

Sunday of Zacchaeus



At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature.

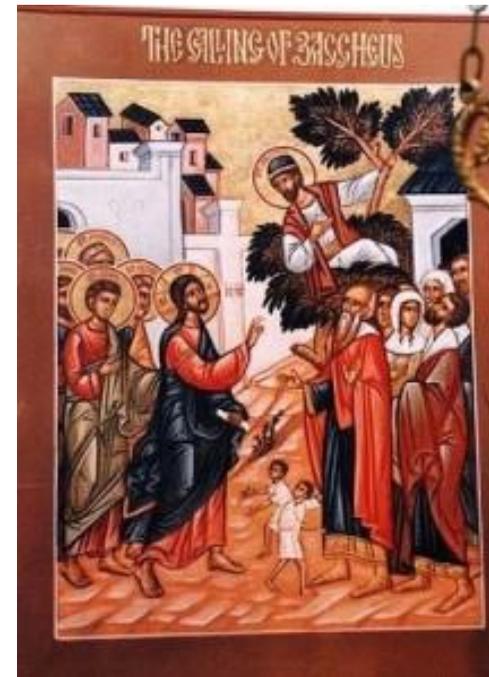
In the Eastern Church, the Gospel account of Zacchaeus is read on the last Sunday preceding the liturgical preparation for the Great Fast. We see two exegetical aspects: Jesus' call to Zacchaeus to come down from the tree (symbolizing the divine call to humility), and Zacchaeus' subsequent repentance.

The chief tax collector of Jericho Zacchaeus wanted nothing more than to be able to see Jesus from afar. He had no other expectations. What happened next was completely unexpected. Our Lord noticed the opening in

Zacchaeus' heart and welcomed it as an invitation.

For a brief moment Zacchaeus stops worrying about the future and begins to live in the present moment. He is presented with a simple dilemma that propels him out of his dark fantasies of survival into the living light of the present moment. How can I lift myself high enough to see Jesus over the crowd...now? That is the operative word, NOW. Living in the present helps to soften the heart and open the walls of our cocoons for one simple reason: there is no salvation in the past or the future. The past is a memory, the future is a fantasy. Salvation can only be found in the present moment. The Lord is present with us in reality. Zacchaeus latches onto that necessary truth and discovers that the Kingdom of Heaven is truly at hand. The Kingdom of Heaven can only be found in the present because life is no where else but here and now.

“Hurry and come down, Zacchaeus, for I will dine at your house TODAY.” This is the word we proclaim together at the Great Blessing of the Water. TODAY! “Christ is in our midst”, NOW. “Christ is Risen”, not was. TODAY is the word that begins the Fifteen Antiphon on Holy Thursday. “TODAY is hung upon the Tree.” TODAY! NOW! St. Paul writes that TODAY is the day of salvation. The Church wants us to live in the present so that we can see the Kingdom of Heaven which is in the present. The past is a memory, the future is a fantasy. Salvation is always NOW.



January 14, 2018

Zacchaeus Sunday, Tone 7; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Holy Theophany; Our Venerable Fathers Massacred in Sinai and Rhaithu (c. 370); the Repose of the Holy Equal-to-the Apostles Nina, Enlightener of Georgia

Changeable Part: Pages 28-29

In the Booklet of Changeable Parts (Small white book)

Announcements:

Today: Christmas – Theophany Parish Dinner

Following the Divine Services on this Sunday we will have our Parish Christmas-Theophany Dinner. Tickets for this occasion are \$10.00 per adult, children (12 and younger) \$4.00, and are still available from our ticket seller Orysia Barshowski. Please come and be part of this parish event.

PAC Meeting

On Thursday, February 18th, the meeting of the Parish Advisory Council will take place at the parish office at 7:00 p.m. I ask all members of the PAC to please be present for this important meeting.

Next Sunday: Clean-up Decorations

Next Sunday, January 21st, following the Divine Liturgy we will have the clean-up of the Christmas decorations. I ask that you please remain in Church to help put away the decorations. The more of us stay behind, the faster it will go. Thanks.

House Blessing

This week I will continue with the blessing of homes in our parish. Please fill out the form, which is available in the Church vestibule in order to request this house blessing and pastoral visitation. Once the form has been received you will be contacted by phone to schedule this pastoral visitation. Thank you.

Envelopes 2018-Calendar 2018

We will begin with the distribution of the Church offering envelopes for the year 2018 and the Church Calendar 2016. They are available in the hallway leading to the Heritage Room. Should you not see your envelopes, please let Father Igor or Mr. Don Hall know, following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year 2017. May Our Lord reward you with good health and many happy and blessed years: Многая Лета!

Statement of Contribution

Those parishioners who would like to receive a statement of contribution for the year 2018 for tax purposes please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday of December 31, 2017 was **\$1,605.00**

(Collection: \$1355.00, Anonymous donation for utilities: \$250.00)

The grand total for Sunday of January 7, 2018 was **\$1,760.00**

(Collection: \$1710.00, Loose & candles: \$30.00, \$20.00 donation from Oles Cheren)

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity!



BIRTHDAYS

Marta Hohosha, 7
Peter Parks, 23

Lillian Chlibun, 19
Barbara Fedora, 23

Fulton Fontana, 28
Victoria Senko, 31

MANY, HAPPY AND BLESSED YEARS!

THE CHAINS OF ST. PETER

January 16



Saint Peter is commemorated on this day because of the chains by which he was shackled by the lawless Herod and which, during the appearance of an angel in prison fell from him, "Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' The chains fell from his wrists" (Acts 12:7). The chains were preserved by Christians as much for the memory of this great apostle as well as for their healing power, for many of the sick were healed by touching them as well as with the towel of the Apostle Paul, "then when the face cloths or aprons that

touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them" (Acts 19:12). Our holy father Juvenal, the Patriarch of Jerusalem gave these chains as a gift to the Empress Eudocia, the exiled wife of the Emperor Theodosius the Younger. She divided them into two and sent one half to the Church of the Holy Apostle in Constantinople and the other half to her daughter Empress Eudoxia in Rome, the wife of Valentinian. The Empress Eudoxia built the Church of St. Peter and deposited these chains in it, together with those chains with which Peter was shackled before his death under Emperor Nero.



Prayer and Educational Events in Our Eparchy
Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha: *Unity of the Old and New Testaments*: In reading and interpreting Holy Scripture, the Church always takes into account two important dimensions: the divine and human. Neglect of the human dimension in Holy Scripture leads to literalism, where human forms of transmitting the word God are given a divine character. On the other hand, rejection of the divine dimension reduces Holy Scripture to mere historical - literary work. (#42)

