

### *Humility is the Mark of a Sinner*

In the case of that Pharisee who was praying, the things he said were true. Since he was saying them out of pride and the tax collector was telling his sins with humility, the confession of sins of the last was more pleasing to God than the acknowledgment of the almsgiving of the first. It is more difficult to confess one's sins than one's righteousness. God looks on the one who carries a heavy burden. The tax collector therefore appeared to Him to have had more to bear than the Pharisee had. He went down more justified than the Pharisee did, only because of the fact he was humble. If this Pharisee had been sinful, his prayer would have added iniquity to iniquity, but the Lord purified the tax collector of his iniquity. If just by praying, the Pharisee's prayer provoked God's wrath, then as a result of that provocation, the prayer of the tax collector proved all the more potent.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

The stern Pharisee, who in his self pride not only boasted of himself but also discredited the tax collector in the presence of God, made his justice void by being guilty of pride. Instead of the Pharisee, the tax collector went down justified, because he had given glory to God, the Holy One. He did not dare lift his eyes but sought only to plead for mercy. He accused himself by his posture, by striking his breast, and by entertaining no other motive except propitiation. Be on your guard, therefore, and bear in mind this example of severe loss sustained through arrogance. The one guilty of insolent behavior suffered the loss of his justice and forfeited his reward by his bold self-reliance. He was judged inferior to a humble man and a sinner because in his self-exaltation he did not await the judgment of God but pronounced it himself. Never place yourself above anyone, not even great sinners. Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many terrible transgressions.

*St. Basil the Great*

## SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14)*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

Office: (708) 645-0241 Fax:(708) 645-0243

Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

### January 25, 2026 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	25	<b><u>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</u></b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
<b>Thursday</b>	29	<b><u>Vigil for the Feast of Three Holy Hierarchs</u></b> 7:00 PM Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy - +Mary Gaydos by Jim Forkal & family
<b>Saturday</b>	31	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Fr. Nicholas DeProspero by Margaret Klos 5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	1	<b><u>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</u></b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

#### **We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:**

Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Francis Hughes
Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky
James Forkal	Richard Adamowski	Marianne Horvath	Katelyn Fuentes-wc

### **Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish**

*In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.*

**Parish Membership** is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

**The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony** are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

**A Biblically based stewardship** is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

**Couples who are planning to be married** at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

**Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages,"** as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

**Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound** should contact the pastor or parish business office.

**Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia** parish members should contact the pastor.

**No eulogies** or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

**Cremation is permitted but not encouraged.** Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

**Appropriate behavior and dress** are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

**Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday.** If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.



EPARCHY OF PARMA FOUNDATION'S

2025-2026

# STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

TIME. TALENT. TREASURE.

THIS YEAR'S APPEAL WILL RUN FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2025 TO MAY 31, 2026



Donations to the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal help to support the activities of parishes, outreaches, missions, and eparchial events.

The goal for this stewardship drive is to increase the number of participants giving to the fund. The Bishop is therefore suggesting a one-time donation of \$175 per household.

## Raising Them Rite

*Raising Children for an Everlasting Faith*

Saturday, January 31st  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

St Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church  
Munster, IN

**Featuring:**

Fr Thomas Loya

*Director of Marriage, Family & Pro-Life Ministries*

Mark & Susan Northrop

*parents of nine faithful adult children*

**Cost:**

\$30/family



**Afternoon will include:**

- Interactive Sessions for Parents
- Separate Children's Activities
- Toddler Care

**Vespers/Divine Liturgy**  
4:00PM

**Sponsored by:**

Annunciation, St Mary, St Nicholas

Byzantine Catholic Parishes

Eparchy of Parma Marriage, Family & Pro-Life Ministry

**To Register:** Use the QR Code or email  
infotaborlife@gmail.com



ST. NICHOLAS APOSTOLATE PRESENTS

# SOUP & SALAD FUNDRAISER

St. Michael's Church in Merrillville  
557 W 57<sup>th</sup> Ave, Merrillville, IN

**FEBRUARY 15, 2026**  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT!**  
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**ADULTS \$15 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER \$7 (5 AND UNDER FREE)**

Annual Open House Sunday,  
January 25

Find out how Blessed Family Montessori School best serves the needs of your child at our Annual Open House.

- ⊕ Faithful to Catholic Church Teaching
- ⊕ Authentic Montessori Implementation
- ⊕ Competitive Tuition
- ⊕ Fully Credentialed Montessori Teachers
- ⊕ Trained in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- ⊕ Serving ages 3-14



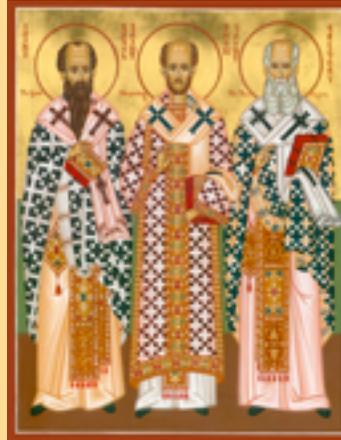
Sunday, January 25<sup>TH</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00pm

18731 131<sup>st</sup> Street • Orland Park, IL 60462 • Rooms 205 & 206 • www.BlessedFamilyMontessori.org

# THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

JANUARY 30TH

Saints Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom



Each has his personal feast day in the month of January; Basil on the 1st, Gregory on the 25th and Chrysostom on the 27th. The common feast we celebrate today was instituted in the 11th century, in the time of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus. At one time there was a quarrel among the people about who was the greatest of the three. Some gave Basil the pre-eminence for his purity and courage; others Gregory for the unfathomable depth and height of his theological mind; others still Chrysostom for the wonderful beauty of his speech and the clarity of his presentation of the Faith. So the first were called Basilians, the second Gregorians and the third Johannites. But, by the providence of God, this dispute was resolved to the benefit of the Church and the yet greater glory of the three saints. The Bishop of Euchaita, John (June 14th), had a vision in his sleep, in which each of these saints appeared to him in a great glory and indescribable beauty, and then all three together. They then said to him: 'We are one in God, as you see, and there is no dispute among us...neither is there among us a first or a second.' The

saints also advised Bishop John to compile a common feast for them and to set aside for them a day of common commemoration. The quarrel was settled as indicated by the wonderful vision; January 30th being set aside for the common commemoration of the three hierarchs. The Greeks regard this feast not only as a church festival but as their greatest national and scholastic holiday.



JOIN EVEREST ACADEMY LEMONT  
FOR OUR ANNUAL WINTER TRADITION!

## OPEN HOUSE + WINTERFEST

SCHOOL TOURS, SLEIGH RIDES, JOEY'S RED HOTS, TIPSY TRAILER!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026  
11AM: MASS / 12:30PM: FESTIVITIES  
11550 BELL RD. LEMONT, IL 60439



Traditionally, at the feast of our Lord's Theophany on January 6th, we consecrate water which is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to our homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our homes of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way. As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time.



*If you are interested in having Fr. Tom bless your house, please fill out the House Blessing Form in the Business Office.*