



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Feb. 1

St. Tryphon, Martyr

Readings: 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1; Mt. 15:21-28

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Feb. 2

Sunday of Zacchaeus/Encounter of our Lord with Simeon and Anna

Readings: 1 Tim. 4:9-15; Lk. 19:1-10

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Social after Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for+ **Margaret Marshal, given by Bill Marshal & family**

Supplications will be offered for+ **Andrey & Yustyna Pyptyk, given by family**

Wednesday, Feb. 5

St. Agatha, Martyr

Readings: Heb. 13:7-16; Mt. 5:14-19

Pyrohy session – Starts at 9 am

Saturday, Feb. 8

St. Theodore, the Great Martyr

Readings: 2 Tim. 3:10-15; Lk. 18:10-44

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Feb. 9

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Readings: 2 Tim. 3:10-15; Lk. 18:10-44

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for+ **Sophia Hodowanec, given by Olech & Motria**

Supplications will be offered for+ **Rose Shedno, given by Mary Ann Sebolt**



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,

may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us

into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity

and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation

of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,

your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee

reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,

a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread

the joy and peace of our Redeemer

throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



To Suffer for Doing Right



On February 8th we celebrate the memory of the Great-martyr Theodore Stratelates, whose title is often translated as “commander” or “general.” Theodore was one of those multi-gifted people who attract both admiration and jealousy. He was a brave soldier, and at the same time he was an articulate Christian who convinced many to join him in the faith.

The pagan emperor Licinius was well aware of his military commander’s qualities, and those qualities worried him. He didn’t want an enemy – Christianity - to have such a powerful advocate. So, he called Theodore to the imperial court, and invited him to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Theodore came, and asked to take some of the pagan idols home, saying he would return with them the next day to offer sacrifice. What he actually did was to melt down the precious metal they were made of, and then distribute the valuable chunks to the poor. Theodore would pay dearly for his dedication to Christ. He was tortured and crucified, and when those things miraculously failed to kill him, he was beheaded.

We remember Theodore as the patron saint of soldiers. But he also fulfilled a Biblical exhortation which we read on this day: “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3: 15). Theodore gave himself up to the emperor’s men, and was heard to say, “Glory to God” as he died.

What does it mean in our lives, in our day, to “be prepared to make a defense” of our faith? For one thing, as Christians we should always be ready to challenge public assertions that go against the words of Jesus Christ. By holding on firm to the Truth of Christ we are all called to become a martyr-witness of Christ in our society today!



Please remember the Ukrainian Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma and your parish of St. George in your will.

Feb. 2, 2025

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna

Changeable Parts – See the special insert available in the church vestibule.



This Sunday: Coffee Social

We hope you can join us after liturgy for coffee, donuts and fellowship with our fellow parishioners.

Pyrohy project resumes: Starts at 9 am.

Come and join our pyrohy project. This is our main fundraiser! Any time you can give to this worthwhile project is greatly appreciated. There are many different jobs you can help with - even if you can only commit to day here and there or even just an hour or two. We welcome you to join this fun and rewarding parish activity!

This Sunday: Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord

This Sunday, February 2nd, we liturgically commemorate the Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord. On this day we will have the Blessing of Candles following the Divine Liturgy. If you wish to have your candles blessed, please place them in the center of the Church on the Tetrapod (Sacramental Table).

Holy Water

Holy Water that was blessed on the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord is available in the center of our Church. I ask that you please be careful when you are filling your containers so to not spill it on the floor. Remember that this Holy Water is sanctified by the Holy Spirit, so that we, by partaking of it, may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Announcements:

Sunday of Zacchaeus

First All Souls Saturday:

The 1st All Souls Saturday will be celebrated on Saturday, February 22nd, at 10:00 a.m. On these All-Souls Saturdays it is tradition in our Holy Church to prayerfully remember our beloved departed family members, loved ones, etc. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated followed by a Panikhida when the names of all those deceased are commemorated out loud. Amongst your offertory envelopes you have a yellow envelope for the commemoration of departed souls marked SOROKOUSTY. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on this envelope and drop the envelope in the collection basket or bring them to the parish office.

Mark your calendar: The next Adult Religious education classes are scheduled on Thursdays at 6:30 pm on: Feb.13, March 13, April 10 and May 15, 2025. We hope you can attend. A special thank you to Don Fontana for leading these classes.

Prayer List:

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have one, contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way, at this time, remember the following members of our parish family: **Barbara Fedora, Thomas Kunsak, Kathee Shabla, Dorothy Waslo and Msgr. George Appleyard** (The Willows, 1215 Hulton Rd, Oakmont, PA 15139).

Collection- May God bless you...

Total for Sunday, January 26, 2025 was **\$786.00**

(Collection - \$695.00, Loose & candles - \$71.00, In memory of Rose Shedno; \$20.00)

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!



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 nowhere 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.