

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 lowest 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

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

January 24, 2021

Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican

This Sunday: Epistle 2 Tim 3:10-15

Gospel Luke 18:10-14

Next Sunday: Epistle 1 Cor 6:12-20

Gospel Luke 15:11-32

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 1/25

No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 1/26

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Br. Matthew Burke

Wednesday 1/27

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Magdalene Florian by Family

Thursday 1/28

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Stella Lazar

Friday 1/29

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Celia Constance Tsafarides

Saturday 1/30

No Divine Liturgy

Sunday 1/31

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Three Saints Dinner pick up between noon and 2pm

Church Bulletin donated in January 2021 by ...

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

Coffee hour will take place in the Large Hall and is donated by Oprean Family. Thank you!

Sunday Collection: January 17, 2021

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday envelopes | \$2,446.00 |
| Candles | <u>\$317.00</u> |
| Total | \$2,763.00 |

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| In memory of all Zagan Family Members | The Zagan Family |
| +Husband Dan Cseak | Natalie Cseak |
| +All family members and angel +Trisha | Del and Sandy |
| H/S All family members | Del and Sandy |
| Special Intention: For Family | Doru Jacobs and Ann Fosnaught |
| Health and Salvation | Mihai and Elena Florea |
| Special Intention for Family | Mihai and Elena Florea |
| +Parents and Family | Danny and Cyndi Ardelean |
| +Apan and Odesteanu Family | Danny and Cyndi Ardelean |
| +Peggy Florian | Danny and Cyndi Ardelean |
| H/S Cathy Beck and Sonya Paul | Bob and Nancy Maciag |
| Special Intention for a friend | Bob and Nancy Maciag |
| +Magdalene Florian | Ana and William Galida |
| Special Intention: Johnnie | Mom and Ronnie |
| +John, husband | Suzie Dragos |
| H/S Stella Lazar | Suzie Dragos |
| H/S All Family | Suzie Dragos |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| H/S of all members and friends of St. George who are sick and suffering | Suzie Dragos |
| H/S Stella, Johnny and Adrian Lazar and Family | Mircea Cristea |
| H/S Nasi George and Melissa Vraciu and Family | Mircea Cristea |
| H/S Rita Cristea | Mircea Cristea |
| H/S Maria Marginean | Mircea Cristea |
| +Parents, All Family Members and Magdalene Florian | Chuck Roska Family |
| H/S Bonnie Stroia and Family, Jerry Donahue, Aunt Alice Loop, Sheila Diotale, Bob and Sandy Bolek | Chuck Roska Family |

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Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Sonya Paul, Bryan Pryce, John Contini, Donna Pandullo, Missy Lawver, Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Amelia Botean (Home), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **John Puia in memory of deceased family.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **Tony and Terry Orlando in memory of +Emil Neago.**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **Chuck Roska Family in honor of Lauren's birthday; H/S Pete, Lauren and Baby T.; and in loving memory of +Virgil Stroia, Jr.**

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **the Oprean Family.**

If you would like to sponsor candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for January 2021: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Mariana Greavu, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

Natalie Cseak is going to be 99 years old on February 6. There are birthday cards on the narthex table. Please fill one out and put in the basket beside them or use one of your own cards. Her granddaughter will pick them up on Thursday, February 4. *La multi ani!!* Happy Birthday, Natalie!!

Congratulations to Pete and Lauren Tsaftarides on the birth of their daughter, Celia Constance Tsaftarides on January 19, 2021 at 7:40am. She weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and 19 inches long. *La multi ani!!*

It is time to start thinking about pledging for 2021. St. George Cathedral could not keep the doors open without your support! Please prayerfully consider what God wants you to give to support our parish. **Pledge sheets** will be in the bulletin and on the narthex table next week. Please return by the end of February 2021, so that we know how to plan for the year.

Prescure money is due for 2021. \$30 for the year can be paid to P-sa. Gabi. The list will be updated in February. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Sunday envelopes for 2021 are now available. Thank you for your commitment to our parish! St. George Cathedral **calendars** are ready for pick up as well!

Use Amazon Smile and choose St. George Cathedral. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you!

Purchases at **GFS (Gordan Food Service)**. St. George will get points when you purchase at GFS. Share the business name "St. George Cathedral" when they ask or remind them that you are purchasing for a business.

Ladies Auxiliary:

Dues are \$10 for the coming year. You may send your dues to the church or give to Carol Popa. Make check made out to Sf. Maria Ladies Auxiliary.

