

ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

- Saturday, Jan. 20Saturday after Theophany
Readings: Eph. 4:7-13; Mt. 4:1-116:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)
- Sunday, Jan. 21Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
Readings: 2 Tim. 3:10-15; Lk. 18:10-149:10 A.M. Third Hour;
9:30 A.M. Divine LiturgySupplications will be offered for+ George Siweckyj, given by Mary Siweckyj

Supplications will be offered for+ Lillian Chlibun, given by friends God's blessing upon Orysia Barshowski, given by Pyptyk sisters

- Saturday, Jan. 27Translation of the Relics of John Chrysostom
Readings: 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Lk. 5:11-326:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)
- Sunday, Jan. 28Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Readings: 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Lk. 5:11-329:10 A.M. Third Hour;
9:30 A.M. Divine LiturgySupplications will be offered for+ Maria & Basyli Szszypczyk, given by Anna Kuncik

God's blessing upon Orysia Barshowski, given by Pyptyk sisters

THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN (LUKE 18:9-14)

А	М	V	Ε	U	Ζ	G	С	Ε	Y	L	Ζ	Κ	Q	I
D	Ν	Ο	В	G	С	W	Ι	L	L	Р	S	S	S	Ρ
Y	Ε	D	Η	F	L	Ρ	Ν	М	R	V	Т	Y	S	Κ
Ι	Т	U	В	M	F	L	Ε	S	М	Ι	Η	Η	Ο	R
В	L	Ε	D	Ε	А	В	А	S	Ε	D	V	U	Ε	Ε
L	М	D	V	Y	Ν	С	Ρ	Η	Ε	G	G	М	Ζ	Ε
0	Ε	Ε	Ν	Ι	M	Ο	С	Y	В	Y	W	В	Η	Ν
В	Ζ	Т	Р	F	С	V	Y	Y	V	Q	D	L	Р	А
U	Ε	L	Y	В	W	U	В	R	Т	D	Κ	Ε	Ε	Ι
Ρ	Ι	А	G	Η	А	Ι	С	М	Ε	Ο	А	S	U	Ρ
W	Ι	В	Ο	S	Т	L	А	В	Ε	V	G	В	V	Q
С	D	Ε	Ν	L	Ζ	Ρ	В	В	Ο	Ο	Ε	F	F	W
Ρ	Ζ	D	W	F	L	Ε	S	М	Ι	Η	S	L	Ι	Ι
R	Ρ	M	Y	А	S	Ν	Ρ	Ρ	J	Κ	А	Κ	U	L
F	Ζ	Ε	Ζ	Ε	D	S	R	R	Q	Р	U	Ι	Η	L

FIND THE WORDS OF THE VERSE BELOW IN THE PUZZLE ABOVE "Everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." LUKE 18:14

Holy Water

In the Eastern Church, Holy Water is used frequently in rites of blessing and exorcism, and the water for baptism is always sanctified with a special blessing. Holy Water is often sprinkled on items or people when they are blessed outside of the Church building, as part of the prayers of blessing. For instance, in Alaska, the fishing boats are sprinkled with Holy Water at the start of the fishing season as the priest prays for the crews' safety and success. Also, cars (on the feast of the prophet Elijah) and homes are blessed with Holy Water as a way of invoking God's blessing and protection.



The use of Holy Water is based on the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. Reading Holy Scripture, we see

that John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, and the people came to have their sins washed away by the water. Since Jesus had no sin, but was God incarnate, his baptism had the effect not of washing away Jesus' sins, but of blessing the water, making it holy - and with it all of creation, so that it may be used fully for its original created purpose to be an instrument of life.

Every family should have Holy Water at home, and make use of it at every need: sanctification of our homes, in cases of illness, leaving on a journey, etc. The Holy Water strengthens the powers of our soul - if it is done with prayer and reverence, and one does not merely expect a mechanical result from it.

As we read in the prayers for the Great Blessing of Water the true nature of water has its destiny in the salvation of man and the world. The blessing of waters doesn't "make bad water good". It restores the water to its original state. The prayer at the blessing of water causes the revelation of the true 'nature' and 'destiny' of water, and thus of the world. By being restored through the blessing to its proper function water becomes again a means of communion with God. Christ in His baptism purified the nature of the waters. He came to redeem not only human beings but, through them, the entire material created world.

