

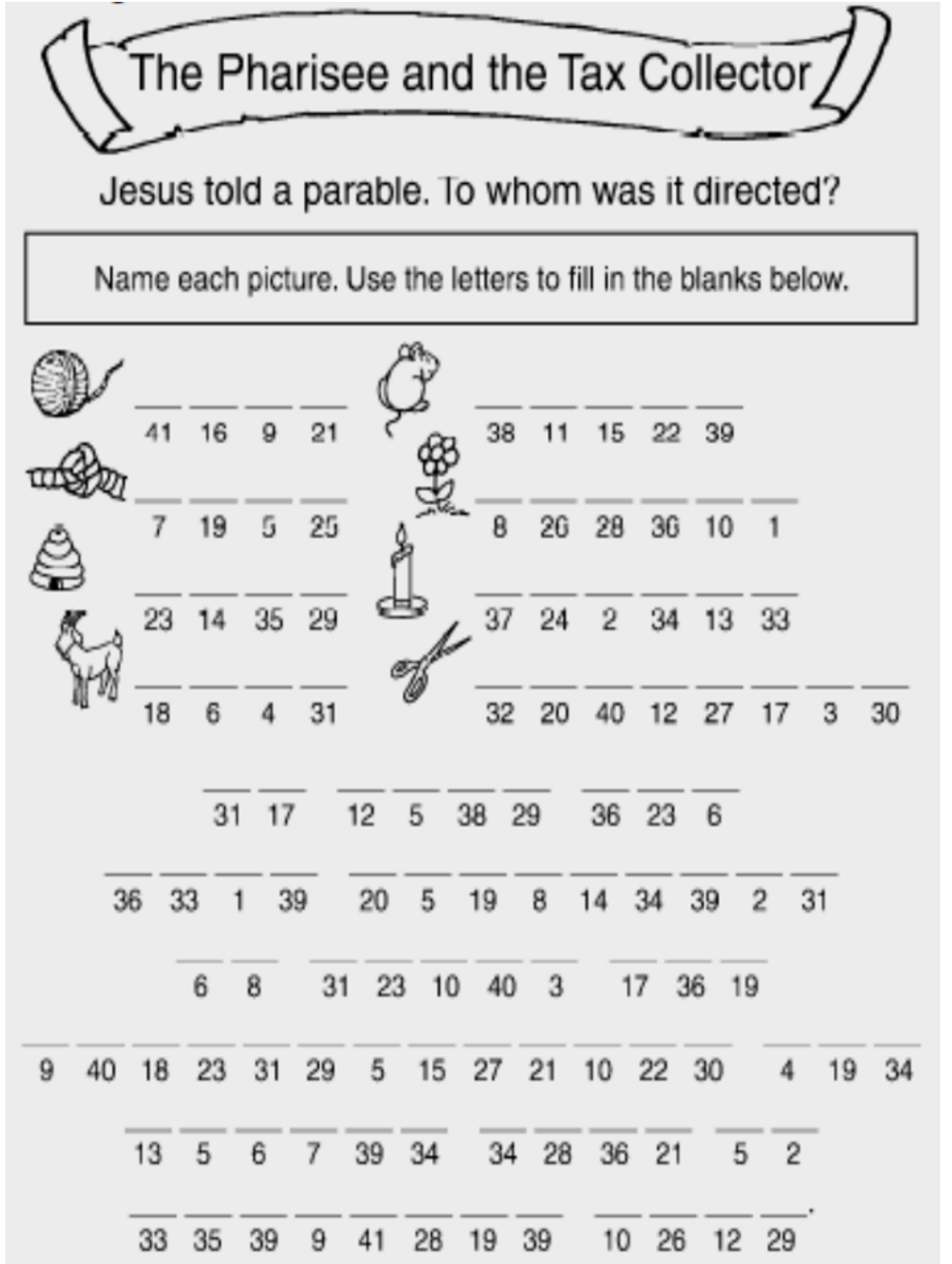


4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Supplications will be offered for+ **Patricia Della Ragione, given by Luigi.**

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Blessed Memory of + Igor Shchur by Marta Shchur



Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee: A Reflection on Being a Good Pharisee (continue)

This publican was guilty of many things, but he wanted to change. He went to the temple knowing he was not worthy, trusting that God could change him. And he was justified, because he had faith in God. Was he failing? Did he still have greed in his heart? Of course! It takes a long time to divest ourselves of our passions. It is a hard lesson to learn. The more we become like the Publican, not in his deeds, but in his humility, then we will become justified.

Thus, our preparation for Lent begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we restore our spiritual vision. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness. If we carry our pride on this journey of Lent, we will not be aware of our failings and our need for God’s grace. Without this awareness, we cannot experience that great conversion of the heart (metanoia) that will lead us into a deeper relationship with God.

Adapted with appreciation from Orthodox Church in America at the-publican-the-pharisee-and-the-struggle-for-humility.



