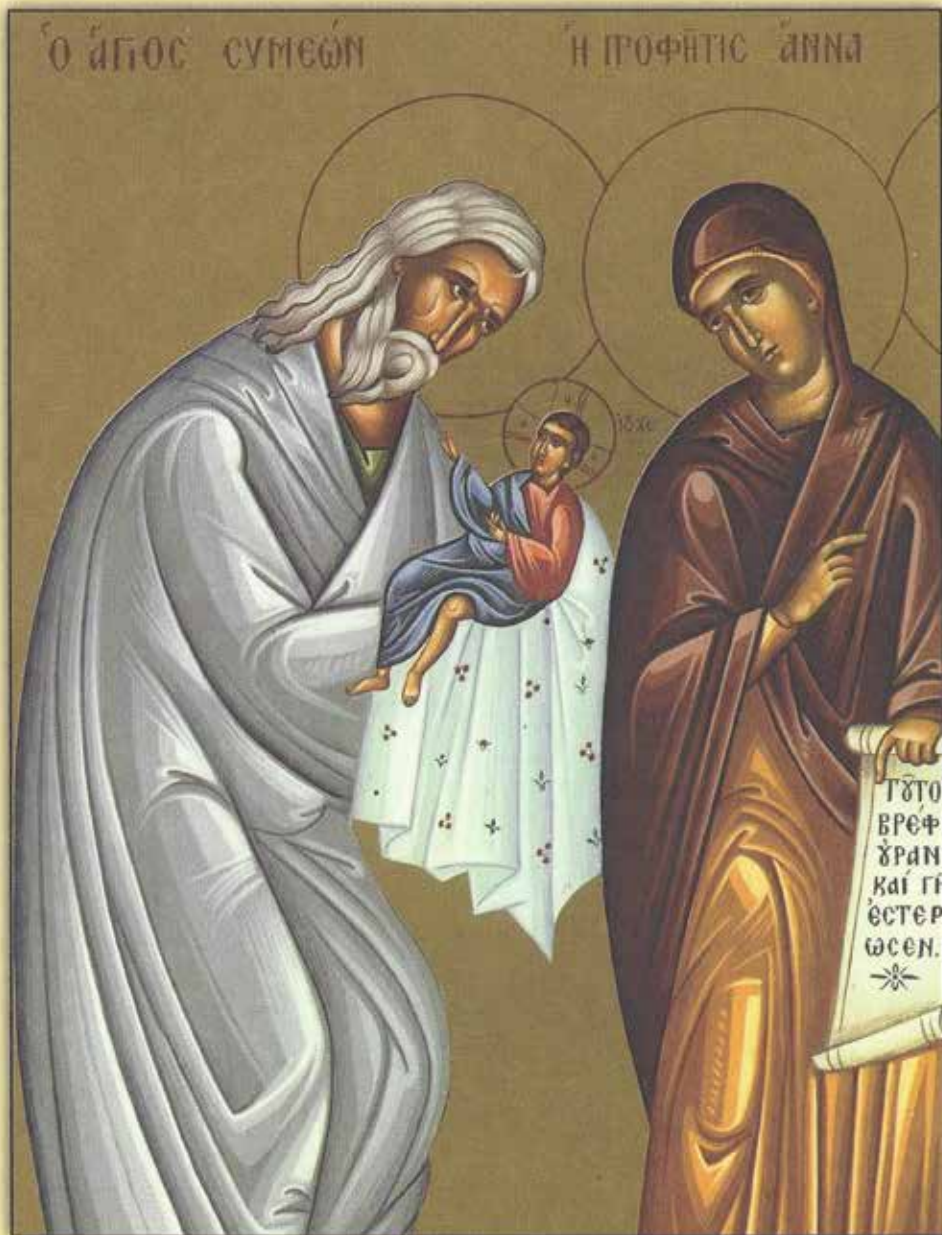


THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



Icon of Saints Simeon and Anna -- February 3rd

February 3, 2019:	Sunday of Zacchaeus
Epistle: 1 Tim. 4: 9-15	Gospel: Lk. 19: 1-10
Mon., Feb. 4	8:00 + Michael Russen (Shirley Romanovitch)
Tues., Feb. 5	8:00 + Mary Vladika (Matt Beckage)
Wed., Feb. 6	8:00 + Irene Kosakevitch (Ken & Sandy Kosakevitch)
Thurs., Feb. 7	8:00 + Jeff Marcinko (Andrea Novak)
Fri., Feb. 8	8:00 + Stephen Krisler (Yanochik Family)
Sat., Feb. 9	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 Confessions 4:00 pm + Jill King (Borowski & Lowe Families)
Sun., Feb. 10	9:00 For Our Parishioners 11:30 + Stephen & Amelia Malinchak (Daughter Jule & Family)

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 cre-

ated 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."

Holy Apostle Timothy

The seed of faith, planted in St Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became St Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved St Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude.

