

**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Sunday of Publican and Pharisee**

**SUNDAY, 1/25** 1:00 pm Divine Liturgy for all parishioners  
**MONDAY, 1/26** No service  
**TUESDAY, 1/27** No service  
**WEDNESDAY, 1/28** 6:15 pm Divine Liturgy for special intention  
**THURSDAY, 1/29** No service  
**FRIDAY, 1/30** 7:30 am Divine Liturgy for special intention  
**SATURDAY, 1/31** 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy  
**SUNDAY, 2/1** 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners  
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

**Announcements**

**1-Monday Service Cancellation Notice**

Due to inclement weather conditions, there will be no morning service on Monday, January 26.

Please stay safe and thank you for your understanding.

**2-Fasting Reminder**

According to the tradition and rules of our Church, there is no fasting on Friday during the week between the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

The Church intentionally sets aside fasting during this week to remind us that repentance begins with humility, not with outward practices alone. Just as the Publican was justified by his humble heart, we are first called to interior conversion before taking on the discipline of fasting as we prepare for Great Lent.

**3-Service Of Forgiveness**

According to the tradition of our church, on Sunday before the Great Lent we usually have the special service of “Forgiveness”. Therefore, **On Feb 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy we will have this service of “Forgiveness”.

**4-World Marriage Day**

Our Bishop Bohdan Danylo in conjunction with the Department of Family Life of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat would like to recognize and honor the couples in our parish who are celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of their marriage during this year of 2026. Please let pastor know about these couples as soon as possible.

**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee – The Beginning of the Journey of the Heart**  
The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee marks the opening of our preparation for Great Lent. In the Gospel, Christ presents two men who go up to the temple to pray, yet leave with

very different outcomes. The Pharisee lists his virtues and religious accomplishments, while the Publican stands at a distance, unable even to raise his eyes, and simply prays: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

Jesus tells us that it was the Publican—not the Pharisee—who went home justified. This parable reveals a profound spiritual truth: humility opens the door to God’s mercy, while pride closes it, even when it is disguised as religious devotion. The Pharisee’s problem was not fasting or prayer, but self-righteousness. The Publican’s strength was not his past, but his honest repentance.

For this reason, the Church intentionally sets aside fasting during this week. We are reminded that spiritual renewal does not begin with external practices, but with a contrite and humble heart. Only when we recognize our need for God can fasting, prayer, and almsgiving bear true fruit.

As we begin this sacred season of preparation, the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee invites us to examine our hearts. Do we compare ourselves to others, or do we stand honestly before God? True repentance begins not with words, but with humility—and it is humility that leads us toward healing, renewal, and salvation.

May the prayer of the Publican become our own: “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

**Reflection: Our Holy Father Gregory the Theologian**

The Church commemorates Our Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople, one of the greatest teachers of the Christian faith. He is called “the Theologian” because of his profound and faithful witness to the mystery of the Holy Trinity and the divinity of Christ.

St. Gregory lived in a time of deep division and doctrinal confusion, yet he defended the truth not through pride or harshness, but through humility, prayer, and clarity of faith. Though highly educated and gifted, he often preferred silence and contemplation, reminding us that true knowledge of God begins with a humble heart.

His life speaks powerfully to us on this Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. Gregory teaches that theology is not about self-exaltation or winning arguments, but about encountering God in humility. Only the one who bows the heart before God can truly speak about Him.

As we honor St. Gregory, we are invited to seek not self-righteousness, but repentance; not recognition, but communion with God. May his prayers help us begin our journey toward Great Lent with humility, truth, and love.

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**Sunday collections for the weekend of 1/18/26, including envelope offerings - \$666,  
donations -\$216, candles -\$61  
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$943**

*Upcoming Events  
in Parish & Eparchy*  
*Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Encounter*  
*Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – Great Lent begins*

Support Mother of God  
Ukrainian Catholic Church



**Protection of the Mother of God**  
**Ukrainian Catholic Church**  
**Byzantine Rite**  
2880 Highway 138 NE  
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya  
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci

Parish office phone 770-760-1111  
Emergency phone 224-400-0558  
**Email:** parish@mogchurch.com  
**Website:** www.mogchurch.com

**Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.**

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

*THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;  
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN  
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.*