

## SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



*Icon of Christ and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)*

## January 22, 2023: Sunday of Zaccheus

Epistle: 1 Tim 4; 9-15

Gospel: Lk. 19: 1-10

**Mon., January 23** 9:00 + Andrew & Anna Smagula (Son, Joseph)

**Tues., January 24** **No Divine Liturgy Today**

**Wed., January 25** 9:00 + Robert Harris (Wife, Jule)

**Thurs., January 26** 9:00 + Howard Smith (Son, Howard)

**Fri., January 27** 9:00 + Deceased of the Moskel Family

**Sat., January 28** **No Morning Divine Liturgy**

2:00 Confessions

4:00 For Our Parishioners

**Sun., January 29** 10:30 + Marlene Nestrick (Frank & Susan Lesnefsky)



### BISHOP JOHN BURA

It is with brotherly sadness but with true Christian hope in the Resurrection of our Lord that I share with you news of the dormition of His Excellency Most Reverend Ivan Bura, Auxiliary Bishop-Emeritus of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Bishop Ivan was called to the Lord today, January 17th at 3:30 PM after an extended hospital stay having received the Sacraments.

Bishop Ivan gave his life to God, to the Church, and to our Archeparchy. We pray for the peace of his soul. We thank God for his life and service. Our dear Bishop Ivan, a thoughtful kind man, lived his final years at

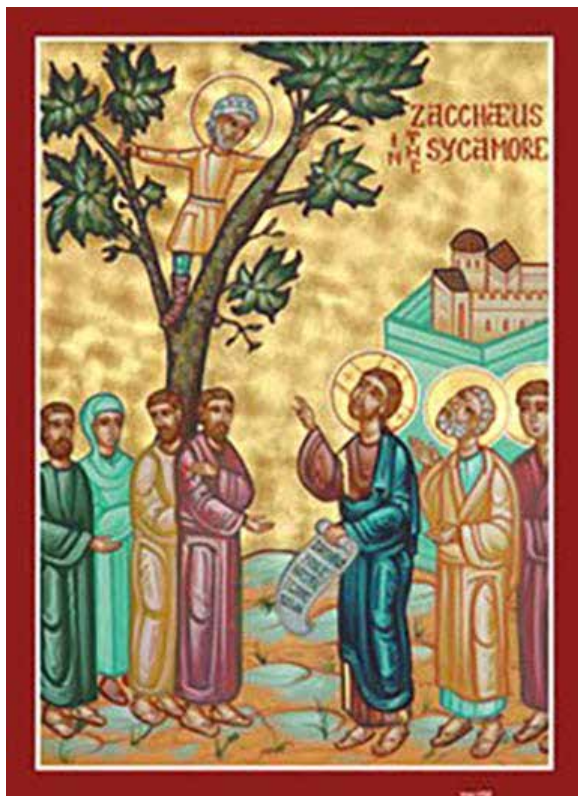
St. Josaphat Seminary accompanied with great solicitude by Father Rector Robert Hitchens. We express our heartfelt condolences to Bishop Ivan's brothers: Nicholas, Theodore and his wife Joyce, Walter and his wife Mary Anne, and sister Rosalie and her husband Eugene Naumenko, to the entire Bura family, and all friends of the deceased.

A funeral Divine liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 24 at 9:30 a.m. After the Liturgy, the remains of Bishop Bura will be transferred to St. Andrew Cemetery in Bound Brook, NJ for internment.

May his memory be eternal!

***Most Rev. Borys Gudziak***

## THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



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."

*by Father Peter Chamberas*

## **THIEF STEALS ST. MICHAEL STATUE FROM CHURCH, TRIPS, AND IS INJURED BY THE ANGEL'S SWORD**

CNA - A drunken thief was injured after falling on the sword of a statue of St. Michael the Archangel that he was trying to steal from a church in Monterrey, Mexico.

Local media reported that during the early hours of Jan. 14, Carlos Alonso, 32, allegedly went to the Christ the King Parish in downtown Monterrey to rob the church.