He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, long suffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed St Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when St Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, summoned his faithful friend, St Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

St Timothy ended his life as a mar-

tyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. St Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ. The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. St Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

In the fourth century the holy relics of St Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of St Andrew (November 30) and St Luke (October 18). The Church honors St Timothy as one of the Apostles of the

Seventy.

Its Cold Outside...

After the 9:00 Divine Liturgy, come over to the Little Hall for some hot coffee or tea.

Also, looking for volunteers to have

a coffee hour after the other Divine Liturgies. If interested, please call Father Nestor to make arrangements.

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. 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.

St. Cyril's 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.

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society Meeting

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society will meet next Sunday, February 10th following the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. All members are

invited and encouraged to attend this monthly meeting.

St. Mary's Valentine Dinner

St. Mary's Scranton - Valentine Dinner: February 14, 6PM Seating. \$20. St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave. Italian Cuisine. Menu: Insalata Italiana Fresca

(Fresh Salad of Mixed greens, Roma tomatoes with Italian garden dressing); Minestra Di Cerimonia Nuziale Italiana (Homemade Italian Wedding Soup);

Pollo Cacciatore (Chicken Cacciatore over Fettucine); Riso Italiano Verdure (Italian Rice with Vegetables); Torta alla Fragola(Special Valentine Strawberry

Shortcake). Coffee, Tea, Water and Soda included. Cash bar available. Reserve by end of day February 11. 570-343-5151.

Myasopusna Celebration

Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church announces its 14th annual Myasopusna Celebration, a Pre-Lenten event, to be held on Meatfare (Myasopusna) Sunday, February 24, 2019. A dinner of holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), kobasa, varenyky (Transfiguration pierogies), kapusta, blackbread, and dessert will be served at the Church's Banquet Hall at 240 Center St., Hanover Section of Nanticoke, from 12:30 to 2:00

pm., with borscht also available, as well as Ukrainian and other beverages. Dinner is followed by entertainment until 4:00 pm from the Holy Year Choir, Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, and St. Mary's Traditional Ukrainian Dancers. Doors will open at noon, with Ukrainian crafts on display and for sale throughout the event. Dinner tickets are \$13 if purchased before 2/17, \$15 afterwards, by calling 570-735-4654 or 570-824-3880.

Pre-Lenten Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Father Myron Myronyuk and his parish family of Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church cordially invite you to join us for our annual Pre-Lenten pork and sauerkraut/kapusta dinner on Sunday, February 24, 2019, beginning at 12:15pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue - between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street.

Menu: slow roasted pork loin, gravy, Ukrainian kapusta (sweet and sour cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread

and rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages.

Adults \$13.00; Students \$8.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the delightful Ihor and Regina Duo.

Advance reservations for both sit-down and take-out are required and can be made with Maria Black at 570 503-1514 before Tuesday, February 19th. Take-outs available at 11:30a.m. but no later than 12 noon. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing.

Upcoming L.U.C. Meeting

The North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics will meet on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 5:00 pm at Grotto Pizza, 36 Gateway Shopping Center, Edwardsville. Discussion

will focus on the National Board structure, the upcoming Lenten Retreat, the May bus trip to New York City, and 2019 meeting schedule.

Springtime Bus Trip

The North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 18, 2019. The Itinerary includes Brooklyn's Brighton Beach [Little Odessa] and the 43rd Annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Participants are free to do their own thing for all or part of the day if they so wish. Bus will pick up at Edwardsville's St. Vladimir Church, 70 Zerby Avenue at 8:00am and

at Scranton's St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 8:45am. Departure for home will be at 8:00pm. Cost is \$45.00 per person. Full nonrefundable advance payment reserves a seat. For further information and reservations call Paul at 570 563-2275 or Janina at 570 759-2824. Early reservations are recommended as this is a very popular trip and the 55 passenger bus is expected to fill quickly.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2019 is Team #2:

Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for January 26 & 27, 2019: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for February 9 & 10, 2019

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Samuel Sczesniak -- Brett Lowe	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Brennin Marcinko -- Cole Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Tyler Muchisky -- Jordan Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Playing Dress-Up?

On Halloween we have the opportunity to enjoy and chuckle at children dressed up so innocently in their costumes. Without any hesitation most of them go eagerly from door to door. As adults, most of us would be too self-conscious; we don't like to think that people might be laughing at us.

Zacchaeus played dress-up his whole life, trying to be somebody he wasn't and not admitting what he really was - a small-in-stature, overdressed cheat. He chose to ignore the laughter he heard behind his back.

Yet it is to Zacchaeus' house that Jesus chooses to go. Jesus, surrounded by a crowd, looks up and sees Zacchaeus sitting ridiculously in

a sycamore tree. But Jesus doesn't laugh. Instead He invites himself to dinner.

And what happens there? Zacchaeus becomes a changed person. He finds his real self. He takes off his costume. He admits to being a cheat. He makes reparation by giving half to the poor and returning fourfold to those he has extorted. For that the gift of salvation becomes his.

We should ask ourselves what costumes we need to take off, how we can respond to Jesus' wanting to come into our lives and hearts. We need to start now, for Saint Paul says that the day of the Lord is at hand.