

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America - www.saintjohnnewken.org

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SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 1. Afterfeast of the Meeting. Repose of St. Theodosius of Chernígov (1696). Beginning of the Lenten Triodion.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Parish Schedule This Week (Fast-free week)

Wed. Feb. 8th

6:30 PM Vespers, followed by bible study

Sat. Feb. 11th

5:00 PM Great Vespers, followed by Orthodoxy 101 class

Sun. Feb. 12th

Hours @9:40; Liturgy, 10:00AM, followed by coffee hour

House blessing sign up is posted in the back and will continue through February. ; **please find a time for your home to be blessed** (nearby households are encouraged to group in times close together).

There is a new sign up for monthly volunteers to clean the Church. This is an important stewardship of our place of worship. Consider signing up, or teaming up with someone to clean the Church one week out of the month. Simply let Fr. John know when you'll be there during the week and he'll make sure the church is open. Ideal days to clean the Church are Thursdays, Fridays, or Saturday before Great Vespers in the evening (also be mindful of the parish schedule in the event of additional services going on throughout the week. Instructions are printed out in the candlestand area; if you have any questions ask Fr. John or Alexis Parshook.

Choir members are asked to attend rehearsal on NEXT Sun. **Feb. 12**, beginning at **9:00AM**. All are welcome, even if you don't usually sing in the choir.

Parish bowling night! This Friday, Feb. 10, let's have some fun at Wildlife Lanes. You buy your shoes & game, we'll buy the food. Let Fr. John know TODAY if you plan to come and how many you're bringing—families welcome!

Saturday, 2/25 at 8:00 AM onward—we will be making Pierogies. Many hands make light work; please come help if you can, even part of the day!

Sunday 2/26 we will have our **annual meeting** following liturgy. All parish members are asked to

attend, including catechumens & inquirers.

Meatfare & Cheesefare Sundays there will be potlucks following liturgy. Sign ups downstairs.

Bulletin and Website Information Please email saintjohnnewken@gmail.com with any information you need printed in the bulletin and/or uploaded to the parish website by the Friday before.

“The Lord loves us more dearly than we can love ourselves; the soul in her distress supposes that the Lord has forgotten her, even has no wish to look upon her, and she suffered and pines. But it is not so, brethren. The Lord loves us without end, and gives us the grace of the Holy Spirit, and comforts us. It is not the Lord's desire that the soul should be despondent and in doubt concerning her salvation. Believe, and be sure that we continue suffering only until we have humbled ourselves; but so soon as we humble ourselves there is an end to affliction, for the Divine Spirit discloses to the soul, because of her humility, that she is saved.

Everyone who would follow our Lord Jesus Christ is engaged in spiritual warfare... Our battle rages every day, every hour. If you have upbraided, or passed judgment on, or vexed your brother, your peace is lost. If you have been boastful, or have exalted yourself above your fellow, you have lost grace. If you did not drive away forthwith the wanton thought that came to you, your soul will lose love for God and boldness in prayer. If you are fond of power, or money, you will never know the love of God. If you have followed your own will, then you are vanquished by the enemy and despondency will come upon your soul. If you detest your brother, it means that you have fallen away from God, and an evil spirit has taken possession of you.

Why is it that man suffers on earth and is beset by affliction and adversity? We suffer because we lack humility. The Holy Spirit dwells in the humble soul, bringing freedom, peace, love and blessedness.... People do not try to lean humility, and because of their pride are unable to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit, and so the whole world is filled with suffering.

Our entire struggle is to humble ourselves. Our enemies fell because of pride, and would induce us on to the same path. But no, brethren, let us humble ourselves and then we shall behold the glory of the Lord while here on earth, for the Lord gives the humble man to know Him by the Holy Spirit.”-- St. Silouan the Athonite -