O King, who loves mankind, be present now as Thou was at the Jordan through the coming of Thy Holy Spirit and sanctify this water.



January 21, 2024

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. Octoechos Tone 1. Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor (662). Holy Martyr Neophytus (284-305). Holy Martyrs Eugene, Candidus, Valerian, and Aquilas.

<u>Changeable Parts</u> – Pages **38-40** in the Booklet of Changeable Parts (Small white book)

Announcements:

This Sunday: Clean-up Decorations

Sunday, January 21st, following the Divine Liturgy we will have the clean-up of the Christmas decorations. I ask that you please remain in Church to help put away the decorations. The more of us stay behind, the faster it will go. Thanks

Mark your calendar: Next Adult Religious Class on January 25, 2024', at 6:30pm. Also, please mark other scheduled classes: Feb. 15, March 14, Apr.18, May 16 and June 13, 2024

Next Coffee **Social and Children Liturgy** on Sunday, January 28, 2024. If you would like to sponsor it let know to Fr. Igor.

First All Souls Saturday:

The 1st All Souls Saturday will be celebrated on Saturday, February 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. On these All-Souls Saturdays it is tradition in our Holy Church to prayerfully remember our beloved departed family members, loved ones, etc. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated followed by a Panikhida when the names of all those deceased are commemorated out loud. Amongst your offertory envelopes you have a gray envelope for the commemoration of departed souls marked SOROKOUSTY. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on this envelope and drop the envelope in the collection basket or bring them to the parish office.

Envelopes 2024-Calendars 2024

The Church offering envelopes for the year 2024 and the Church Calendar 2024 are ready for distribution. They are available now in the vestibule. Sincere thanks to Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars for 2024. Should you not see your envelopes, please let Father Igor or Ms. Olga Perkun know, following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year 2023. May Our Lord reward you with good health and many happy and blessed years: *MHORAN Jima!*

Prayer List:

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have one, contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way, at this time, remember the following members of our parish family: Barbara Fedora, Helen Fedenko, Orysia Barshowski, Kate Wyko, Thomas Kunsak, Kathee Shabla and Rose Shedno.

<u>Pyrohy</u>

Our total income from last week's sale was **\$539.00** Thanks to all our dedicated women and men that come faithfully to be part of this parish activity.

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday of January 14, 2024 was **1,267.00** (Collection: \$880.00, Loose & candles: \$35.00; Pyrohy: \$539.00)

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!



Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Today we are confronted with the parable-story of the Pharisee and of the Publican. The Publican was aware of his unworthiness, he was aware that he was unworthy of presenting himself before the face of God, but also of being admitted into the company of respectable people, people of whom God would approve. He came to the door of the Temple and could not cross the threshold because he knew that in this world – soiled, polluted, desecrated by human sin, by blood and evil in all its forms, the Temple was a place which was devoted to God alone.

As the Publican stood on the threshold, he knew that he belonged to the realm of evil, and had no access into the realm of God; and yet, he felt the difference, he felt horror at himself and a sense of worship, of adoration with



regard to the Divine Realm. He beat his chest and asked for mercy because there was nothing else he could hope for and count on.

The Pharisee stood right in the middle of the Church; he had walked in and taken his stand there as one who had the right to be there. Why? Not because he was a man of pure heart, but because he was faithful to every one of the formal rules established by the Synagogue, as a number of us are faithful to the outer, external rules of life that do not penetrate even through our skin, which do not reach our heart, which do not give a new shape and meaning to our thoughts.

So, again, we are confronted by two men and asked by Christ: who are you? Are you one who is so deeply aware of the sanctity of God that he knows that, apart from a God who would step down to us to heal and save, there is no access to Him. Or are we like the Pharisee who would say to God, throw it in His face: I have done all that is prescribed. You have nothing to ask of me!

Let us ask ourselves then: Do we imitate the Pharisee in deeds, outwardly faithful to all the tenets of our Christian Faith? And beyond this, do we allow our Faith to transform our heart, to rule our will, to enlighten our mind? This is the task which the Gospel offers us today. Think about it.