Constantine's mother, the holy Empress Irene (August 7), and the saint attained the rank of senator.

During these times the Church was agitated by the turmoil of the Iconoclast disturbances. The holy Patriarch Paul (August 30) 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 wisely governed the Church for twenty-two years. He led a strict ascetic life. He spent all his money on God-pleasing ends, feeding and giving comfort to the aged, to the impoverished, to widows and orphans, and on Holy Pascha he set out a meal for them, and he served them himself.

The holy Patriarch fearlessly denounced the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos when he slandered his spouse, the empress Maria, the granddaughter of Saint Philaretos the Merciful (December 1), so that he could send Maria to a monastery, thus freeing him to marry his own kinswoman. Saint Tarasius resolutely refused to dissolve the marriage of the emperor, for which the saint fell into disgrace. Soon, however, Constantine was deposed by his own mother,



the Empress Irene.

Saint Tarasius died in the year 806. Before his death, devils examined his life from the time of his youth, and they tried to get the saint to admit to sins that he had not committed. "I am innocent of that of which you accuse me," replied the saint, "and you falsely slander me. You have no power over me at all."

Mourned by the Church, the saint was buried in a monastery he built on the Bosphorus. Many miracles took place at his tomb.

## Do you know where you're going?

Many times one may be asked that question when beginning a trip. Or, sometimes even in respect to our own lives. Do we really know where we are going, and how to get there? One pundit quickly answered: "Yes, if we have led good Orthodox Christian lives!"

To continue the aircraft metaphor, a pilot has to choose their destination, consult and make the charts, prepare their craft, take off, and begin to fly.

So, too, as Orthodox Christians know where we want to go. In fact, it is confirmed to us at the beginning of every Divine Liturgy and Mystery (Sacrament) of the Church: *Blessed is the Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!* This shows us our ultimate destination, our true homeland - the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Holy Orthodox Church charts a course for us to follow in her understanding of the Holy Scriptures, the liturgical life of the Church, and ideas of how we should lead our lives. The Great Fast, which is just a few short weeks away, is an opportunity for us to change the course of our lives, leading us to this Heavenly Kingdom where we will be united with our Lord Jesus Christ, together with all the saints and loved one who gone on before us. As our Lord Himself told us: *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."* (Matt. 7:13-14).

Today we enter the "School of Repentance," by opening and reading from the Lenten Triodion (the book of verses and hymns sung and read from now, through the Great Fast and Passion Week, ending with Holy Pascha). With our destination in mind, we gather our charts, and prepare ourselves for this marvelous journey.

One of the basic tools we have to understand the chart before us and begin this journey is given to us today in the Gospel reading from St. Luke 18:10-14, the Publican and the Pharisee. The emphasis

of this reading hinges on humility and prayer. We see the contrast between the humility of the Publican and the hypocrisy and pride of the Pharisee. This is engendered in the prayers they offer to God.

Therefore, we can begin our preparation by examining our prayer life. Prayer is a very intimate communication between us and our Lord. It can take two obvious forms: private and corporate. Private prayer is that which we pray to our Lord and God Jesus Christ, the Holy Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, and all the saints. The most beautiful and complete example of prayer is given us by our Lord Himself: *Our Father*.... Not only do we pray this prayer so very often, it serves as a model for our conversations with Him. We are also able to use the many prayer books containing many beautiful, Biblical, theological, and spiritual prayers written by the saints and spiritual counselors.

Corporate prayer is that when we come together for the Divine Services: Vespers, Complines, Midnight Office, Matins, the Hours, and the Divine Liturgy. This is when we gather together, in the church, to prayer with one another. This adds a special spiritual dimension to our prayer life. When we gather together as the Body of Christ, we are strengthened by being with others, and this bolsters our faith and prayer.

Therefore, let us take this opportunity to examine, deepen, or even re-invent our spiritual life of prayer. Set aside some time each day (morning and evening prayers can be most helpful) to pray and read the Bible and spiritual works. The library here at St. Theodosius is a wonderful resource for you during this time. The public library may also be an excellent source for these books, and you may even find some reputable sources "on-line" from *bona fide* Orthodox sources.

Take the time to increase your prayer life. It doesn't cost any money to open your heart and talk to our Lord!

# THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

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..

## COMPACT WEEK

This coming week is called a "compact week" as we are not to fast, eating meat, poultry, and dairy as we normally would. Usually, we fast from meat (especially) on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year. However, there are times when we are not only allowed, but encouraged not to fast.

How unusual!

But there is a reason for this.

We do not fast during Bright Week as the joy of the Resurrection fills our hearts and souls, so fasting (a penitential practice) is incongruous. The same applies the week following Pentecost (the out pouring of the Holy Spirit),

and the time from Nativity until January 4.

However, this week following the Gospel reading of the Publican and the Pharisee is fast free to remind us that fasting is only a method by which we are able to tame our passions, desires, and appetites, not an end in itself. The Pharisee pridefully boasted of his tithes and fasting. Even the good things we can do can be perverted!

