THE PARABLE OF
THE PUBLICAN and PHARISEE
WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to all those visiting with us today! Please be aware that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the unity in belief and practice of the Body of Christ. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing with the Orthodox Church are permitted to receive Holy Communion.

February 21, 2021 — Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
21 Φεβρουαρίου 2021 — Κυριακή Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου
Saints Timothy the Righteous and John III, Patriarch of Constantinople

MEMORIALS: Aphrodite Gikas (1 year), Chrysanthi Pirperis (6 months)

COMMUNION: Please continue practicing social distancing (6 feet) even while in line. Also, please hold the red Communion cloth with two hands but do not wipe your lips with it. Finally, please leave your mouth open during Holy Communion. Thank you.

ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ: Σας παρακαλώ, κρατήστε απόσταση έξι ποδιών. Και κρατήστε το κόκκινο πανί (το μάκτρο) της Κοινωνίας με δύο χέρια αλλά μην το χρησιμοποιήσετε να σκουπιστείτε μετά την Κοινωνία και, παρακαλώ, αφήσετε το στόμα σας ανοικτό κατά την διάρκεια της Θείας Κοινωνίας. Ευχαριστούμε.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Wednesday, February 17, St. Theodore the Recruit, Orthros 8:30, Liturgy at 9:00 am.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: We have an easy solution: when the weather is bad, just call the church and listen to the message on the phone after 7 am or after 3 pm for evening activities. We will also email those who have registered with our listserver, place a message on our Facebook page and on channel 7 (7News).

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We will continue this week to offer two grades with 4-7 being together in the middle grade in the upstairs 5th grade room, and high school together in the auditorium. As usual, we will begin after Holy Communion.

FRIENDS OF HOPE CEMETERY: The Friends of Hope Cemetery was founded in 1991 by a group of concerned citizens who wished to assist the city in the preservation, conservation and beautification of the cemetery. Many of our own parishioners have contributed greatly
to this effort. If you would like to become Friends of Hope Cemetery and to support the beautification of
the cemetery, donations may be mailed to: Friends of Hope Cemetery, c/o Hope Cemetery, 119 Webster Street,
Worcester, MA 01603

BIBLE STUDY: Please join us as we continue with Acts Through Revelation, the discussion and the video
series. Join us in person or online at 6:30. Contact Fr. Chris for information at frstamas@gmail.com.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: After cancelling for two weeks, we will be meeting today, Sunday, February 21, after church. New members are always welcome. The prayer shawl ministry group has been working hard and we have lots of blankets/shalws ready to be
given away. If you know of anyone who is ill, in the hospital or home bound and could benefit by one of these, please contact Presvytera Penny.

GOYA: GOYA will be meeting this Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm—weather permitting al-
ways. Once Lent begins, we will move our meeting day to Mondays in order to participate in our short
Compline Service. Social distancing applies to all. All of our middle and high school students are invited.

JOY: Thanks to everyone who came our meeting yesterday. On Saturday, March 20, our group will be
meeting with Father Chris and Presvytera Penny beginning at 11 am. As usual, there will be lunch
served. We will have a discussion, some crafts, songs, and much more. We hope that you will make ev-
ery effort to attend and to spread the word to others. If you know of someone who hasn’t been with us
yet, please send Father Chris a message Presvytera Penny and email at pennystamas@yahoo.com

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL: With the Metropolis Oratorical Festival being scheduled for Saturday, May
8, we will be giving our own kids some extra time to prepare their papers and to be coached/advised be-
forehand. So, the St. Spyridon Oratorical Festival will take place after church on Sunday, April 4. Please
get started, get your topic picked, and begin your research.

VETERANS’ MEMORIAL BRICKS: Bricks are still available to purchase in honor of the veteran in
your life! Contact Dean Alexandrou for more information dalexandrou@charter.net or 617-828-4068.

FLOWER DONORS: With the Great Lent rapidly approaching, we are asking for generous and faithful people to assist us with the
purchasing of flowers for our Panagia icon at the Salutations (Χαιρετισμοί) Services on Friday evenings and for other flowers
during Lent. Each week, we need approximately $50 to handle our decorations. If you would like to contribute, please make out a
check to St. Spyridon Cathedral with Flowers in the memo section. Any and all donations will be used for the many needs we have.

