

## 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



Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

### Schedule of Services for February 2025

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

All Services Streamed Except for Readers Vespers unless otherwise noted.

- **Saturday, Feb 1, 5 PM—Great Vespers (Archpastoral Visit by Apb Daniel Saturday and Sunday, Feb 2)**
- **Sunday, Feb 2 (Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, Zacchaeus Sunday), 10 AM— Divine Liturgy followed by reception for Archbishop Daniel**
- **Saturday, Feb 8, 5 PM—Readers Vespers**  
**Beginning of the Triodion of the Orthodox Christian Church**
- **Sunday, Feb 9 (Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee), 9:45 AM— Divine Liturgy followed by Annual Meeting (around 11:40).**
- **Saturday, Feb 15, 5 PM—Readers Vespers**
- **Sunday, Feb 16, (Sunday of the Prodigal Son), 10 AM—Divine Liturgy (Diocesan Winter Camp in Attendance)**
- **Saturday, Feb 22, 5 PM—Readers Vespers**
- **Sunday, Feb 23 (Meatfare Sunday), 10 AM—Divine Liturgy. Beginning of Lenten Fast.**

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church January, 2025! Cleaning Church and Parish Hall: Olga Buranicz, Christopher Thies, Alex Cook, Lamont Prospect, Pres. Anastasia; Proshpora Bread: Filitsa,; Music:, Elijah Nelson, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna, and everyone for congregational singing; Artos: Pres. Anastasia, Filitsa; Maria Condos, Stewardship: Thanks to everyone for their financial support; Reading: Alex Cook, Roger Farrell, Sofia K, Pres Eileen, Maria Condos, Kristy Danna, LaMont, Olga, and Damian, Service in sanctuary: David K., Christopher, Alex C, Lamont, Giovanni Wilson; Setting up for services: Pres. Eileen, Pres. Anastasia, Christoper, and Lamont; Attendance Report: Bessie Mantes; Coffee Hour: Maria & David K, Filitsa, Kristy, Bessie, Pres. Anastasia, Maria C, Mary Kanelos, and everyone providing food or beverages; Washing of Communion Cloths: Pres. Anastasia, Mary K; Sincere apologies for overlooking anyone for the help they provided.

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

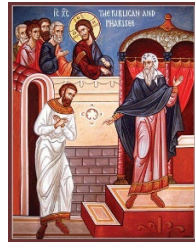
Fr. Protodeacon George Potym  
Telephone (414) 254-5783  
Email: [gpotym@yahoo.com](mailto:gpotym@yahoo.com)

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 Zacchaeus



Publican and Pharisee



Prodigal Son



Last Judgment/Second Coming

### 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 mercy 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). How about 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. In fact, it is very likely that such people cannot bear to admit that they are not perfect. 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). And if you love others as Christ loves you, you will never denigrate others especially to promote yourself, your social group, etc.

Along with Christ, 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).

One final thought as we enter the period of the Triodion: At times, we can fall into a trap of despondency when we start to lose hope about our life or, even though God forgives us, we cannot forgive ourselves. Beware of this trap – it is demonic in origin. If you repent and receive forgiveness from God for your sins, don’t succumb to the temptation to refuse to forgive yourself. You are not better, smarter, or more justified in judging yourself than God! Humbly accept God’s love and forgiveness. “*To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God’s Love. It is not to look backwards with self-reproach but forward with trustfulness. It is to see not what I have failed to be, but what by the Grace of Christ I might yet become.*” ~Saint John Climacus