Parish events:

Because of the pandemic, Fr. Ovi will pray the **home blessings** for those who sign up. Call the office or sign up in the narthex if you would like him to come to your home between January 7 and 30, 2021.

Three Saints Curbside Dinner will be hosted on January 31 from noon to 2pm. Place your orders at www.stgeorgeoh.org or call the office by **January 26**. Each dinner is \$18. Parishioners, please pay with cash or check to Ann, so online fees can be avoided. Please be generous.

To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺

Back in the days when the church janitor had to pump air into the pipe organ to make it work, Eloise, the new organist, dearly wanted to make an impression on the visiting clergyman with her playing. She wrote a note to the old janitor who had been slack in pumping the organ air and handed it to him just before the service started. But, making a natural mistake, the janitor passed the note onto the visiting preacher, who opened it and read, "Keep blowing away until I give you the signal to stop."

Word of Life

"Many people know someone personally who is suffering because of an abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? ... Even a woman who doesn't go to church or think of herself as religious can be afraid that God will never forgive her for having an abortion. She should know that God loves and forgives those who are sorrowful. He wants to comfort them and give them his peace.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion"

For those suffering after abortion:

May they know that the Lord desires to bring healing,
and turn to Him for His mercy and peace;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! *La mulți ani!*

Mel Herncane – January 24th

Athan Parker – January 25th

Caroline Popa – January 25th

Anna Popa – January 30th

| | Mon 1/25 | Tue 1/26 | Wed 1/27 | Thu 1/28 | Fri 1/29 | Sat 1/30 | Sun 1/31 |
|------|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | Athan Parker's Caroline Popa's (f) Holy Father | Ven. Father | Translation of the Abstinance | ☩ Ven. Father Ephrem | Transfer of the relics Abstinance | Anna Popa's birthday Dispensation (harti) (f) Three Holy | Virginia Roger's Veronica Maier's Georgeta Barcutian's ☩ Cyrus & John, Sunday of the |
| 6am | | | | | | | |
| 7am | | | | | | | |
| 8am | | | | | | | |
| 9am | | Liturgy: +Br. Matthew Burke 8:30am - 9:30am | Liturgy: +Magdalene Florian by Family 8:30am - 9:30am | Liturgy: H/S Stella Lazar 8:30am - 9:30am | Liturgy: H/S Celia Constance Tsafarides 8:30am - 9:30am | | |
| 10am | | | | | | | Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am |
| 11am | | | | | | | |
| 12pm | | | | | | | Three Saints Dinner 12pm - 2pm |
| 1pm | | | | | | | |
| 2pm | | | | | | | |
| 3pm | | | | | | | |
| 4pm | | | | | | | |

THIS WEEKEND OUR CHURCH opens the pages of the Triodion, the book containing the texts for all the services leading up to Pascha. This Lenten journey may be viewed on two levels, chronologically and spiritually. Both are important as we look ahead to our celebration of Pascha.

Chronologically, the period of the Triodion consists in three distinct sections: the pre-Lenten period, the Great Fast itself, and the Great and Holy Week. The first, the pre-Lenten period, progressively leads us to the coming Great Fast. It begins with two Sundays which introduce us to thoughts of *repentance*. Next we have a weekend of observances reminding us of our *mortality*: the Saturday of the Dead and the Sunday of the final Judgment. Finally, in Meat-fare Week, we are eased into the Fast by beginning to *abstain* from meat. The last pre-Lenten observance takes place on Cheese-Fare Sunday with the ceremony of *forgiveness*, in which we ritually ask the entire community to forgive us our offences so that we may begin the Great Fast with pure hearts.

The Publican and the Pharisee

On this first Sunday of the Triodion's pre-Lenten period, we are presented with the Lord's parable of the Publican or tax collector and the Pharisee in Lk 18:9-14. As we begin our Lenten journey, we are reminded how the prayer of the Pharisee did not reach God while the Publican's prayer was heard. The Pharisee's devotions were "correct," but, the Lord teaches, it is not

enough to say the right words when the heart is not correct as well.

The basic attitude of the heart for which the Pharisee is faulted is *pride*: "I fast twice a week," he boasts; "I give tithes of all that I possess" (Lk 18:12)... and that makes me better than that tax collector. The Pharisee is right in one sense: it is good to fast and to give tithes, but his good deeds are made void through his pride.

Reflecting on this parable in its hymnody, our Church describes the Pharisee's prayer as "ungrateful." He says, "I thank you, God," but thankfulness to God is not revealed in his underlying attitude. His inner spirit is not focused on God's gifts, but on his own perceived accomplishments. He does the right thing, but for the wrong reason.

