

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



Icon of the Encounter of Jesus with Zacchaeus

January 14, 2018: Sunday of Zacchaeus

Epistle: 1 Tim. 4: 9-15

Gospel: Lk. 19: 1-10

Mon., Jan. 15	8:00	+ Elaine Jablonski (Husband James)
Tues., Jan. 16	10:00	Funeral: + Mary Vladika
Wed., Jan 17	8:00	+ Stephen Yaworski (Mary Lukasewicz & Rob Ramik)
Thurs., Jan. 18	8:00	+ Jane Beckage (Mark & Sue Rudalavage)
Fri., Jan. 19	8:00	+ Olga Moskel (Nieces & Nephews)
Sat., Jan. 20	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Richard & Mary Sue Harrigan (Mildred Harrigan)	
Sun., Jan. 21	9:00	+ Andrew & Anna Smagula (Son Joseph)
	11:30	For Our Parishioners

Postfeast of The Holy Theophany of Our Lord

Antiphon 1

When Israel and Jacob's children came forth from Egypt, out from a barbarian people, * Judah became His sanctuary, Israel became His domain.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God, * Savior, save us.*

The sea saw God's people coming and parted for them; * when the Jordan saw them coming, its running waters ceased to flow.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God, * Savior, save us.*

Why is it, O sea, that you parted, * and what caused you,
O Jordan, to turn back your flow?

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, Savior, save us.

* * * * *

Third Antiphon

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.

O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You Alleluia.

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.
O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You Alleluia.
For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.
O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You Alleluia.

* * * * *

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You Alleluia.

* * * * *

Hymn to the Mother of God

Extol, my soul, Christ the King, who was baptized in the Jordan. No tongue can fittingly sing your praises. * Even superior intelligences far above your world appear feeble when they praise you, O Mother of God. * But in your goodness, accept our faith; * for you see that godly love we bear towards you, * as you are the Patroness of Christians.

* * * * *

Communion Verse

The grace of God has appeared * bringing salvation to all people.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Sunday of Zacchaeus

by Father Peter Chamberas

One of the greatest advantages of our culture is that its diverseness offers us choices and opportunities that have not existed before. More and more citizens are rejecting convention and finding their own way.

One of the greatest disadvantages of our culture is that its diverseness offers us choices and opportunities that have not existed before. More and more citizens are rejecting convention and finding their own way.

All these opportunities have created so many choices that there is little reliance on convention. In former times limitations and expectations generally made decision making rather easy. But now, it has become more and more difficult to stay focused. One man who found himself stuck between opportunity and convention found an unconventional way to find his own way to Salvation. He allowed neither opportunity nor convention to be his flagship. Rather, he used Christ as his gauge. His

name was Zacchaeus and he has been immortalized in the Gospel for his efforts.

Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus would be visiting his town. Because he wasn't very tall he couldn't see over the crowd. Unlike many of those present, Zacchaeus was neither sick, nor unhappy, nor poor. He wasn't looking for a miracle of healing. He had plenty of money. He had good health. He probably had lots of friends and a lovely family. Instead he needed a focus. He had everything he could possibly want, both by conventional standards and by the opportunities of his society. But he couldn't see Christ. So that little man, climbed the Sycamore tree, and saw his opportunity for salvation.

By changing his viewing position, Zacchaeus changed his perspective. He would now see the world in a new way and because of that become a new person.

The story of Zacchaeus has a special appeal because it describes a man with advantages. The only difference between his time and ours, is that we are an entire society or generation of people living with all kinds of advantages. Not too long ago, our ancestors were picking olives, or tending sheep, hoping only to get enough firewood and food to keep their families safe. Now we are a community of leaders

and opinion makers, and the financial contributors to various institutions. Within all this it has become very difficult to stay focused.

There is a phenomenon that the more successful one becomes the less successful one actually feels. Big people feel small inside. Often they feel overwhelmed by their own importance. Perhaps, they feel like David the Shepherd Boy who tackled the scary giant, Goliath. They are afraid that the giant will never really fall, so they are forced to face him time and time again.

David, in his lifetime, discovered what Zacchaeus seemed to know intuitively. That it is really the power of God that slays the giant. Zacchaeus knew that it was Christ who could change his focus and make his life worthwhile and valuable.

In some ways Zacchaeus represents the many people who secretly feel small. The ones who feel as if they are frauds, or like those who have to keep reminding everyone how important they are, because they don't believe that they are in least important. They feel very little.

When Zacchaeus climbed that sycamore, he did so for all of us who fall short of the expectations which are inherent in living. Whether that shortfall is real or just a perception, it remains a barrier to salvation, because we tend to

focus on it.

Christ did not leave Zacchaeus sitting anxiously in the tree. He acknowledged him and then He called him down. "Make haste and come down. For I must stay at your house today." The Lord Himself sees Zacchaeus in his suffering, and offers to give credibility to this man hated and despised by so many. All this because Zacchaeus was willing to change his focus. The message has not changed. Jesus

Christ offers salvation to anyone willing to break with convention and seek Him out. Whether we are living with opportunities or disasters, diversity or convention, Christ will call us from our searching, to give us what we need. Zacchaeus set the example,. If we follow his lead, then Christ will announce that "salvation has come" to each of us because our Lord has not come for the successful or the failures, but to "seek and save the lost."

