Please Pray For…
Lizzie; Sandra; Gordon; Steven; Simsum; Dee; Carole; Anthony; Kirk; Matthew Sherree; Chris; Zachary; Casey; Nadya; Jo Anna; Chad; Anna; Dimitry; Zachariah; Rachel; Sevrin; Shareaen
For those in the Armed Services:
Brook; John; Michael; Travis; Zachary; Scott; Greg; Alyssa; Lane; Benjamin; Cassian
For those expecting:
Juliana, Kristy, Shannon, Amanda
For the Catechumens:
Sara, Diana, Christopher, Isidore, Juliana, Marina, Finnian, Gregory, Katherine, Alex, Wendy, Matrona, Nicholas, Dawna, Walter, Luke, Christopher, Mary, Katherine, Gabriel, Elizabeth, Bernice
For those in prison:
David, Jeremy, Victor, Jason, Andrew, Michael, Stephen, Douglas, Timothy, Christopher
For the reposed:
Vasilly; Fred; Peggy; Catherine; Cliff; Lisa; Helen; Gary; Mary; Jesse; Jacob; Jim; Leah; Tony; Barbara; Joe
Prayer requests:
Please pray for Loran, a family friend who is struggling with serious personal issues. May God save him. Many thanks, Gregory (Cornelius Swart in NJ)

We thank you for your prayers for safety through the ice storm. The biggest trees did not fall and though we did have trees and limbs down, we feel blessed. Still, no estimate of when we will have electricity again, but many parishioners in our vicinity received power yesterday afternoon. Please also pray for Cynthia of Gladstone or Oregon City are in that same situation. Praying for those in Texas who have so much worse! Lord be with them...Sincerely,
Gregory (Cornelius Swart in NJ)

Eastern Orthodox Church of the Annunciation
1355 SE Rusk Road, Milwaukie OR 97222 Tel: 503 699 3646 Fax: 503 699 1159
V. Rev. Fr. John Mantanelli, Ret.
Fr. Dn. John Jensen, Fr. Dn. Cuthbert Downs
www.annunciationorthodoxchurch.org

- February 21st 2021 — February 28th 2021 - TONE 4

37th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
(Beginning of the Lenten Triodion)


For the reposed:
David, Jeremy, Victor, Jason, Andrew, Michael, Stephen, Douglas, Timothy, Christopher
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Gregory (Cornelius Swart in NJ)
Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!
Let us learn humility from the Publican’s tears!
Let us cry to our Savior:
“Have mercy on us, O only merciful One!”

DISTURBER OF THE PEACE

On January 19 the Church honors two saints named Macarius.

The first is Macarius the Great, to whom a demon once said, "There is only one thing in which I cannot excel you. It isn't in fasting, because I never eat, and it isn't in keeping vigil, because I never sleep." When Macarius asked what it was, the demon replied, "Your humility."

The second saint remembered on this day is Macarius of Alexandria. Born there in 295, he was a merchant until he was forty, when he was baptized and went into the desert to begin a life of prayer.

Even though he began his monastic effort later in life, Macarius was so conscientious in prayer that he came to have great spiritual power, and one story about him gives a good example. As he was crossing the Nile on a ferry boat, another passenger, a military officer, noticed him. The officer was wearing his gold-braided uniform, encircled by a gold belt, and carrying his handsome sword at his side. He said to Macarius, whose monastic clothes were simple and almost ragged, "You are blessed in being scorned by the world."

Macarius told the official, "Your words are prophetic, for my name is Macarius, which means 'blessed.' But if, as you say, I am happy and blessed in being scorned by the world, are you not miserable in being so obviously enslaved by the world?" These words had such a profound effect on the officer that he left the military, gave his possessions to the poor, and became a solitary monk.

But the devil, always trying to disturb our peace, sometimes tries especially hard with people like Macarius. For a long time, the saint was tempted by lustful dreams and desires, and had a hard struggle to overcome them. He also was struck by a longing to leave his cell and travel to faraway places, which is dangerous for any monk trying to keep his life focused on God and prayer.

Macarius had to work so hard against these temptations that his efforts became legendary. He sat in a swamp and let himself be almost devoured by mosquitoes. He ate practically nothing, and tried, until it became impossible, to go without sleep. Once he spent many months walking in the desert with a heavy basket of sand on his shoulders. When another monk asked him what he was doing he replied, "I am wearing out him who wears me out."

Because his efforts to overcome temptations were sincere, Macarius reached a point where the devil could no longer disturb his peace so easily. He even became able to recognize and heal others possessed by demons or afflicted by serious temptations of the devil.

In a verse from one of this day's readings, Saint Paul tells us to "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15). The disturber of the peace will keep trying, but saints like Macarius are with us in the fight to snatch victory out of his evil hands.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please pray for Larsen, the month-old daughter of my protestant friends TJ and Baylee. She has had a high fever the last few days and apparently the doctors don’t know why. They are distressed. Thanks! Moses Michael Rhys

Please pray for my friend Vincent who is in the final stages of dying of stomach cancer. He is in hospice at home, and he is in his early 50s. He is not a Christian. Please pray for him. Sincerely, Joshua Schmidlkofier