

January 14, 2024
Sunday of Zacchaeus, Leave-taking of Theophany



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! ~ Christos Krescjetsja! Vo Jordani!
Христос Крестается! в Иордане!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 8: pg. 161, and for Theophany: pp. 316 – 318

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 14	SUNDAY of ZACCHAEUS LEAVE-TAKING of THEOPHANY DIVINE LITURGY + Mary Salamon , offered by Rich Mudron
8:30 A.M.	
SUN., JAN. 21	SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and PHARISEE DIVINE LITURGY + Gordon Jn. Baptiste , offered by Sr. Mary Virginia
8:30 A.M.	

Do You Desire Christ?

This Sunday marks the first of five Sundays before the beginning of the Great Fast in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Pascha. The Gospel lesson for today is clear: everything begins with the desire to see Jesus Christ. Zacchaeus, the rich tax collector, desired to see Jesus so much that he even climbed a sycamore tree to get a good view, not worrying about what others thought of him. Jesus saw him, called him down and visited his house. Zacchaeus then acknowledged his sinfulness and voluntarily offered to give half of what he had to the poor and four times what he had taken from anyone by false accusation. The joy of the occasion is evidenced in Christ's words: *"Today salvation has come to this house... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* Zacchaeus' desire to see Jesus led to his salvation.

Христос Крестается! в Иордане! ~ Christos Krescjetsja! Vo Jordani!

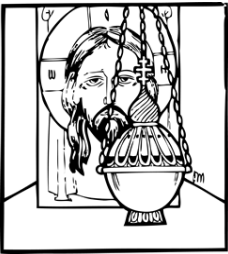
Happy Birthday Greetings:
None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – January 14: JoAnn Hersh – January 21: Dan Pinchot
Ushers – Stand in as needed
Troica Holders – January 14: F. Hersh – January 21: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
January 14 - 20, 2024
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Louis Rossi
(In Loving Memory)
Offered By:
Daughter, Isabel & Ed

Did you Know?

While the common Christian greeting is "Glory to Jesus Christ," there is another greeting that is more appropriate when one is inside the Church (Temple). While we are in Christ's Temple, we are literally in His presence, which is why it is more fitting to greet one another by exclaiming:

"Christ is among us!" to which the response is **"He is and shall be!"**
(or, in Slavonic, "Christos posred'I nas" "Jest' i budet").

This is also the greeting when clergy (and the faithful) exchange at the Kiss of Peace and the proper greeting when the priest blesses with oil at mirovanije (outside of festal seasons, such as Pascha).

Reminder: Blessing of Homes

If you would like to have your home blessed, which is our custom after Theophany, please list your name and contact information on the sign-in sheet in the Narthex or Center.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Jan. 30 Three Hierarchs Holy Day
- Feb. 2 – Meeting of Our Lord Holy Day
- Feb. 3 – First All Souls Saturday
- Feb. 4 – Meat-fare Sunday
- Feb. 11 - Cheese-fare Sunday
- Feb. 12 – First Day of the Great Fast

Sanctuary Candles for 2024

There are many open dates for the 2024 weekly sanctuary candle intentions for you to sponsor with your intention in memory of a deceased loved one or friend, or for the health and well-being of a friend or loved one. Please see Joanne Futato at the candle table in the narthex if you wish to sponsor the weekly candle.

We are taking donations throughout the year for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have items to donate, please leave it in the Center marked as for the Flea Market.

H	O	S	S	Z	E	S	U	O	H
O	U	S	Y	A	T	E	S	N	E
H	S	E	C	C	E	N	O	D	Y
C	U	N	A	C	A	I	R	N	H
I	E	I	C	H	T	M	O	U	T
R	A	O	O	A	E	D	O	O	L
E	C	R	V	E	Y	E	P	R	A
J	C	L	E	U	O	S	R	G	E
T	A	O	H	S	H	O	R	T	W
S	Z	Y	T	R	E	P	O	R	P

JERICHO
ZACCHAEUS
SENIOR
WEALTHY
SHORT
SYCAMORE
TREE
HOUSE
GROUND
PROPERTY
POOR
SALVATION

Fellowship Coffee and Doughnuts Today Following Liturgy

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are glad that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our parish will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served in the Center.



