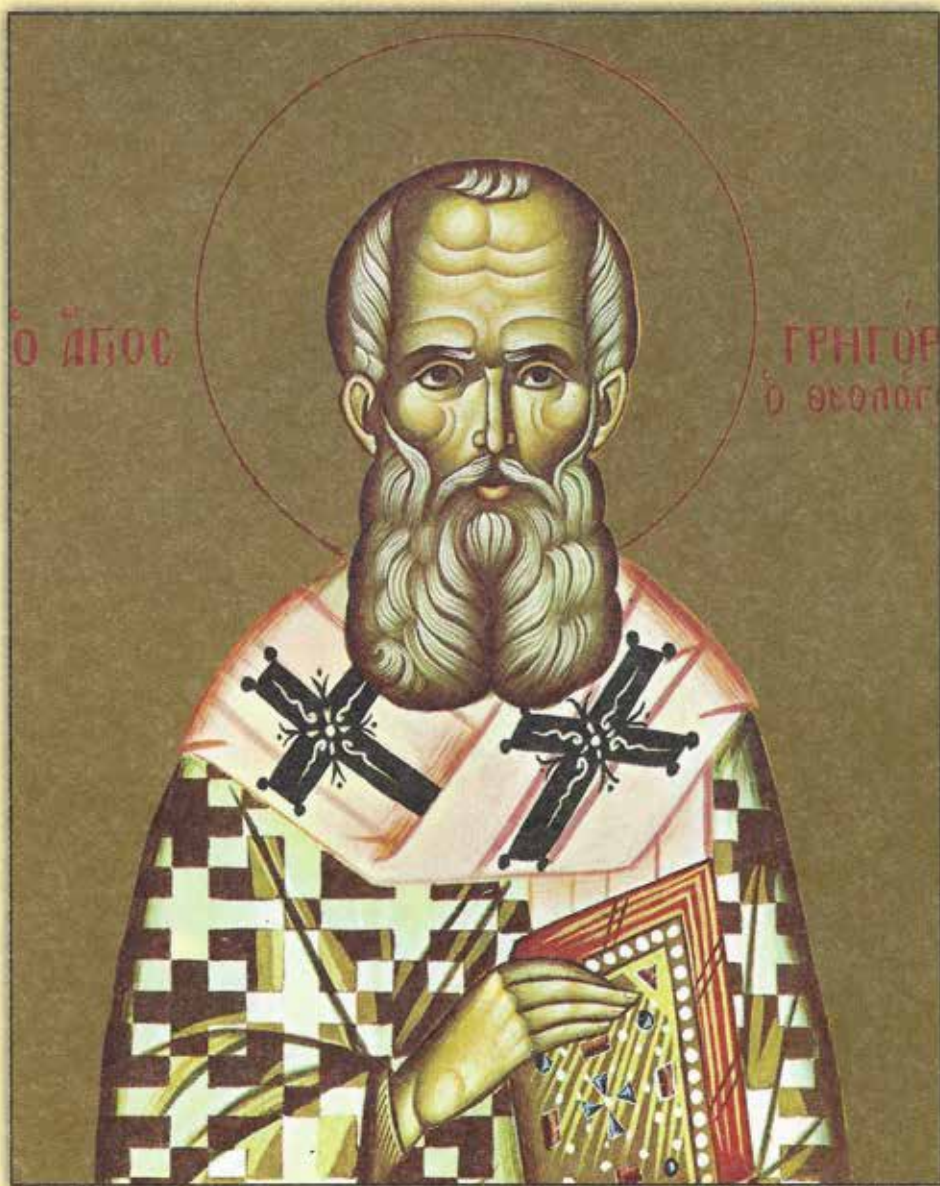


THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



Icon of Saint Gregory the Theologian -- January 25th

January 26, 2020: Sunday of Zacchaeus		
Epistle: 1 Tim. 4: 9-15		Gospel: Lk. 19: 1-10
Mon., Jan. 27	8:00	+ Jerry Gawron (Shirley Jacobs)
Tues., Jan. 28	8:00	+ Richard Fabri, Sr. (Jean Virbitsky)
Wed., Jan. 29	8:00	+ Andy Marcinko (Andrea Novak & Family)
Thurs., Jan. 31	No Divine Liturgy Today.	
Fri., Jan. 31	8:00	+ Jim Krug (Howard Smith)
Sat., Feb. 1	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + George & Marie Chmil (Paul & Rosemary Mizerak)	
Sun., Feb. 2	9:00	+ David S. Cheplick (Dorothy Zinsky)
	11:30	For Our Parishioners

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 lit-

tle 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."

BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. We believe that the same glorious presence of God, the *Shekinah* Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Catholic Temple. "*God is with us, understand all ye nations.*" Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from Great Compline says.

If we truly understood what this means -- that the God "who is a consuming fire" is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently. Church attendance is not merely about

obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness.

By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary. Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" Matt 6:21.

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.

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.

DEADLINE FOR 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

Today, January 26, 2020 is the deadline for making donations which will be credited to 2019. Any contributions

received after this date will be credited for 2020.

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.

NOVENA FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARON

The Holy Name Society of Saint Ann Maronite Catholic Church is sponsoring a Novena for the Feast of Saint Maron. The Novena will be prayed in the parish Church located at Sumner Avenue at Price Street in West Scranton, and runs from Saturday, February 1st to the Feast of Saint Maron, Sunday February 9th. On the two weekends of February 1st and 2nd and February 8th and 9th, the Novena

will follow the Saturday 4:30 PM Vigil Mass and the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass; and on the weekdays of February 3rd through the 7th, the weekday Masses will be celebrated at 6:30 PM followed by the Novena. The Novena will include the recitation of the Holy Rosary, a blessing with the Icon of Saint Maron and veneration of the relic of Saint Maron. All are welcome.

OUR NEXT SOBORCHYK (DEANERY GATHERING)

Our next Soborchyk (Deanery Gathering) is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at Scranton's St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church. The snow date is

Wednesday, February 12, 2020. All interested Parishioners are invited to attend. If you would like to attend, please let Father Nestor know as soon as possible.

PARISH MEETING

There will be a Parish Meeting following the 11:30 Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 9, 2020. All Parish Council and Finance Council members are requested to attend. Anyone

else that is interested is invited to attend. We need to discuss several maintenance issues and plan our calendar for the upcoming year.

PRE-LENTEN PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Father Myron and his Parish Family of Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church cordially invite you to join them for their annual Pre-Lenten

pork and sauerkraut/kapusta dinner on Sunday, February 16, 2020 beginning at 12:15 pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 N. Seventh Ave. - between West

Lackawanna Ave. and West Linden St.

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.

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 16, 2020. The itinerary includes the 44th Annual Ukrainian Street Festival sponsored by New York's St. George Ukrainian Greek Catholic parish and the 14th Annual Multi-Ethnic Parade and Dance Festival both on the Lower East Side plus a ride on the Staten Island Ferry. Participants are free to do their own thing in the City 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 8:00 am and at Scranton's St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 8:45 am. Departure for home will be at 8:00 pm. 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 Dorothy at 570 822-5354. 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 January 2020 is Team

#1: Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis and Gloria Jablonski.

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for February 1 & 2, 2020

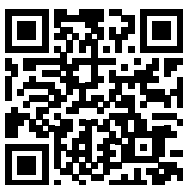
	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nathan Dennis -- Brett Lowe	John Sakson
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Nicholas Muchisky -- Tyler Muchisky	Frank Lesnefsky

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

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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.