Keep Greeting One Another

A reminder to all: just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40 day preparation and fasting period, so now we celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beautiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional "*Christos Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho!*" Christ is

Born! Glorify Him!" During the darkness of the Winter months, do all you can to keep the bright light of Christ burning brightly! Let Christ shine through you!

Note: according to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2nd.

Divine Liturgy Attendance on Snowy Days

It is very rare that the Divine Liturgy is canceled, especially on a Sunday. I want to encourage those of you who must walk further or more importantly, who drive to church, to PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE, when making a determination about attending the Divine Liturgy on the snowy, icy, inclement weekend or even more so on

the weekday. You can almost always expect that the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at scheduled times. However, if attendance means putting yourself and others at risk, I am sure the Lord understands if you should decide to pray at home. Please use common sense and a well-informed conscience when making such a decision.

Christmas Season Coming to a Conclusion

When it was time to decorate the church, we had a wonderful turnout of volunteers. Soon, it will be time to take them down. We have scheduled

this for Sunday, January 28 following the 11:30 Divine Liturgy. Calm and give us a hand with this project. Thank you for your help!

Holy Name Society Raffle

Once again St. Cyril's Holy Name Society mailed raffle tickets to our Parishioners. Please support the work of St. Cyril's Holy Name Society by

dropping your returns into the Sunday Collection Basket as soon as possible. Additional tickets may be obtained from any Holy Name Society member.

From Pennsylvanians for Human Life...

On behalf of the Scranton chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, I want to sincerely thank you for participating in our Baby Bottle campaign. The amount received from your parish was hundred \$196.97.

The support from you and your parishioners will go a long way to advance the work of our organization in offering education on the issues of

abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, infanticide, and embryonic stem cell research, as well as providing information, support, and referral to women in crisis pregnancies.

For over 40 years, we have been privileged to serve the community in defense of all human life. Again, our thanks for your support and your generosity.

Myasopusna 2018

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church is pleased to announce that dinner tickets are now available for our Annual Myasopusna Festival, held at the church's banquet hall at 240 Center Street, Nanticoke, on Sunday, February 4, from noon to 4 pm. The Myasopusna

(Meatfare) Festival is the parish's pre-lenten celebration, preceding the Great Fast. Dinner (a platter of holuptsi, kobasi, pyrohy, borscht, black bread and butter, and a homemade dessert) will be served from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, followed by live Ukrainian dance per-

performances by Saint Mary's Ukrainian Dancers. A variety of Ukrainian crafts will be on display and for sale. Dinner tickets are \$13 if purchased by

January 29 (\$15 at the door). Tickets can be purchased by calling Helen (735-4654) or Geri (824-3880).

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2018 is Team #1: William Vervan, Sr., Roger Barren, and Jerry Sereditch.

Sunday Collection for January 6 & 7, 2018: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for January 20 & 21, 2018

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Samuel szesniak -- Brett Lowe	John Sakson
9:00 am	Joseph Chylak -- Nicholas Chylak	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Jordan Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

House Blessing Request

Fr. Nestor:

I (we) would like you to come and bless my (our) home, if possible, this year during the Theophany Season (2018).

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

Father Nestor will call to arrange a convenient time.

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Unconditional Mercy

Let us reflect a bit more deeply on this episode. Zacchaeus has heard Jesus talked about as a prophet who is different from the others, so he wants to see him. There is certainly something more than sheer curiosity on Zacchaeus' part. He has a real interest, though not yet a desire, to convert. Jesus looks up into the tree at him - from many hints in the Gospels, it seems that Jesus' eyes had a miraculous power and spoke more than His words. He calls Zacchaeus by name. We might expect that before proclaiming forgiveness, Jesus would have required the five conditions that are normally demanded to obtain the remission of sin: examination of conscience, repentance, a firm resolve not to sin again, a confession of sin, and penance. But none of that happens! Jesus urgently wants to spend time with Zacchaeus - to enter his home, stay for a while, have a meal, and perhaps spend the night. Jesus compromises Himself openly and dangerously because he risks becoming ritually unclean and causing scandal. Yet He meets

with a sinner at his home and does not impose any preliminary conditions. He does not ask Zacchaeus to purify himself in terms of the Mosaic law; he does not ask him to leave his disreputable profession or to do restitution or penance. Zacchaeus, however, is able to read in Jesus' gaze the same love that Jesus elsewhere directed to the rich young man (Mark 10:21). That gaze fills him with extraordinary joy. He welcomes this presence that lavishes Him with love; he lets himself be swept away by this love. Because of this love, he feels himself come back to life and become a human being again. Having been loved first, and freely, Zacchaeus feels the urge to turn toward others, toward those he has defrauded, and he learns to respect and love them. This is how God's mercy operates. Let us never forget it!

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap.

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