Έχουμε πολλές ανάγκες για λουλούδια κατά τη διάρκεια της
μεγάλης Σαρακοστής. Όποιος θέλει να μας βοηθήσει με την α-
γορά λουλουδιών, μπορεί να καταβάλει επιταγή στον Καθεδρι-
κό Ναό του Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος για $50 για να καλύψει τα έξοδα
για τα λουλούδια για κάθε εβδομάδα.
2021 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival To Be Held Virtually

With the blessing of Archbishop Elpidophoros, the Archdiocesan St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Committee has decided that the Archdiocesan, or National level Festival scheduled for June 11-13, 2021 will be a virtual festival.

Our St. Spyridon Parish Festival will be held on Sunday, April 4, immediately after church.

While everyone is hopeful and optimistic, given the current state of the pandemic and the vaccine rollout, there are still many uncertainties that have affected planning. There is a high likelihood that some of the students and families who would attend the National festival in June may not feel comfortable traveling by plane, staying in hotels, etc., or attending a large in-person event. We also considered the challenges of hosting a weekend-long large gathering with all the necessary safety precautions that we anticipate would still need to be in place. Out of concern for the families and the host parish, we decided that this is the best way to proceed at this still difficult time.

Taking inspiration from the many Church programs that have continued during the pandemic with virtual events that build fellowship, the plan is to host a multi-day virtual festival the weekend of June 11-13, 2021 that will include several opportunities for the students to get to know one another, an online prayer service and the junior and senior level speaking sessions. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros has been invited to participate in the Festival to hear the participants’ speeches and to share remarks at a virtual awards ceremony. The same awards that we have provided at in-person festivals will be granted to the speakers. The Festival itself, the speaking program and awards ceremony will be live streamed so that a broader audience can benefit from hearing the speeches.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support. We look forward to hearing our young people share their faith and insights. We know they will continue to inspire all who hear them.

Scripture is filled with passages of God's call for us to be generous, loving, compassionate givers. The priority of compassionate stewardship is not to pay the bills. It is about how we, as a community, can do God’s work with love and compassion. It is less about the parish’s need to receive, and more about our need to give. It is our generosity with the gifts and blessings God has entrusted to us.

Compassionate stewardship is an attitude and a way of life.

υποστήριξη της Εκκλησίας είναι ζήτημα σημαντικό, αντανακλά δε στην πίστη μας, και αφοσίωση μας προς τον Θεό, μπορεί να μας οδηγήσει στην σωτηρία και στην αιώνιον ζωή. Γι’ αυτό λοιπόν ας σκεφθούμε και ας πράξουμε, όχι όπως έχουμε συνηθίσει, αλλ’ όπως ο Κύριος και ο Σωτήρας μας Ηρακλής μας προσκαλεί να πράξουμε.
High School Seniors

You are invited to apply for the following college scholarship from Greater Worcester Community Foundation:

Chris and Helena Llazes Scholarship Fund for Saint Spyridon's Families
For graduating high school seniors who are themselves members, or have immediate family who are members of the Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester, MA

Apply now at www.greaterworcester.org
Application deadline: March 1, 2021

Submit 1 application, and you'll be considered for all of the Foundation’s 130+ scholarships for which you are eligible.

Questions? (508)755-0980 scholar@greaterworcester.org

COVID-19 UPDATE – Holy Trinity is currently COVID-19 free. There are no employees out or residents with active COVID. We are excited to announce that visits will be welcomed at the designated visitation area, please schedule your visit online at our website or call the activities department to schedule an in person visit with your loved one. With this comes more exciting news for our residents that we will open for small group activities with social distancing and continue to encourage that residents wear their masks. We will now implement weekly employee testing per DPH guidance and continue to rapid test visitors as indicated.