Humility is a powerful virtue. It is often described as the quiet strength that allows us to recognize our dependence on God and the needs of others. In a world that frequently celebrates self-promotion and personal achievement, humility reminds us of our true place in the tapestry of life. Embracing it enriches our relationship with others and deepens our connection with God

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, drive from me the spirit of indifference, despair, lust of power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, Your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins, and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed, now and forever and ever. Amen.



January 25, 2026

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee,
Our Holy Father
Gregory the
Theologian,
Archbishop of
Constantinople

Octoechos Tone 8

Changeable Part: See the special insert available in the church vestibule.

Announcements:

Statement of Contribution

Statements of contribution is in the vestibule. If you have any questions, please see Olga Perkun.

Envelopes 2026-Calendars 2026

The Church offering envelopes for 2026 and the 2026 Church Calendars are available now in the church vestibule. Sincere thanks to Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars for 2026. Should you not see your envelopes, please let Olga Perkun know, following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year 2025. May Our Lord reward you with good health and many happy and blessed years: *Многая Лѣта!*

Christmas Decorations

Thanks to those who stayed to help take down the Christmas decorations. We were able to get this job done in a timely manner.

All Souls Saturday

The 1st All Souls Saturday will be celebrated on Saturday, February 7th, 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 yellow 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 it to the parish office.

Pyrohy Project

Our first week of full pyrohy production is completed. If you would like to help, we would love to have you join us for this worthwhile mission which provides our major source of revenue to support St. George. Production starts at 9:00 on Wednesday.

Adult Religious Education - Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 6:30 pm. The title of this session is "The Desire to Be Loved & The Desire to Love". "Join Fr. Benedict Groeschel as he leads us to understand that the search for holiness should be our primary purpose in life. Fr. Groeschel's goal in this series is to teach "how to organize and focus all the powers of your personality and life in responding to the Gospel and the Call of Jesus Christ." Thanks to Don Fontana for leading these sessions.

Sarris Candy Fundraiser

There are brochures in the lobby if you would like to order some delicious Sarris Easter Candy. St. George receives a small percent of each sale. Please return your order form by **Sunday, February 15th**. Delivery is Sunday, March 22nd.

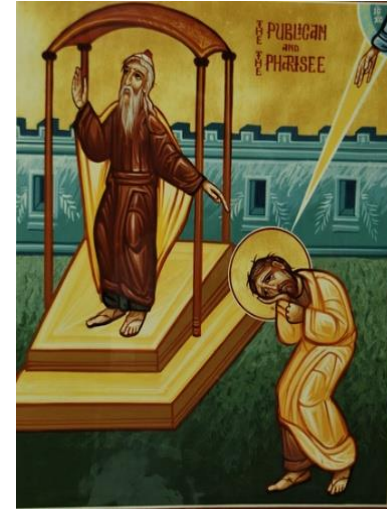
RaiseRight Gift Card Program - Get a quick fix in 2026 by ordering your RaiseRight gift cards! There are over 750 gift cards from which to choose. **Every week there are extra bonus gift cards.** For every gift card you purchase, St. George receives a percent of each sale. Details of the program are available in the church vestibule or online at <https://www.raiseright.com> It's easy to set up an account for gift cards you would normally purchase. Please see Vicki Senko with any questions.

Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday of January 11, 2026 was **\$525.00 + \$231.00**
(Collection: \$465.00, Loose: \$35.00, Eternal Candle: \$25.00, pyrohy: \$231.00)

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity!

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee: A Reflection on Being a Good Pharisee



Are you like the Pharisee in this Parable? It confronts us with a stark contrast between religious pride and self-righteousness on one hand, and heartfelt humility and repentance on the other. The Pharisee manifests pride, the publican manifests humility. The Lord closes this short parable by declaring the Pharisee "condemned" and the publican "justified."

Christ is not condemning the actions of the Pharisee: he is not wasting time and energy by going to the temple to pray, by fasting or by tithing. These are *not* being condemned as empty practices. In fact, we are obligated as Christians, to come to church with regularity and offer prayers to God, to practice the self-restraint and discipline of fasting, and to share our financial resources with generosity. In fact, we would do well to imitate the outward *actions* of the Pharisee in practicing our Faith!

Christ condemns him, because on a deeper and far more significant level, the Pharisee got it all wrong. He was consumed by a *self*-satisfied and *self*-righteous interior attitude that left no room for God to transform him by divine grace. The Pharisee's prayer was seemingly directed to God, but in reality it was an exercise in *self*-congratulation. He was *self*-centered, not *God*-centered. The exterior forms of piety that he practiced were disconnected from the interior realm of the heart, where God is meant to dwell and transform us from within. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent, self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him; he felt no need to repent.

So, what makes a Good Pharisee? Like the Publican, Good Pharisees know they are sinners. Good Pharisees are not thankful for their sins but rather grateful for their awareness of them and for the humility, compassion and forgiveness available from the Lord because of that awareness. This keeps Good Pharisees from being phonies. Jesus loved sinners and distrusted phonies.

And the Publican? We can be assured that Christ was not "justifying" the "lifestyle" of the publican. Rather, the publican was declared "justified" for the very fact that he recognized and was profoundly struck by just how sinful he had become in cheating and defrauding his neighbors as a hated tax-collector.