A consequence of the Pharisee's self-centered parody of religion is the judgmental way he regards his fellow man: "I am not like other men" (v.11): my devotions make me superior, more worthy in the sight of God. Christ takes the opposite view: "I tell you, this man [the publican] went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (v.14)..

Keeping a Proper Perspective

The Scriptures often return to the place of formal religious practices in our spiritual life. Some people – we might call them iconoclasts – reject such practices outright as hypocrisy. The Lord is not one of them.

He affirms the value of devotional practices, when kept in a suitable way. He condemns the Pharisees for their attitudes, not their actions. He tells His followers, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works, ... all their works they do to be seen by men" (Mt 23:2, 5).

Our fasting should not be a matter of public display. "Moreover, when you fast," the Lord says, "do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Mt 6:16, 17).

In Mt 23, Christ specifies the place of devotional practices in a mature spiritual life. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" (Mt 23:23). Devotional practices are commendable, but not as a replacement for mutual love.

During the coming Fast we may become so concerned with its devotional aspects, such as attending special services or avoiding meat and dairy products, that we become irritable with others and make void our

striving to keep the Fast. The mature approach is that outlined by Christ in the verse above: observe the devotional practices, but do not ignore or abuse others in the process. As the Greek saying puts it, it is better to eat the fish than to eat the fisherman!

Isn't Fasting Obsolete?

In the first century AD, some Christians coming from a Jewish background were concerned with keeping the ritual precepts of the Old Testament in addition to accepting Jesus as the Messiah. In the traditional Jewish view, it was keeping the precepts of the Law which makes a person righteous before God. St Paul repeatedly insisted that this was no longer the case. It is putting our faith in Christ, not the devotions we observe, which justifies us. The Law of Moses, the Apostle taught, was *"a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ"* (Col 2:17).

For us, observing the precepts of the Fast are meant to lead us to Christ, not substitute for a relationship with Him. We cannot earn ourselves a place in heaven by fasting, or by any other practice we might undertake. We can fast and pray, however, to express our gratitude for the gifts of God who has united us to Himself in Christ. We fast, not to improve our standing with God, but to respond with gratitude to what He has done for us.

The Canon from the Triodion

Every good deed can be made void through foolish pride, while every sin can be cleansed by humility. Let us then embrace humility in faith and completely turn away from the path of pride.

From Ode 1

God the Word humbled Himself and took the form of a servant, showing that humility is the best means to exaltation. All those who follow the Lord's example, humbling themselves, will be exalted on high.

To lead us to exaltation with God, the Savior and Master revealed in His deeds the humility which can lift us up on high. With His own hands, He washed the feet of His Apostles.

From Ode 4

Let us hasten to follow the example of the Pharisee in his virtues and to imitate the Publican in his humility. Let us flee what is wrong in each of them: foolish pride and the defilement of transgressions.

From Ode 5

O faithful, let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! Let us never claim, 'We are pure,' as he did. Let us rightly follow the Publican in his humility and gain the mercy of our God.

From Ode 8

Like the Publican, let us pray to the Lord, entreating His mercy and flee from the Pharisee's ungrateful prayer and the proud words with which he judged his neighbor, that we may gain God's forgiveness and light.

From Ode 9

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee



When Good Actions Are Made Void

St. George Cathedral
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
December 2020