JOB OPENINGS – Holy Trinity is hiring, and the staff is excellent to work with. At present, there is an opening for an HR Generalist, and for a Staff Development Coordinator. Also, openings for nurses and CNAs for all shifts. Click here for a full listing with detailed job descriptions. People familiar with the languages and cultures of our Orthodox communities are encouraged to apply.

THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT — With the opening of small social distancing group activities our activity department is reviewing and revising the activities and will be distributing new events this weekend. Our staff is looking forward to this change and we are looking forward to seeing our residents increase their activity and socialization.

TREASURED GENERATIONS ANNUAL APPEAL – If you wish to donate to the Treasured Generations fund please click here. Remember to type "Treasure Generations" in the memo field. And, we thank you for your support!

DIVINE LITURGY celebrations will resume when DPH allows us to do so.

The Orthodox Food Pantry Needs Your Help!

Each month, our Orthodox Food Pantry tries to go above and beyond the distribution of food and do something special. In January, we distributed hats and gloves. In February, we are giving away 200 personal hygiene bags to those who come to us. You can see some of them in the auditorium. This will include a large number of products including shampoo, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, etc. We are able to do all of this because of the extreme generosity of a few people and groups who have given us substantial sums of money. If you would like to help us keep this going, please give generously through St. Spyridon Cathedral with Food Pantry in the memo section.
The reading is from St. Paul's 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.


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."
CYBER SECURITY WATCH
Provided by the Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology

CYBERCRIME HAS BEEN INFILTRATING OUR LIVES FOR YEARS.
More recently, parishes and religious communities around us are being targeted by a phishing scam where the attacker poses falsely as the parish priest and asks the recipient for money usually in the form of gift cards.

EDUCATE yourselves and others about the dangers of emails and phone scams.

YOUR PARISH PRIEST should never reach out via personal email to request immediate financial assistance. Be vigilant if you do receive an email that fits this description! Here are some do's and do not’s to guide you:

DO NOT...
- reply to the message
- click on any links
- download any attachments
- use the contact information provided in the email
- share personal or financial data via email or phone

DO...FOLLOW THE 3 V’S
- VIGILANCE requires that you should question every email that comes in
- VERIFY the email by contacting your parish
- VERY OFTEN change your passwords

REPORT CYBERCRIME IMMEDIATELY to the following Federal agencies and to the Archdiocese:
- Federal Trade Commission: ftc.gov/complaint
- FBI: fbi.gov/tips
- Archdiocese Technical Support: techsupport.goarch.org

LEARN MORE by visiting blogs.goarch.org/internet-ministries by contacting the Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology with your questions at techsupport.goarch.org.
Free Books

As we did before, we are offering free books, Volumes 1 and 2, of Saint Porphyrios’ Witnesses, i.e., his sayings and expressions of wisdom and faith. These spiritual gems come from one of the greatest Saints of our time (1990s) and should be read by every Orthodox Christian seeking a deeper relationship with our Savior. Stop by the office and take them.

### 2021 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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As of 2/19/2021

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**A LESSON ON PRAYER**

Prayer is important to our religious life. In general, there are two forms of prayer – Private and Public, that is alone or together in community.

During the course of His earthly life, Jesus taught us about both forms. He Himself went up to a mount and prayed alone with His Heavenly Father, as He did also in Gethsemane. He taught people to pray “in secret,” to close the door and commune with God. But He also urged people to pray publicly, especially at worship. “Where two or three are together in My Name, there am I amongst them.” Christ went regularly to the temple in sanctification of the Sabbath. And so we, too, gather each Lord’s Day, to pray together as the Family of God.

But there are ingredients to TRUE prayer, whether private or public. The parable of the Publican and the Pharisee points to a factor that, on the one hand, kills effective prayer; and a factor, on the other hand, that facilitates true communion with the Lord.

We see the pride, the hypocrisy, the failure of love in the example of the Pharisee, who stood before the crowd in the temple and bragged about his righteousness. We also see the true humility, the need for God and forgiveness on the part of the Publican who stood back and beat his breast praying “God, be merciful to me a sinner!”

Christ ended his teaching with this: “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” May we heed this warning against hypocrisy.