

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



Icon of Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Tree

January 17, 2021: Sunday of Zacchaeus		
Epistle: 1 Tim. 4: 9-15		Gospel: Lk. 19: 1-10
Mon., Jan. 18	9:00	+ Nancy Telep Kastlen (Lauren Telep)
Tues., Jan. 19	9:00	+ Deceased of the Moskel Family (Nieces & Nephews)
Wed., Jan. 20	9:00	+ Karen Green (Sister, Gloria Jablonsky)
Thurs. Jan. 21	9:00	+ Patricia Wargo (Cathy, Pat & Patrick Marcinko)
Fri., Jan. 22	9:00	+ Victims of Abortion
Sat., Jan. 23	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions. 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners	
Sun., Jan. 24	10:00	+ Carol Chaykosky (Gene & Sonia Maslar)

The Sunday of Zacchaeus

by Father Peter Chamberas

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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.”

APOSTLE TIMOTHY OF THE SEVENTY

Commemorated on January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. St. Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul. When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, St. Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future St. Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois).

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, longsuffering, 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, he summoned his faithful friend, St/ Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

St. Timothy ended his life as a martyr. 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 Saint Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of St. Andrew and St. Luke. The Church honors Saint Timothy as one of the Apostles of the Seventy.

TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY

One of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, had said: "The most important function of the Government is to Protect the Lives of its citizens." Friday, January 22, 2021, we sadly observe the 48th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision which legalized the murder of unborn children. On this day, please pray for all the victims of this massacre -- for

all the children who have not been born. Pray for those who provide this evil -- that they may see the error of their ways and repent! Pray for those who suffer as a result of having had an abortion!

In the words of St. John Paul II: "A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope." Let us pray for an end to this modern day genocide!

BOX FULL OF KISSES

Some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." The man became embarrassed by his overreaction earlier, but his rage continued when he saw that the box was empty. He yelled at her; "Don't you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside?"

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and cried:

"Oh, Daddy, it's not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They're all for you, Daddy."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

Only a short time later, an accident took the life of the child. Her father kept the gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had

put it there.

world

Love is the most precious gift in the

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CLERGY

Please remember in your our sick clergy:

Father John Wysochansky who was admitted into Abington Manor and tested positive for Covid-19.

Father Paul Wolensky (Ss. Peter & Paul in Wilkes-Barre and St. Vladimir's,

Edwardsville), who is recovering from an infection and had five toes amputated.

Father Yaroslav Kurpel (Christ the King, Philadelphia & St. Nicholas, Philadelphia). Services at both of his Parishes have been suspended until Father recovers from Covid-19.

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian charity, please remember the souls of our Parishioners who recently fell asleep in the Lord:

+ **Frank Cole** passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2021.

+ **Michael Korzemba** passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021.

May their memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

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. 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.

2021 CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2021 Church Calendars are available in the back of the Church. The

Calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

2021 PARISH DUES

We remind our Parish Family Members that at a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that beginning

2021 Parish Dues will increase to \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.

TAKE OUT PASTA DINNER - SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST

Sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church

430 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton

Spaghetti with meatballs, tossed salad with dressing, dinner roll with butter, dessert and bottled water.

Cost is \$12.00 by advance reservation only. Phone Maria at 570 503-1514 no later than Wednesday, January 27.

Pickup at parish center adjoining the church between 12 noon and 2:00 pm.

A theme basket raffle and a 50/50 drawing will also be available.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2021 is Team #1:

Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis and Gloria Jablonski.

Sunday Collection for January 9 & 10, 2021: \$

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Parish financially in our weekly collections. If you are still staying at home due to the pandemic, and are able to send any amount, it would be a blessing.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Story of Zacchaeus

People would come from small villages nestled in the hills when they heard that Jesus was passing by. Sometimes they would bring relatives and friends who were sick, so that He could heal them. Sometimes they just came to hear the words of truth that He spoke.

So why did Jesus pick Zacchaeus out? Well, Jesus was often doing surprising things. And because he was always listening to God, they were always the right things. Jesus knew who needed healing most and who would really listen to what he said. What mattered to Jesus wasn't what people looked like, whether they were tall or short, whether they were poor or rich. What mattered was what they cared about, what was in their hearts. What people were willing to do was more important than what they said.

We know from the way Zacchaeus acted that he wasn't the sort of person to just sit around and think about doing something right. He wanted to see Jesus so badly he was willing to make himself look silly by climbing a tree. And when people talked about his being a sinner, Zacchaeus didn't even deny it. Instead he promised to do good.

So who was Zacchaeus? We can't just say that he was a short man—there have been lots of short men. Or that he was a wealthy man—there have been lots of wealthy men too. The important thing is that he had a good heart. He loved Jesus and what he stood for so much that he was willing to admit his faults and change—right then. And he didn't care about what other people thought, only about what was right.