



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

3585 North 12th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81506

Office Phone: (970) 242-9590

www.saintnicholasgj.org

Rev. Fr. Jeremy Troy, *Proistamenos*

frjeremytroy@gmail.com

Sunday, February 25th, 2024

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

8:45am: Orthros, 10am: Divine Liturgy

12pm: Youth Church School & Adult Ed

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ὕψος πλ α΄.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον

ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείραι τοὺς τεθνεώτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode

An example of the faith and a life of humility: * as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, * and through the truthfulness of your deeds * were exalted to greatness through your humility, * uplifting all, and by poverty gaining wealth. * Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, * intercede with Christ our God * that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion of the Publican and Pharisee in the Fourth Mode

Let us flee the Pharisee's * exalted boasting; * let us learn the Publican's * humble demeanor, and with sighs * unto the Savior cry out and say, * To us be gracious, O only forgiving Lord.



Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

St. Pauls' 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

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."

The Lord's Prayer

Ελληνικά:

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, * ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου· * ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου· * γεννηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου * ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς· * τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον· * καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν· * καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Español:

Padre Nuestro, que estás en el cielo, * santificado sea tu nombre; * venga tu reino; * hágase tu voluntad, * en la tierra como en el cielo. * Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; * perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; * no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal.

English:

Our Father, who art in the heavens * hallowed be Thy name; * Thy Kingdom come; * Thy will be done * on earth as it is in heaven; * give us this day our daily bread, * and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; * and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.



Saints and Feasts

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

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.

Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople

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, 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, 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, Paul told them that the most worthy successor to him would be 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, 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.



Parish Information

Triodion Begins Today

Today marks the beginning of the Triodion period. This period of the Church year serves to prepare us and ease us in to the beginning of Great and Holy Lent. The parable of the Publican and Pharisee is always read on this first week of the Triodion. No fasting is done this week, including on Wednesday and Friday.

Church School

Church School meets on Sundays following Divine Liturgy, at approximately noon. Our two Youth Church School classrooms meet downstairs.

Orthodox Christianity 101

Our Orthodox Christianity 101 class meets in the Church hall following coffee hour. Anyone who is interested in learning the basic teachings and practices of the Orthodox Christian faith is welcome to attend! We will read and discuss the book *Welcome to the Orthodox Church* by Frederica Mathewes-Green.

Men's Breakfast Group

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 2** at 8am. Bring your favorite breakfast foods, and feel free to invite a friend!

Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, March 14** at 12pm.

Byzantine Chant Classes

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!



This Week at Saint Nicholas

Following Divine Liturgy this morning, we will celebrate the 40-day Churching of the Servants-of-God **Sidney and Mary Wood**.

- Wednesday, February 28: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Saturday, March 2: 8am Men's Breakfast, 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers