

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

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Clinton Township, MI 48035

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The Propers for today: Sunday Antiphons; Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 1; Glory be ... Now and ever ...; Kontakion of the Publican and Pharisee, Tone 3; Prokeimenon and Alleluia, Resurrection, Tone 1; Epistle, Thirty-third Sunday after Pentecost (EOT 160); Gospel, Thirty-third Sunday after Pentecost; Communion Hymn of Sunday.

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA VIKI!

Scripture readings: Epistle: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15

Gospel: St. Luke 18: 10-14

Divine Liturgy Schedule:

Sat.	Jan.	23	The Holy Martyr Clement 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	Jan.	24	SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE 8:30 a.m. +Poor souls in Purgatory by John MacDonald 10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class (masks and social distancing required) 10:30 a.m. Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God — end of abortion 11:00 a.m. +John and Anna Dirda by John and Mary Dirda
Mon.	Jan.	25	Our Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa — the Theologian
Tues.	Jan.	26	Our Venerable Father Xenophone and His wife Mary 9:00 a.m. +Betty Dirda by Charlotte Dirda 7-9 p.m. 100th Anniversary meeting
Wed.	Jan.	27	Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father John Chrysostom 9:00 a.m. +Joseph Chontos by Judy Chontos and family
Thurs.	Jan.	28	Our Venerable Father Ephrem the Syrian
Fri.	Jan.	29	Translation of the Relics of Ignatius — National March for Life Begins
Sat.	Jan.	30	FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS: ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	Jan.	31	SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON 8:30 a.m. Health and salvation of Rosemary by Mary M. Wolf Piks 10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class (masks and social distancing required) 11:00 a.m. +Stephen and Helen Hysick by M/M Stephen Hysick

Welcome to new parishioners and visitors The faithful of St. Nicholas Church would like to welcome new parishioners and visitors. We are happy that you have joined us on our spiritual journey and we hope that you feel welcome. **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION** If you are Roman Catholic or Orthodox you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When coming to receive Communion please do not extend your tongue — tilt your head back and open your mouth as wide as possible so that the priest can place the Body and Blood of Christ into your mouth. **FASTING BEFORE LITURGY** Please fast at least (a minimum of) one hour before attending the Divine Liturgy and receiving Communion. **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** Please do not receive Communion if you have committed sins of a grave nature (i.e., "mortal sins"). Go to Confession first before receiving Communion. Visitors: please sign the guest book by the bulletin board. All precautions are being taken to make our church as safe and sanitary as possible during this time of COVID.

Please continue to pray for the sick and shut-in: Doris Crawley, Lillian Stefano, Kitty Marchione, Marie Sloff, Anna Uhrin, Cindy Dinsmore, Jerry May.

All Souls Saturdays and the Great Fast Just a reminder that All Souls Saturdays begin early this year on February 6th. Please fill-out the All Souls envelope dated January 10th. The Great Fast/Lent begins on Monday, February 15.

The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee There is a great difference between the Publican and the Pharisee in today's Gospel. The Pharisee didn't know who he really was. He kept telling God how different he was from other people. The Publican, on the other hand, knew exactly who he was... "I am a sinner," he said. Because he knew himself, he was able to do something about it. He asked forgiveness. Today is the beginning of the Lenten Triodion ... three weeks of preparation for the Lenten season of repentance and renewal. The Kontakion of the Liturgy helps us in this preparation by telling us to avoid pride and to practice humility like the Publican. Why place emphasis on humility? Because humility is the beginning of true repentance. Eastern spirituality, following the example of Christ, has as its basic principle, the admonition that humility is an infallible sign that we are on the road to God. Let us look at the example of Christ. He said, "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." He humbled Himself to be born as a man. He was the son of a poor carpenter. He spent His life teaching and helping others. He washed the feet of His Apostles. In the end, He suffered the humiliation of death on the cross. Yet even from the cross, He forgave His tormentors and those responsible for His death. To accentuate the need for humility, the Pope, who holds the highest office in the Church, calls himself the "servant of the servants of God." "Keeping these examples in mind, we should spend as much time as we can trying to know ourselves as we really are... knowing who we really are, we can then do something about it. (We should often say the following little prayer which is sometimes called the "Jesus Prayer": "Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.")

