

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

38<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

{Beginning of the Lenten Triodion}

St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806)

## Activities and Events this Week

- Wednesday February 28      Choir Rehearsal      4:30pm  
  *No Adult Education Class*
- Saturday March 2nd      Catechism Class      3:30pm  
  Great Vespers      5:00pm

*Please note: I will be in Milwaukie Oregon for the Annual Mission Deanery Retreat. I will be at The Eastern Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukie if you need to contact me. I will also have my cell phone – I will look at it during breaks etc. Fr. Lawrence*

## **In the Bookstore**

We have a few 2024 church calendars left – a must to following along with the Church’s liturgical cycle - \$10.00. The bookstore carries an assortment of books (more on the way) icons, incense, charcoal, burners, and candles – everything one needs for a home prayer altar.

## **Annual Statements 2023**

Available in the Narthex of the Church

**St. John’s Brotherhood Work Crew** – The new schedule will be 9am -11am the first Saturday of Each Month.

**Helen Wajdak** – Helen says hello to everyone! I visited her last Sunday, she looked good, very lively and talkative. She received Holy Communion and we watched TV together sharing a bowl of nuts and having tea. Please remember Helen in your prayers.

## “Packing for Great Lent”

In preparing for the Great Lent, we will be packing five major items which may be a big help for us in our journey of Great Lent. I have included a list of other important items to bring along as well. As promised, whatever is packed in our bag for the Lenten journey, we will be able to carry. Of course, some things are best left at home and not taken on the journey – I offered a few suggestions of those as well. The list is not exhaustive but hopefully helpful.

1. Confession of sins – a must prior to the Great Lent – something our parish desperately needs to improve. If you have been absent over **three consecutive** weeks, confession is necessary in order to receive to communion. As a community we are not convinced as to the value of this sacrament for the spiritual life. Confession before the journey is ideal. Please don't wait until Holy Week!
2. Forgiveness of everyone for everything no matter what.
3. Personal prayer – a must at least morning and evening prayers!
4. Prepare to abstain from all things from an animal. At the same time do not be pharisaic in our approach.
5. Giving money secretly to the poor, not letting your right hand know what the left hand is doing.
6. A clean heart and body – do not take drugs or abuse alcohol, do not fornicate or have filthy language come out of our mouths. Confession helps in this area.
7. Do not pack the Television or the internet. You will not need these items.
8. Bring the Bible and perhaps an edifying book like “Great Lent” presently at the book store.
9. No need for a comfortable pillow – “prayer is better than sleep”
10. No microphone needed – talking is not a virtue during the Great Lent
11. A good calendar or date book to keep track of all the services. Keep the calendar as clean as possible, and make attending the services a priority.
12. A good intent and firm resolve to repent and grow in Christ from the journey.