



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great  
Byzantine Catholic Church*

*“Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!”  
“Glory to Him Forever! Slava Naviki Bohu!”*

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, our potluck luncheon is open to everyone, especially our guests. Come join us for fellowship.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

***Bishop Robert Pipta will be celebrating a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. Athanasius on Feb 4, 2024.***

### **Need to request an appointment with Father?**

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

### **Prayers for the sick or other intentions:**

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text or call Father at 216-532-6364.

### **Opportunities to Help with Fundraising...we are called into service**

At this time, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling.** Cleaning the work areas and equipment are also welcomed opportunities to serve (can be an evening after work). **You are always needed, even if it is for a couple of hours.**

***Please contact John Danovich, (317) 538-7444, to schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Saturday) for you and/or your family.***

### **Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius**

- Sellers are needed for the Saturday Carmel market to free up those who are baking all week.
- Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tues through Friday).
- Eco-friendly birdfeeders were donated, and “kits” need to be put together to sell out of the hall and on Market Wagon.
- Pumpkins need to be processed into puree while they are still fresh.
- Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled.
- Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.
- Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### ELEVENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT February 16-18, 2024

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, OH

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Further info contact Susan A. Gallagher 419-626-0375 or e-mail

[www.womenretreat2024@yahoo.com](mailto:www.womenretreat2024@yahoo.com)

### THIRD ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT March 15-17, 2024

From Fallen Passions to Apatheia: Pursuing the Virtuous Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, Ohio

Retreat Master: Father Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA.

Contact Karl Busam for further information 419-626-6811 or e-mail

[karl.busam.77@gmail.com](mailto:karl.busam.77@gmail.com)

### STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Please consider making a sacrificial gift to this year's Appeal that reflects the importance of the Church in your life and in the lives of those close to you. The Eparchy needs your support. Your gift will make a positive difference, such as: Development of Parishes, Vocations and Seminarian Education, The Works of the Apostolate and Retired Priests of the Eparchy.

### 2024 ByzanTEEN Rally

The Rally will take place in San Diego on **June 27-30, 2024**. Registration for the event will be open on Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, and we are thrilled to invite all teens in your parish ages 13-17. The price for the event weekend is \$380.

**Please plan to participate in the work day scheduled for Saturday, Jan 27 beginning at 10:00 AM and ending when the work is done.**

**The KOC are meeting next Sun, Jan 28 after the Luncheon**

### **Financial Report 1/14/24**

| Date | Bakery Sales | Building Fund | Candle  | Holy Day | Sunday Tithes | Weekly Total |
|------|--------------|---------------|---------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 1/14 | \$661.45     | \$100.00      | \$44.00 | \$25.00  | \$1,068.06    | \$1998.51    |

### **Services for the Week of January 21 - January 28, 2024**

| Day       | Time  | Service  | Readings                     |
|-----------|---|--|------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 8:15 AM<br>10:00 AM<br>11:30 AM<br>12:15 PM | Matins<br>Divine Liturgy<br>Luncheon<br>ECF              | 2 Tim 3:10-15<br>Lk 18:10-14 |
| Monday    | 6:00 PM                                     | Divine Liturgy<br>Youth meeting                          | 2 Pet 1:20-2:9<br>Mk 13:9-13 |
| Tuesday   |   | No Services  | 2 Pet 2:9-22<br>Mk 13:14-23  |
| Wednesday | 6:00 PM                                     | Divine Liturgy   | 2 Pet 3:1-18<br>Mk 13:24-31  |
| Thursday  |   | No Services  | 1 Cor 12:2-11<br>Jn 10:9-16  |
| Friday    | 6:00 PM                                     | Divine Liturgy   | 1 Jn 2:7-17<br>Mk 14:3-9     |
| Saturday  | 10:00 AM<br>5:00 PM                         | <b>Clean up day</b><br>Vespers<br>Confessions            | Heb 7:26-8:2<br>Jn 10:9-16   |
| Sunday    | 8:15 AM<br>10:00 AM<br>11:30 AM<br>12:15 PM | Matins<br>Divine Liturgy<br>Luncheon<br>ECF & <b>KOC</b> | 1 Cor 6:12-20<br>Lk 15:11-32 |

*The Publican and the Pharisee are two characters in a parable told by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. The Pharisee is a religious leader who is proud of his piety and looks down on others, while the Publican is a tax collector who is humble and repentant. The parable teaches that it is not enough to be outwardly righteous, but one must also have a humble and contrite heart.*

## Sunday Of The Publican And The Pharisee

### 2 Timothy 3:10-15

<sup>10</sup> You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup> In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

### Luke 18:10-14

<sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ <sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup> “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

*[The heart longs for Truth. There is no other route to freedom. But often the Truth is too much to swallow. We resist especially if it challenges tightly held systems of beliefs that support our view of ourselves and the world. ...*

*We are like the Pharisee sometimes. Trapped in illusions of grandeur sometimes. Too busy judging to be of any good to anyone. Keeping the poor slobs that people our lives at arm's length so we can be about more important things, like fasting twice a week and tithing, you know, religious stuff that makes us feel so godlike and often turns us into devils. Hopelessly lost in egoic fantasies with our noses so high in the air we can't smell that strange, unpleasant odor we haven't yet realized comes from our own rotting*

*souls. Staring into a mirror made by our own hands we recognize no one but ourselves, we have faith in nothing but ourselves. And what we see is mere illusion.*

*We are also sometimes like the Publican. It is inevitable because the divine true self within cannot forever endure the charade we try to pull off and we become depressed, confused, sick at heart; and in the dark somewhere, behind a pillar in some temple, we confess, “I am not who I say I am.” Then that mirror made by Ego breaks and we see behind it another mirror. The mirror of the soul and there in that mirror is a face, our true face and also the face of God who was there with us all the time and, in fact, is us. The mystic is like a sponge. The sponge looks into itself and sees the ocean. The sponge looks outside itself and sees the ocean. “In him we live and move and have our being.” He is the vine and we are the branches, but the branch doesn't see itself as separate from the vine. It sees itself as all vine. And that is what it is! Apart from the vine the branch dies. The mystical union between vine and branch and sponge and ocean is the primary truth of existence.*

*Faith is born when the False Self shatters, when defenses come falling down like the walls of Jericho, and we recognize the pure gold of the Image of God inside of us. We recognize Him, we recognize ourselves and we see at last that when Jesus said, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” he was not joking. It is and always has been “at hand” in the very fiber that makes up the fabric of who we really are.*

*The holy fool Nasrudin once went into a bank to draw some money from his account. The clerk asked him, “Do you have any identification?” Nasrudin pulled out a mirror, held it up before his face and said to the clerk, “Yep, that's me.” Only those who have the divine gift of self-knowledge can say that with a straight face. Everyone has it, but not everyone is aware of it.*

*Faith dawns when we let go of what is false in us and that, my friends, is the whole point of the Great Fast we are about to begin. What we are asked to give up is everything that is false; first about ourselves, then about our neighbors, and then about God. Then it happens. We become all light.]*

Sermon preached by Fr. Antony Hughes on Sunday, February 24, 2013

<https://www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.org/orthodoxy/sermons/2013/publican-pharisee>



**Weekend Divine Services**

**Saturday:** 5 PM Vespers

**Sunday:** 8:15 AM Matins  
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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