

January 17, 2021

Thirty Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of Zacchaeus, Feast of our Venerable Father Anthony of Egypt



## SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*

Proprs for this Sunday: See the handout

### Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 17

**THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**SUNDAY of ZACCHAEUS,**  
**FEAST of our VENERABLE FATHER ANTHONY of EGYPT**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
**For the Parishioners**

8:30 A.M.

SUN., JAN. 24

**SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and PHARISEE**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
**+Lori Foister**

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.

### Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

January 17: Ann Trombulak, January 23: Judy Dzumba

### Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

### Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

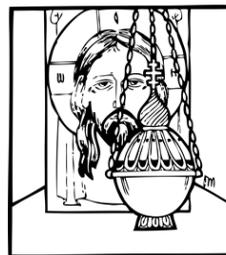
**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

**Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Josephine Maruhnich

Epistle Readers – Jan. 17: Louisa Hersh – Jan. 24: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Jan. 17: F. Hersh – Jan. 24: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

January 17 - 23, 2021

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ Rose Valiga

*(In loving memory)*

Offered By:

Butch & Judy Dzumba



**Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel:** Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

## *ECF Reflection, Sunday of Zacchaeus*

Today the church, through the proclamation of the Gospel, reminds us that the Lord sees and values things in a way that the world cannot understand. Oftentimes, what the world sees as strength is a pitfall for those who seek the Lord; and what the world sees as weakness is an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Zacchaeus, "small of stature" and despised by the Jews becomes the one who sees the Lord and welcomes him into his home. Why? The Fathers of the church tell us that Zacchaeus was able to see the Lord, not because the Sycamore tree, but because he set aside the self-righteousness of the world and the stature of honor and worldly dignity. By becoming "small" and humble of heart, by opening his eyes to the Lord's Vision, Zacchaeus was able to rise above those around him to behold the Lord and welcome him into his home. By going to Zacchaeus' house, Jesus confirmed for all that Zacchaeus had already made it home for the Lord in his heart.

Throughout the Gospel those who are apparently weak become strong, the blind become able to see, the paralytics walk again, and this strength and healing is found in one thing: that the Lord has made himself present within them, that he comes into "our house," and for that we must "make haste" to come down to meet him.

### **Challenge questions:**

1. How should a Christian judge himself differently than the world judges him?
2. Why was Zacchaeus' his willingness to climb up the tree a way in which we can see the humility of his heart?
3. Why did those around Zacchaeus despise his wealth while Jesus saw it as an opportunity for his salvation?

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### **A Prayer to the Theotokos for Life**

By John Paul II

*O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.*

*Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time.*

*Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.*

## **A Note from Father Geoff:**

Each year, from January 18-25, Christians of many different churches and communities all around the world observe what has come to be known as **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. This observance began in 1908 as the "Octave" of Prayer for Christian Unity, observed by the Graymoor Friars, a group of Franciscans who had come into the Latin Catholic Church having previously been an Episcopalian religious order.

Those Christians who are outside the visible boundaries of the Catholic Church are, nonetheless, truly our sisters and brothers in Christ. The Council Fathers of Vatican II stated that, "Men [and women] who believe in Christ and have been properly baptized are put in some, though imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church." They taught that there are significant differences in doctrine and practice, at varying levels, between the Catholic Church and our "separated brethren," which constitute obstacles to full, visible unity. "But even in spite of them it remains true that all who have been justified by faith in baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers [and sisters] by the children of the Catholic Church." Their liturgical actions "most certainly can truly engender a life of grace, and, one must say, can aptly give access to the communion of salvation." (*Unitatis Redintegratio*, 3)

It grieves God's fatherly heart that his children have been divided. Jesus prayed for all those who would come to believe through his disciples, "that they all may be one." During this week, let us in an intentional way lift up in prayer our non-Catholic brothers and sisters, that God would draw them and us both closer to himself and, in doing so, draw us closer together. Here's a good prayer you might want to incorporate into your rule for this week:

*O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers that we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy body of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

In addition to this prayer, I encourage you to take sometime this week to meditate on one or more of the following passages of Scripture: John 17:20-23; Ephesians 2:13-22; Ephesians 4:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-18; Revelation 5:6-10.

Yours in our one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism,

*Fr. Geoff*



# SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,  
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh  
Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before and after Liturgies  
 Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the church office  
 Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Ask prior to surgery or serious illness  
 Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding  
 Religious Education Classes ..... September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy  
 St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate

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*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*