

## HOLY THEOPHANY ORTHODOX CHURCH “

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. Nothing is so joyous in our life as the thanksgiving that we experience in the Church. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, and those saddened, joy. In the Church, the troubled find relief, and the heavy-laden, rest.” ~St John Chrysostom

Location of Services: Holy Theophany Church, N2107 State Road 67, Walworth, WI 53184

*Behold  
the  
Handmaiden  
of the  
Lord*



*Annunciation of  
the Theotokos*

*She heard  
the  
Word of God  
and  
kept it*

### Schedule of Services for March 2024

[All services (except Reader's Vespers) will be live-streamed unless otherwise noted.

All liturgies are those of St John Chrysostom prior to March 24. Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM.]

**Saturday, 2, 5 PM—Readers Vespers**

**Sunday, March 3, [Sunday Prodigal Son] 10 AM—Divine Liturgy preceded by General Confession**

**Monday March 4, 7PM—Fr John talk on Acts of Mercy (Sts Constantine and Helen, MKE)**

**Saturday, March 9, [Marriage Michael Lazzio and Kathryn Melanouris] 5:00 PM—Readers Vespers**

**Sunday, March 10, [Sunday Last Judgment/ Meatfare Sunday]10 AM— Divine Liturgy**

**Monday March 11, 7PM—Fr Tom M talk on Forgiveness (Sts Constantine and Helen, MKE)**

**Wednesday, March 13, 5:30 PM—Fr John: Class on the Anaphora Prayer for St Basil's Liturgy**

**Saturday, March 16, 5:00 PM—Readers Vespers**

**Sunday, March 17, [Forgiveness Sunday/ Cheesefare Sunday]10 AM— Divine Liturgy**

**Monday, March 18, 5:30 PM—Compline with Canon of St Andrew of Crete for Monday**

**Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 PM— Presanctified Liturgy**

**Saturday, March 23, 5:00 PM—Readers Vespers**

**Sunday, March 24, [Sunday of Orthodoxy]10 AM— Divine Liturgy (St Basil)**

**Monday March 25, [Feast of the Annunciation] 5:30 PM—Lenten Akathist to the Theotokos**

**Wednesday, March 27, 5:30 PM—Presanctified Liturgy**

**Sunday, 31, [Sunday St Gregory Palamas]10 AM— Divine Liturgy (St Basil)**

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church in February 2024! **Cleaning Church and Parish Hall:** Olga Buranicz, Christopher Thies, Alex Cook, Lamont Prospect, Pres. Anastasia; **Prophora Bread:** Filitsa.; **Music:** Adela Fazio, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna, Joe and everyone for congregational singing; **Artos:** Pres. Anastasia, Maria Condos; **Stewardship:** Thanks to everyone for their financial support; **Reading:** Pres. Eileen, Christopher T., Damian C., Kristy, Lamont, Maria K, Maria Condos, Christian Wilson; **Service in sanctuary:** David, Christopher, and Giovanni Wilson; **Setting up for services:** Pres. Eileen, Pres. Anastasia, and Lamont; **Attendance Report:** Bessie Mantes; **Coffee Hour:** Maria & David K., Filitsa, Kristy, Bessie, and everyone providing food or beverages; **Purchasing Large Fan** for HTC: Christopher T. Sincere apologies if we overlooked anyone for the help they provided.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Website: <https://holytheophanychurch.org/>

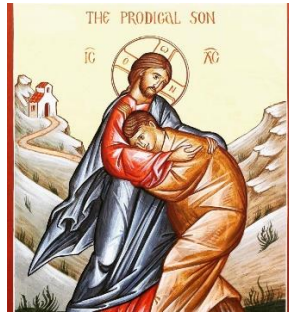
Fr. Protodeacon George Potym  
Telephone (414) 254-5783  
Email: [gpotym@yahoo.com](mailto:gpotym@yahoo.com)

Fr. John D. Jones (Priest-in-Charge)  
Telephone (414) 241-7702  
Email: [jdjones1947@gmail.com](mailto:jdjones1947@gmail.com)

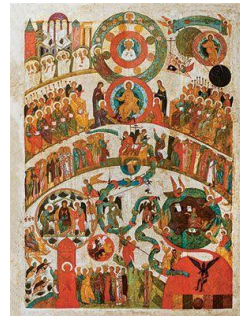
Maria Klesmith  
Telephone (262) 275-0449  
Email: [mklesmith@charter.net](mailto:mklesmith@charter.net)



Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee



Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Sunday of the Last Judgment



Sunday of Forgiveness

### Pastoral Reflection: Beware of Pseudo-Righteousness:

Jesus relates the *Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee* to “some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.” (Lk 18.9) *The Parable of the Prodigal Son* is prompted by this: “all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man [a]receives sinners and eats with them.’” (Lk 15:1-2). The two parables have an interesting connection. The Prodigal Son, who leaves home and his Father as utterly selfish, finally returns home in profound repentance saying: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” (Lk 15:18-19).” He’s basically like the Publican who, “beating his breast” while standing outside of the temple says, “Lord have mercy on me a sinner.” (Lk 18:13).

In contrast to the Publican, the Pharisee pumps himself up while denigrating the Publican since he basically follows all of the rules (tithing and fasting). His counterpart in the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*? The Older Brother who, when he discovers that his father is going to welcome his younger brother home and throw a big feast, gets angry at his father because he has “never transgressed any of the father’s commandments” unlike that “son of yours” who is getting a great feast. Like the Pharisee, he pumps himself up in his legalistic righteousness and despises his brother whom he will no longer regard as his brother.

Suppose in the *Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee*, God came down extended his mercy and forgiveness to the Publican and threw a feast for him. Likely the Pharisee would have had the same hissy-fit as the Older Brother. Both of them play the “I’m righteous” game in a completely legalistic style. Neither of them can deal with God’s mercy and forgiveness for the sinners they despise.

In Mark 2.17, Jesus comments “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” But there are no righteous people among us who do not need repentance. So Jesus is calling all human beings to repentance. But the pseudo-righteous won’t respond to the call since they don’t think they are sinners. So, “hunger and thirst after righteousness” as Christ says (Mt 5:6)—utter conformity and service to God. But always remember that you are the chief among sinners (from St Paul as we confess before communion).

Whom might you keep in mind and imitate during this journey through Lent? The Theotokos, the handmaiden/servant of God who, as Jesus said about her: “hears the word of God and keeps it.” (Lk 11:27).

**Donation from the Renaissance Fund.** You may recall that last July we submitted a proposal for a donation from the Renaissance Fund in Chicago for \$4,000 to help us with our plans to significantly improve our Audio Visual system in HTC for zooming, updating our website, and promoting our presence and faith in our general area through “spots” on Lake 961 WLKG-FM. We have received the \$4,000 donation to be used for radio “advertising.” I hope to begin that work later this month after our revised website is up and running! Upgrading the AV in HTC and our webpage has taken a bit longer than we thought!