Preparation for the Great Fast This is the first of four Sundays that lead up to Great Lent (Lenten Triodion). Following this Sunday, we have a fast free week (no fish on the calendar for Friday, January 29th), in which any foods can be eaten every day, including Wednesday and Friday. The reason for this fast free week is to remind us of paradise, and contemplate the only way we can regain paradise fully in our lives. Then we come to the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. After this comes the Sunday of the Last Judgment, also known as "Meatfare Sunday", because this is the last day on which we can eat meat until Pascha/Easter. Then we celebrate the solemn Sunday of Forgiveness, also known as "Cheesefare Sunday", which brings us to the threshold of Great Lent, which begins the next day. We will, of course, begin Great Lent with the Solemn Forgiveness Vespers, which we will have following the 11 a.m. Divine Liturgy. The church is trying to tell us something by setting before us these Sundays that lead us into the Great Fast. As time is fleeting and the Fast will be upon us quickly, let us "Redeem the time" by trying to learn something from the Publican and Pharisee.

What do you believe about your past that is keeping you from your future? "Every Saint has a past and every sinner has a future." This was Oscar Wilde's observation. Wherever you are in your journey, wherever you have been and whatever you have done, the lives of saints such as Saint Augustine remind us that God never gives up on us. ... His own words sum up his journey and his destination in a single line: 'Our hearts are restless Lord, until they rest in you.' ... Throughout the Bible we read powerful stories imbued with relentless invitations to turn back to God. ... Augustine and so many of the saints are great beacons of hope for ordinary people like you and me. I look at Augustine and draw hope and strength from his story. I think to myself, 'If he can turn it all around, surely God will work with me to turn my life around.' ... Today is a new day, and every moment is a chance to turn it all around (sort of like the Publican, in today's Gospel). ... This might be the beginning of a new season of grace in your life. I hope it is. I pray it is. And somehow, somewhere, Saint Augustine is hoping and praying for you too. *Loving Father, help us to know deep in our hearts that you are ready to remove whatever obstacles we have placed between ourselves and you in the past. Open our hearts, minds, and souls to see the future you have imagined for us ...*

Weekly Collections

1/24/2021

Celebrating our

100th anniversary year!

Thank you to those who generously support our parish through your time, talent and treasure.

The collection will be posted in the future.

— Rediscover the Saints, Matthew Kelly

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

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Phone: (586) 791-1052; Email: stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com

Served by: Father Joseph J. Repko, Pastor
Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore

Cantors: George Nagrant, Nicholas P. Nagrant, Joseph Wanchik, Steve Terlescki, John P. Minarish,
and Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore and Richard Baranko, *Cantor Emeritus*.

Choir Director: Nicholas J. Nagrant

Catechetical Director: Suzanne Swanney

Youth Directors: Adam Digon and Kimberly Kaufman

Liturgy Schedule: Saturday 4:00 P.M. (Anticipated Sunday Obligation with Vespers)
Sunday 8:30 A.M. (Slavonic / English mix)
11:00 A.M. (English)
Daily Liturgy as scheduled (see inside of the bulletin)
Holy days as scheduled (see inside of the bulletin)

Publican and Pharisee: Humility vs Self-Righteousness

This parable represents to us two chariots on the race course, each with two charioteers in it. In one of the chariots it places righteousness with pride, in the other sin and humility. You see the chariot of sin outstrip that of righteousness, not by its own strength but by the excellence of humility combined with it, but the other is defeated not by righteousness, but by the weight and swelling of pride.

For as humility by its own elasticity rises above the weight of pride, and leaping up reaches to God, so pride by its great weight easily depresses righteousness. Although therefore you are earnest and constant in well doing, yet think you may boast yourself, you are altogether devoid of the fruits of prayer. But you that bears a thousand loads of guilt on your conscience, and only

think this thing of yourself that you are the low-est of all men, shall gain much confidence before God.

And He then goes on to assign the reason of His sentence. For every one who exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted. The word humility has various meanings. There is the humility of virtue, as, a humble and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. There is also a humility arising from sorrows, as, He has humbled my life upon the earth. There is a humility derived from sin, and the pride and insatiability of riches. For can anything be more low and debased than those who grovel in riches and power, and count them great things?

Saint John Chrysostom



St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

Clinton Township, MI

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v'iki!

***** Celebrating 100 years: Aug 21-22, 2021 *****

Announcements for January 24, 2021: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

This coming Tuesday, January 26th, from 7:00-9:00pm, there will be a 100th Anniversary Planning committee meeting in the church hall. All committee members are asked to attend, as well as anyone else interested in helping out with our upcoming celebration.