Therefore, we do not fast during this week so we can be reminded that fasting must be kept in its proper place. By fasting we learn that we can live very well without certain foods, but we cannot live without God!



## PRAYER REQUESTS



### **Departed:**

**Archimandrite Alexander**

**Louis Klinar** (*father of Bob Klinar*)

### **Special Intentions:**

**Deacon Paul Mitchell** (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

**Subdeacon Theodore Lentz**

**Reader Paul Pangrace**

**Arlene Czajkowski**

**Child Mary Kate Zweidunger**

**Child Vivian Sherer**

**Melissa** (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

**Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz**

**Marie Borland**

**Horia Dascalescu**

**Debra Ellis**

**Gregory Galan**

**Aleksei Green**

**Virginia Haupt** (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

**Don Hinkl**

**Matthew Hunly** (*Phyllis*

*Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

**Diane Kearsey** (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

**Annamarie Luvison** (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

**Chris Magee** (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

**Paul Mihal**

**Natalya Miller** (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

**Andrew Mytrohovich**

**Debra Parhamovich** (*Karen Felon's sister*)

**Grace Parhamovich** (*Karen Felon's mother*)

**Jim Paulitzky** (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

**James Peter Petkac**

**Susan Reese** (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

**Elena Rich** (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

**Andrew Sykaluk**

**Elaine Sudnick** (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

**Tony Sykaluk** (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

**Janice Tkacz**

**Gayle Vidovitch**

**Eleanor Wachovec** (*friend of Karen Felon*)

**Robert Walsh** (*friend of the Felons*)

**Colleen Walsh** (*friend of the Felons*)

**Erin Zawolowycz**

**Kristin Robinson**

**Janet Budko** (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

**Laurie Budko** (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

**Mary Kay Weber**

**Mirta Szewczyk** (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Mickey O'Brien** (*friend of Arlene*)

**Kelly Buehner**

**Anna Sykaluk** (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Edward Zewczyk** (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Joe Czajkowski** (*son of Jerry*)

**Patrick Gallagher**

**Elliott Udell** (*grandson of Michael Udell*)

**Constance Zimmerman** (*Cindy's cousin*)

**William Nasi** (*brother-in-law of Kenneth Kovach*)

**Jonathan Maas** (*friend of Eric Seddon*)

**Michelle Frampton** (*cousin of Fr. Zdinak*)

**Jeanne Charles** (*friend of Arlene Neal/Czajkowski*)

**Carol & Bert Nielsen** (*Paul Pangrace's sister & brother-in-law*)

**Haralambos Steingass**

# BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 21

<p><b>Feb 21</b>                  Luke 24:1-12                  2 Tim 3:10-15                  Luke 18:10-14</p>	<p><b>Feb 24</b>                  Composite 8—Isaiah 40,                  41, 45, 48, 54                  Composite 9—Malachi                  3, 4</p>	<p><b>Feb 25</b>                  1 John 1:8-2:6                  Mark 13:31-14:2</p>	<p>John 10:1-9                  Heb 13:17-21                  John 10:9-16                  2 Tim 3:1-9                  Luke 20:46—21:4</p>
<p><b>Feb 22</b>                  2 Peter 1:20-2:9                  Mark 13:9-13</p>	<p>Composite 3—Wis 4, 5                  Luke 7:17-30                  2 Cor 4:6-15                  Matt 11:2-15</p>	<p><b>Feb 26</b>                  1 John 2:7-17                  Mark 14:3-9</p>	<p><b>Feb 28</b>                  Luke 24:12-35                  1 Cor 6:12-20                  Luke 15:11-32</p>
<p><b>Feb 23</b>                  2 Peter 2:9-22                  Mark 13:14-23</p>	<p>2 Peter 3:1-18                  Mark 13:24-31</p>	<p><b>Feb 27</b>                  Composite 2—Proverbs                  10, 3, 8                  Prov 10:31-11:12                  Wis 4:7-15</p>	

## ST. THEodosius IS NOW A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate>  
 Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



## FAITH ENRICHMENT HAS CONCLUDED

Stay tuned for more information & future announcements!

Please contact Subdeacon Leon Felon at (440) 666-7601 if you have any questions.

### Sunday, Feb 21

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
 St. Makarios of Glinsk Hermitage  
 3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM  
 Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

### Monday, Feb 22

Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy  
 Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius at  
 Constantinople

### Tuesday, Feb 23

Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

### Wednesday, Feb 24

First and Second Finding of the  
 Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious  
 Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the  
 Lord, John

### Thursday, Feb 25

St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople

### Friday, Feb 26

“Mezhetsk” Icon of the Mother of God

### Saturday, Feb 27

Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn  
 Derkaschenko Panikhida 5:15PM  
 Great Vespers 6:00 PM

### Sunday, Feb 28

Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
 Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of  
 Ven. Procopius at Decapolis  
 3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM  
 Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2021

*A friendly  
 reminder that  
 this is a fast-  
 free week!*