

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN  
St. Innocent Russian Orthodox Cathedral  
401 Turpin Street, Anchorage, AK 99504

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Divine Services for the Week:

**Jan. 28**, Publican and Pharisee 9:00 am Divine Liturgy  
(The week Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Fast-free Week)

**Feb. 1**, Thursday 6:00 pm Akathist to St. Herman

**Feb. 3**, Saturday 6:00 pm Great Vespers

**Feb. 4**, Sunday of the Prodigal Son 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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*It's never too early to begin preparing; dust off your Lenten cookbooks!  
Great Lent begins with the Forgiveness Vespers service on Sunday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.  
**Pascha is April 8<sup>th</sup>** this year, one week after "western" Easter.*

\*\*\*CORRECTION\*\*\*

Last week, the location for this year's Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> for faithful of the Orthodox parishes in the Greater Anchorage area was reported in error. This year, the Vespers service will be hosted by **Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Anchorage**, not St. John's Cathedral in Eagle River. More information will follow when the time draws near.

2018 Church Calendars are here! This is a gift that keeps on giving, 365 days a year. Calendars can be purchased for \$3.00 or two for \$5.00 at the candle stand or in the bookstore. While you are visiting the bookstore, stock up on Lenten service books before they run out.

If you need to schedule a service at the Cathedral, call Fr. Jonah at 830.0114. Fr. Michael Fredericks can be reached at 467.2029 for hospital visitations

(more on the back)

### “AN EDUCATIONAL MOMENT”

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity.

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, one a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish sect known for its diligent observance of the Law, and the other a Publican, a government official charged with the responsibility of 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 he will not be noticed by others and beats his breast saying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” (v. 13).

The theme of this Sunday 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 with others.

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, a restoration of 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 by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.