

Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

(Saint Mary's Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, Inc.)

On the Corner of East 15th Street and Second Avenue

Father Edward G. Cimbala, MAOL, D.Min. ~ Pastor

Boris Derow ~ Music Director/Cantor

Parish Office

246 East 15th Street * New York, New York 10003

Telephone - 212-677-0516

Email ~ Fredcimbala@gmail.com

Website - stmarybccnyc.org



February 9, 2025

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

February 16, 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

LITURGICAL SERVICES

Sunday, February 9

**Sunday of the Publican and
the Pharisee**

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy
For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+John Speichert
By Joyce Speichert

Sunday, February 16

10:00 AM

35th Sunday After Pentecost

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
In Thanksgiving by Fr. Ed

Sunday, February 23

10:00 AM

Sunday of Meatfare

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+Katherine Sikoryak
Followed By Panachida
and the
Reading of the Hramoty
for the
First All Souls Saturday

Sunday, March 2

10:00 AM

**Sunday of Cheesefare
Forgiveness Sunday**

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+Mikulas Beno by Mary Galus
Celebration of Forgiveness
Followed by Fashengy!

Tuesday, March 4

6:30 PM

Presanctified Liturgy
+Helen and +Charles Gaydos
By Patricia Dietz
Lenten Soup Meal

Wednesday, March 5

Noon

Lenten Moleben
Lenten Soup Meal

Sunday, March 9

10:00 AM

1st Sunday of the Great Fast

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+Vasil Vira
By Debbie Sank

Tuesday, March 11

6:30 PM

Presanctified Liturgy
+Edward Zapala
By Mary Zapala

Wednesday, March 12

Noon

Lenten Moleben
Lenten Soup Meal

Sunday, March 16

10:00 AM

2nd Sunday of the Great Fast

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+John and +Mary Malast
+Kevin Guiteras
By Debbie Sank
Followed By Panachida
and the Reading of the
Hramoty for the
Second All Souls Saturday

WELCOME VISITORS

**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR ALL PEOPLES.” - Isaiah 56: 7**

If you are a visitor to St. Mary’s, we want you to know how deeply we appreciate your presence. Whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish, we are grateful for your interest in our church. We warmly welcome you and hope you find our worship true and reverent. We consider you part of our family and would be more than honored by your presence in our spiritual home. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.

The Sunday of The Publican and Pharisee

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 18:10-14. This is the story of two men: a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish sect known for its diligent observance of the Law, and a Publican, a government official charged with collecting taxes.

Both men enter the temple, and the Pharisee stands openly and prays, thanking God that he is not like other men, specifically extortioners, the unjust, adulterers, “or even this tax collector” (v. 11). He then begins to list his religious accomplishments by stating, “I fast twice a week, and I give tithes of all that I possess” (v. 12).

In direct contrast to the pride of the Pharisee, the Publican goes to a place where others will not notice him and beats his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (v. 13).

Having told this story, Jesus affirms that the Publican returned home justified and forgiven rather than the Pharisee. He states, “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (v. 14).

The theme of this parable is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting point of the journey to Pascha. To repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in



the past. The Greek term *metanoia* means “change of mind.” To repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship with God and others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent and self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him.

The Gospel depicts him as a man who is pleased only with himself and thinks that he has complied with all of the requirements of religion. But in his pride, he has falsified the meaning of true religion and faith. He has reduced these to external observations, measuring his piety by how much he gives.

The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a “change of mind.” He humbles himself, and his humility justifies him before God. He becomes, in the words of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3), “poor in spirit.” He acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he knows that salvation is only found in the mercy of God. Here, we find an example of true humility, an essential aspect of repentance. A “change of mind” and the transformation of our lives can only happen when we humble ourselves before God, acknowledge our willingness to turn from sin, and receive His grace into our lives.

Our preparation for Lent thus begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, restoring our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness, and He blesses us by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.

Here, we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day, the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.



Some Volunteer Opportunities At St. Mary's

**Office Help – Organizing – Ushers
Church Tour Docent
Greeters - Collection Counters
Social Events – Parties
Special Event Hospitality – Photography
Flower Care
Anything that you see that needs to be done!
Please see Fr. Ed to Volunteer.**

Mystery of Reconciliation

Fr. Ed is always available to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation before the Divine Liturgy and at any other time. If Fr. Ed is not in the confessional, please look for him; he will gladly help you.



Sunday of The Prodigal Son



The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the third Sunday before the commencement of Great Lent. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads Eastern Christians to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The parable of the Prodigal Son forms an exact icon of repentance at its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, and hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: "I will rise up and go..." (v. 18). To repent is to feel dissatisfied and decide and act upon it.

In the words of our Lord, we also learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. This parable offers hope for those who have fallen into great despair over their sins, thinking that there is no forgiveness. The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where people's activities are disconnected and not ordered toward fulfilling God's divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, illusory strivings, cravings for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit, and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world but a wasteland. This is why, in the Slavic tradition of the Eastern Church, the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles' states: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137).

Here, we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day, the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

Prodigal Son Prayer

Let us behold the power of the mystery of salvation. When the Prodigal Son departed from sin and returned to his Father's house, his loving Father came to meet and kiss him. He restored to the Prodigal the signs of his former glory. Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving Father Who has offered the Savior as a sacrifice to us. Let us pray to Him: As the Prodigal Son, I come to You, merciful God; I have scattered the wealth which You gave me. Receive me in repentance, O Father, and have mercy upon me. Amen.

Fashengy!

The Feast Before the Fast!

Sunday, March 2

Luncheon After

Divine Liturgy

\$15 for Adults by February 23

\$20.00 for Adults after

February 23

Children FREE

**Please pay
Angie Hlinka**

Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

ALL SOULS 2025



If you did not receive an ALL SOULS, list from last year, or you didn't submit a list, and you wish to have your loved ones commemorated – please use this form and return your list and the offering by January 28 – you may drop it in the collection basket or return by mail. Your deceased loved ones will be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturdays.

As we did last year, the celebration of All Souls will be on the Sunday near the designated Saturday – the dates will be February 23, March 16, 23, 30, and June 15. The regular Sunday Divine Liturgy will be celebrated followed by a Panachida and the reading of the Hramoty.

St. John Chrysostom assures us that:” It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on.” (Homily on Acts 21, 4) Family members are encouraged to attend these services on All Souls Saturdays (Sundays), for by their presence and personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion, they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and keep their memory everlasting!

Please commemorate the following people during the upcoming ALL SOULS SATURDAYS. (Sundays)

Name: _____

Offering Amount \$ _____