| | <u>Dec 20</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jul - Dec 20</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> | <u>Annual Budget</u> |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | |
| Program Income | | 32.00 | | 416.00 | 416.00 |
| Catering Income: Rentals | 3,522.00 | 900.00 | 5,648.00 | 8,792.00 | 9,693.00 |
| Fundraising Activities: Sarmale sale | 2,268.40 | 2,858.00 | 36,195.31 | 40,208.00 | 83,164.00 |
| Interest & Dividends | 313.95 | 800.00 | 1,001.19 | 1,604.00 | 2,538.00 |
| Offerings: Sunday and Special | 16,453.00 | 18,540.00 | 72,295.68 | 64,824.26 | 131,115.70 |
| Total Income | <u>22,557.35</u> | <u>23,130.00</u> | <u>115,140.18</u> | <u>115,844.26</u> | <u>226,926.70</u> |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | | | |
| Cost of Goods Sold | 621.35 | 279.00 | 2,821.66 | 4,350.00 | 6,960.00 |
| Total COGS | <u>621.35</u> | <u>279.00</u> | <u>2,821.66</u> | <u>4,350.00</u> | <u>6,960.00</u> |
| Gross Profit | 21,936.00 | 22,851.00 | 112,318.52 | 111,494.26 | 219,966.70 |
| Expense | | | | | |
| Church Expenses: Insurance & Supplies | 738.42 | 861.00 | 4,721.43 | 5,816.00 | 11,129.00 |
| Fundraising Expense: Sarmale, Beverage -Fish Fry | 1,012.03 | 3,212.33 | 10,330.54 | 16,072.76 | 37,879.87 |
| Administrative Expense | 11.38 | 52.00 | 237.10 | 489.00 | 1,076.00 |
| Auto Expense | 202.11 | 1,251.00 | 1,216.64 | 2,623.00 | 4,337.00 |
| Catering Expense | 554.56 | 338.00 | 2,249.91 | 2,471.00 | 6,315.50 |
| Diocese Support: Taxa and Retirement Fund | 1,190.06 | 1,197.06 | 6,800.46 | 6,911.36 | 13,833.72 |
| Dues & Subscriptions | 196.23 | 163.00 | 1,172.78 | 866.00 | 1,532.00 |
| Postage | 354.40 | 500.00 | 598.45 | 1,109.00 | 2,223.00 |
| Professional Services | | | | | 120.00 |
| Payroll Expenses: Fr. Ovi, Ann and loan | 4,324.26 | 4,325.00 | 25,945.56 | 25,950.00 | 52,600.00 |
| Plant & Equipment Maintenance: Entire facility | 3,222.78 | 2,227.00 | 27,300.10 | 23,796.00 | 40,699.00 |
| Real Estate Taxes | | | | | 2,435.54 |
| Travel & Meetings Expenses | | 100.00 | 37.08 | 605.00 | 1,175.00 |
| Utilities: Water, Electric, Gas, Phone, Internet, Sewer | 1,906.20 | 3,106.00 | 11,320.34 | 14,376.00 | 28,655.00 |

St. George Cathedral
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
December 2020

| | <u>Dec 20</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jul - Dec 20</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> | <u>Annual Budget</u> |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Program Expense: Candles, Supplies, Gifts, Social | 3,087.22 | 4,291.00 | 7,417.09 | 9,488.50 | 15,392.00 |
| Total Expense | <u>16,799.65</u> | <u>21,623.39</u> | <u>99,347.48</u> | <u>110,573.62</u> | <u>219,402.63</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | 5,136.35 | 1,227.61 | 12,971.04 | 920.64 | 564.07 |
| Other Income/Expense | | | | | |
| Other Income | | | | | |
| Other Income | | | 7.03 | | |
| Unrealized gain/loss: Edward Jones Inv. - market change | 4,732.53 | | 21,704.95 | | |
| Total Other Income | <u>4,732.53</u> | | <u>21,711.98</u> | | |
| Other Expense | | | | | |
| Other Expense | | | | 1,250.00 | 3,750.00 |
| Total Other Expense | | | | <u>1,250.00</u> | <u>3,750.00</u> |
| Net Other Income | <u>4,732.53</u> | | <u>21,711.98</u> | <u>(1,250.00)</u> | <u>(3,750.00)</u> |
| Net Income | <u><u>9,868.88</u></u> | <u><u>1,227.61</u></u> | <u><u>34,683.02</u></u> | <u><u>(329.36)</u></u> | <u><u>(3,185.93)</u></u> |

St. George Cathedral
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Edward Jones Investment | 155,195.75 |
| Bookstore Imprest account | 100.00 |
| Money Market | 20,880.31 |
| St. George Orphanage | 479.38 |
| Cash in bank - operating | 13,941.58 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 190,597.02 |

Accounts Receivable

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Accounts receivable | 79.59 |
| Total Accounts Receivable | 79.59 |

Other Current Assets

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Investments - other | |
| Undeposited Funds | 1,459.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 1,459.00 |

Total Current Assets **192,135.61**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Accounts Payable | 13,671.39 |
| Total Accounts Payable | 13,671.39 |

Credit Cards

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Huntington - Master Card | 1,148.01 |
| Visa Business Card - St. George | |
| Total Credit Cards | 1,148.01 |

Other Current Liabilities

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Building maintenance - projects | |
| Liturgy Stipends | 50.00 |
| Collections payable | 687.60 |
| Payroll Liabilities | (36.83) |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 700.77 |

Total Current Liabilities **15,520.17**

Total Liabilities **15,520.17**