A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is hard to believe that the Sunday of Zacchaeus is upon us already! Next Sunday we will begin the Sundays of the Lenten Triodion* as we prepare for the Great Fast. The theologian Fr. John Behr sees the feasts we've just observed - Christmas and Theophany - as great blessings. He writes that,

God has given all things to us...because he has given himself to us, coming among us, becoming as we are, and, as we know, taking up our condition even unto death, to conquer even this. Having been given all this, our question must be: what shall we do? What shall we do?

Fr. Behr proposes that our response is to **FOLLOW CHRIST** and that the Sunday of Zacchaeus gives us one example of doing so. He says the story of Zacchaeus, coming as it does before the Triodion, is a sort of "wake up call... alerting us to what it means to follow Christ."

To follow Christ means to give everything to him, to give him our *all*. Of course, we do not measure up to the full stature of Christ yet. But we strive and we grow in him, knowing that it is only by *his grace* that we can hope to be made holy.

We are still at the beginning of the new year, and we are still a month or so away from the Great Fast. Let us turn our eyes upon Jesus, the one who comes to our homes to bless us, and who calls us to follow him, not only with our lips, but in our lives.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

TODAY - We are given the first signal that the Great Fast is approaching. As we begin to change our mood slowly, almost imperceptibly, the initial call to repentance now echoes . The Apostle Paul tells Timothy that such spiritual exercises are exemplary, but we alone must desire to accomplish them. In wanting to come close to God, we must emulate Zacchaeus, who let no obstacle stand in his way of meeting Jesus.

* The **Triodion** (Gk., "book of three odes"; Slav. *Póstnaya Triód*, "penitential" or "fasting triodion") contains the special prayers and hymns used during the Great Fast. The title **Triodion** refers to the small canons with only three odes which are sung at Matins on weekdays of the Fast. Because the Pentecostarion is sometimes called a Triodion as well (Slav. *Tsvetnaya Triód*, "flowery" or "festal triodion"), the more specific title **Lenten Triodion** is often used to distinguish the two books.

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.

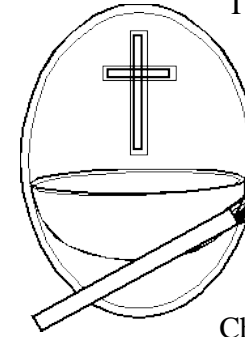
For a brief moment, Zacchaeus stops worrying about the future and begins to live in the present moment. He is presented with a simple dilemma that propels him out of his dark fantasies of survival into the living light of the present moment. How can I lift myself high enough to see Jesus over the crowd...now? 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 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.

Christ is baptized! In the Jordan! Christos Krescjetsja! Vo Jordani

The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

The Effects of Holy and Sanctified Water



The Catechism teaches that the sacramentals, consequently holy water, operate principally by means of the Church's intercession (CCC 1667). The Church is the bride of the Divine Savior, and hence her prayers are always pleasing to God. When the Church prays, the divine bridegroom prays with her, and for this reason her prayer is powerful with God. Thus, it may happen that a lukewarm Christian may derive great benefit from the use of holy water. The reason for this is that God looks not on the unworthiness of mankind but rather on the prayer of the Church, so pleasing to Him. Especially, though, will the loyal children of the Church, who seek to coordinate their ideas to those of the divine Savior and of the Church, participate in the blissful effects of holy water.

1. Use holy water to drive away the devil.
2. Use holy water to overcome temptations.
3. You can use holy water to drive away sickness – and future illness too.
4. Holy water cleanses the soul from venial sins and temporal punishments.
5. Use holy water for the comfort and release of the holy souls in Purgatory.

Take advantage of these sanctifying effects found with holy water.

On Light Shining in the Darkness

“A timid faith is a vain faith. A timid word is an empty sound. Christ spoke as one who had authority, not timidly, like the Pharisees and the sinners. Every word of Christ shines like a candle kindled in the darkness of this world. All the words of philosophers have either already gone out or else will go out. But there is no whirlwind either on earth or in the whole universe able to put out the candles of Christ.”

(St. Nikolai Velimirovich)

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Colossians 3:17)

Even if Catholics faithful to tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Christ.

St. Athanasius

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik, Dan Pinchot

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff - Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

Christ is Among us! He is and Shall be! ~ Christos posred'i nas! Jest' i budet!