Our 16th Annual "Least of My Brethren" Luncheon is next Sunday, January 31st in the church hall, after the 11:00am Divine Liturgy. This year will be a smaller-scale, soup-and-chili-only (no salad) version due to COVID precautions, but the important part is that we will be collecting free-will donations to help the homeless and less fortunate in our community— the "Least of our Brethren," to whom Our Lord refers in the Gospel of Matthew. Please come and enjoy a wide variety of delicious homemade soups and chilis— for whatever amount you may be able to give. Everyone is welcome! If you would like to bring in a homemade soup or chili to share, please sign up on the sheet posted on the table in the hall, by the bulletin board next to the kitchen. Special note: This year GCU Lodge 860 has announced that the GCU will match all donations (up to \$5,000), so any money you are able to contribute will actually be worth double!

Reminder: All Souls Saturdays- Please submit your envelopes with names by next Sunday (January 31): Please remember your deceased loved ones by filling out the All Souls ("Hramoty") envelope that is in your envelope packet (dated January 10th), and returning it to the parish office no later than next Sunday, January 31st. Any loved ones that you list will be remembered at each of the five All Souls Liturgies listed in the church calendar (starting February 6th).

Sunday, February 7th, will be Scout Sunday at St. Nicholas Church. All scouts are invited to come to the 11:00am liturgy in uniform and take part in a short ceremony at the beginning of the service.

Adult Education opportunity- *God With Us +Online+ Wednesday Webinars:* This coming Wednesday, January 27th, from 8-9pm, will be the third and final installment of a new 3-part series of webinars entitled *Partakers of the Divine Nature: A Patristic Study of Deification.* The webinar will be led by Rev. Nathan Symeon Adams, who serves as parochial vicar at the Byzantine Proto-Cathedral of St. Mary in Los Angeles, CA; and as vice-chairman of the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education. The webinars are free, but you must pre-register online at www.easterncatholic.org. On their website you can also find videos of the first two sessions, if you were not able to participate on the actual day of the broadcast.

Reminder: Contribution Statements for your 2020 donations are available, on the table in the vestibule of the church. Please pick yours up at your convenience. Thank you for your generous donation of time, talent and treasure in serving the Lord at St. Nicholas Church!

Keep your eyes open for the next installment of our “Five Minutes of Formation” online videos: As a reminder, these videos are being posted to our parish YouTube and Facebook sites as supplemental information for our ECF students and parents—but can be watched by anyone interested! If you have any questions regarding ECF content, or something that you would like Subdeacon Phillip to address in a future video, please email him at our parish email address (stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com).

Reminder: Help us grow our 100th Anniversary Celebration contact list: As a part of our publicity efforts for our parish’s 100th Anniversary celebration— the weekend of August 21-22, 2021— we would like to ask you, our parishioners, to please help us grow our list of former parishioners and friends of the parish that we should invite to the festivities. Please help us populate our Anniversary mailing list by filling out and returning the “contact cards” that we have placed throughout the vestibule and hall, with any names and information you might have (mailing address, email, phone number, etc) for those in our extended parish family. Once you have the slips filled out, please place them in the box marked “100th Anniversary Contact Cards” in the vestibule. Or, if it’s more convenient, you can also email us at: stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com.

From the Eparchy of Parma- Stewardship Appeal 2020/2021: The effectiveness of this faith community and our Eparchy of Parma depends upon the support of our entire parish family. As stewards, we are challenged to show gratitude to God for bestowing us with gifts of time, talent, and treasure. With your financial support, we help build the Kingdom of God. Think of God first. Give your gift to God from the first fruits, not from what is left over. If you have not already made your pledge or donation, visit us online at parma.org/2021appeal to submit your one-time or monthly donation to the Stewardship Appeal. Thank you for your generosity!

From the Eparchy of Parma- Women’s Retreat (February 19-21): St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Marblehead, OH, is sponsoring their 8th Annual Women’s Retreat on February 19-21, at the Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, OH. The retreat will be led by Rev. John (Ivan) Freishyn-Chirovsky. For more information including how to register, please visit parma.org.



Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church
23300 King Drive • Clinton Township, Michigan 48035 (Formerly located in Detroit)

Save the Date

100th
Anniversary Celebration

August 21-22, 2021

Saturday	Sunday
• Memorial Service for Deceased Parishioners	• Afternoon Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
• Informal “Homecoming” Social Event	• Evening Formal Banquet

Memorabilia, Photo Displays, Parish History...and more!

Watch for details to come in further communications or contact the parish!

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