

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE 2/9/25

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ Martin M. Pushchak (req. by James Lindenberger & Stephanie Williams)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Thomas Kearney (req. by Fern Antolik)
11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON 2/16/25

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Thomas E. Luzier (req. by Ray & LeaAnne Luzier)
11:00 AM (E) ✨ Ron Riel (req. by Mike & Kathe Gido)

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:

02/02/25

\$884.00**CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD FEBRUARY COLLECTION – Toilet Paper**

Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”

Prayer to Sts. Cyril & Methodius

O Holy Slavonic Apostles, Cyril and Methodius, you led those lost souls and us with them from the darkness of pagan error to the light of the true faith of Christ. Now you rejoice with Christ in heaven. We rejoice in your glory, with which God has rewarded your untiring zeal. We humbly thank Him for the great gift of Christianity which our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us through your efforts. Intercede with God for us who are unworthy descendants of Adam. Grant that we may be strengthened in the true faith which you preached in the Slavic lands. Amen

*St. Cyril translated many church books from Greek to Church Slavonic.

He died in Rome on February 14, 869.

JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a Jubilee or Holy Year. This is usually celebrated every 25 years. This Holy Year began on Christmas Eve, 2024, and will end January 6, 2026. The theme for the year is “*Pilgrims of Hope.*” This theme was chosen to promote renewal and to restore hope and trust during times of war, anxiety, uncertainty, and general unrest in the world. The Holy Father believes that this Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope as an opening to the renewal and rebirth of faith that is needed at this time.

JESUS PRAYER – *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*

. THE NARROW WAY

During highway construction, driving can be difficult. There are usually single lanes in each direction with barriers on either side. These single construction lanes are sometimes called cattle chutes. One has to be very attentive to the road or else an accident could easily occur.

In a way, in order to live a good Christian life we have to travel through a narrow way. When tempted by the lies and allurements of this life, we have to keep our eyes focused on the way that leads to everlasting life. This is a challenge, because it is so much easier to ignore Christ’s call to take up our crosses and follow Him. Often we choose to follow our own whims and in so doing, run into trouble. We become like the motorist in the cattle chutes who takes his/her eyes off the road suddenly with dire consequences.

Jesus tells His disciples, “Try your hardest to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed” (Luke 13:24). We have all tried to enter a door too narrow for our size. It is not a comfortable feeling, and if the passageway is too small and we are too large, we will not be able to get through at all. Likewise, if our hearts are so full of self-gratification and sin, they will not have enough room for the love and mercy that we so need to have if we are to truly follow Christ.

Walk By Faith

Often our feelings and emotions are mistakenly substituted for faith. Pleasurable emotions and deep, satisfying experiences are part of the Christian life, but they are not the essence of it. Trials, conflicts, battles, and testings lie along the way and are to be counted not as misfortunes but rather as part of our necessary discipline.

In all of these various experiences, we are to rely on the indwelling of Christ in our hearts, regardless of our feelings, as we walk obediently before Him. However, this is where many Christians get into trouble. They try to walk by feelings rather than by faith.

Be sure to distinguish between the fact of God’s presence and the feeling of the fact. It is actually a wonderful thing when our soul feels lonely and deserted, as long as our faith can say, “I do not see You, Lord, nor do I feel your presence, but I know for certain You are graciously here – exactly where I am and aware of my circumstances.” Remind yourself again and again with these words: “Lord, You are here with me.”

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

Too often, people have felt Christianity was a miracle drug to make life miraculously easy without suffering and pain. The purpose of Christianity is not to avoid difficulty, but to produce a character adequate to meet it when it comes. It does not make life easy; rather it tries to make us great enough for life. It does not give us escape from life’s burdens, but strength for meeting them when they come.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025, the universal Church celebrates the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicea. This first ecumenical council of the Church was held from May – July in the year 325. The great gift of the council was the Nicene Creed, professed by many Christians throughout the world. Today Nicea is known as Iznik, Turkey.