In the darkness, Alonso reportedly

jumped over the fence in front of the church entrance, broke a glass door, and entered the church.

While trying to flee with a statue of St. Michael the Archangel, the alleged thief tripped and fell on the angel's sword, seriously injuring his neck.

Some passersby saw the wounded man at the church doors and called for medical help.

Monterrey Civil Protection

personnel arrived at the scene, cut the padlock on the main gate of the fence, and saved the would-be thief's life.

After stabilizing the injured man, the rescuers took him to a clinic to be treated and to get more information about the damage that may have been caused.

It is expected that once he has recovered, the suspect will be turned

over to the public prosecutor's office, and the punishment he could face for the damage to the church will be determined.

The statue of St. Michael the Archangel was unharmed.

*This story was first published by ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.*

## **PIGGIE/HOLUBTSI DINNER**

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre will hold a take-out Piggie / Holubtsi Dinner on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Dinners may be picked up between 12:00 (noon) and 4:00 pm in our school hall, corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-

Barre. Dinner includes: Piggies (meat & rice stuffed cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter and dessert. Dinners will be \$15.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children (12 and under). Walk-in customers will be welcomed, but reservations are Strongly Encouraged, (570) 829-3051.

## **THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS COMING TO AN END**

Volunteers are needed! Again, special thanks to the Parishioners who decorated the Church for Christmas. We received so many comments as to how beautifully the Church was decorated.

Taking down the decorations is much easier. Everything is doublechecked to see that it is marked with a ribbon for its proper location

for next Christmas. Lights are wound, everything is stored in bins, etc. and stored in the Church basement. We need the men of the Parish to help with the manger itself, the larger trees, ladders, etc.

Lend us a hand on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> IMMEDIATELY after the 10:30 Divine Liturgy. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

## **UKRAINIAN PYSANKY CLASSES**

SS Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant will be offering Ukrainian Pysanky classes in March 2023. The two-hour beginner class will teach the basics to create a traditional Ukrainian pysanky egg. The cost of the class is \$25 for each person. Supplies are included. Classes will be held at 207 River Street, Olyphant, St. Cyril's Parish Hall, with plenty of free parking. Classes will be held on Sunday, March 12th, starting at Noon., and the 2nd class on March 12th at 3:00 p.m. On

Sunday, March 26th, starting at noon and the 2nd class on March 26th will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Class size is limited and you must call for a reservation to register. Call Tammy Budnovitch at 570-766-1919,

This is a fundraiser for the church. Available for purchase are individual Pysanky eggs created by Tammy Budnovitch. Other items available for purchase are jewelry, mosaic art, books, and additional pysanky egg supplies.

## **2023 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 be \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

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.

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2023 is Team #1: Jerry

Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

**Sunday Collection for Jan. 14 & 15, 2023: \$**

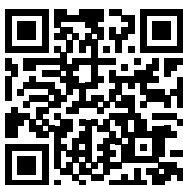
## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***Welcome Christ in Your Hearts and Homes***

The Lord, who already welcomed Zacchaeus in his heart, was now ready to be welcomed by him in his house. He said, "Zacchaeus, hurry up and come down, since I have to stay in your house." He thought it was a marvelous piece of good luck to see Christ. While imagining it was a marvelous piece of good luck quite beyond words to see him passing by, he was suddenly found worthy to have him in his house. Grace is poured out, and faith starts working through love.

Christ, who was already dwelling in his heart, is welcomed into his house. Zacchaeus says to Christ, "Lord, half my goods I give to the poor, and if I have

cheated anyone of anything, I am paying back four times over." It is as if he were saying, "The reason I am keeping back half for myself is not in order to have it, but to have something from which to pay people back."

There you are. That is really what welcoming Jesus means, welcoming him into your heart. Christ was already there. He was in Zacchaeus and spoke through him. The apostle says that this is what it means, "For Christ to dwell by faith in your hearts" (Eph 3:17).

*St. Augustine*