

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



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

January 18, 2026: Sunday of Zacchaeus

Epistle: 1 Tim. 4: 9-15

Gospel: Lk. 19: 1-10

This Weekend 4:00 pm + John Melnick (Wife, Janet Melnick)
10:30 For Our Parishioners

Mon., January 19 9:00 + Bob Zelno (The Granzas)

Tues., January 20 9:00 + Margaret Heyl (The Granzas)

Wed., January 21 9:00 + Kimberly Mellow (Family)

Thurs., January 22 9:00 + Victims of Abortion

Fri., January 23 9:00 + Margaret Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene)

Sat., January 24 **No Morning Divine Liturgy**
2:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm + Robert Harris (Wife, Jule)

Sun., January 25 10:30 For Our Parishioners

THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

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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 the 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

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. (There is no more Christmas caroling on this day).

ON WINTER CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Winter sometimes brings stormy weather. We kindly ask our parishioners to use good judgment and common sense by not driving when condi-

tions are dangerous. As weather varies from place to place, it may be that services will be held as scheduled, despite the fact that conditions in your area are

difficult. Please prioritize your safety and that of others by assessing the situation before venturing out.

Also, wintertime is cold and flu season. If you are truly sick, please stay home. Refrain from attending services to avoid the risk of infecting your fellow parishioners with your illness.

Rest assured, God will understand your need to take care of your health and the well-being of the community.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in these matters. Let us all do our part to ensure a safe and healthy winter season.

BINGO AT THE MANOR ON MAIN NEXT WEEK

Bingo at the Manor on Main on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Bingo starts at 1:00 p.m., with doors opening at noon. We're hoping that this will become one of our main annual fundraisers. To those generous parishioners who have sponsored a BINGO game, THANK YOU!. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE. Tickets are \$20 for advance purchase or \$25 at the door. It's

possible to reserve tables of ten for a group of friends. Call: Jule (570) 357-6171 or Michaelene (570) 209-2026.

Bingo and 50/50 tickets will be available for purchase in the Church Vestibule prior to Saturday and Sunday Liturgies beginning January 3, 2026, to make it easier for ur Parishioners to purchase.

BAKE SALE AND BASKETS FOR THE BINGO

Please drop off any bake sale items and baskets to the church hall on Saturday, January 24 at 11:30 am. The bingo

team needs to get them to The Manor on Main that morning.

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, February 1st immediately after the 10:30 Divine Liturgy. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

MAKING NEPA HOME

Original documentary film by WVIA

Highlighting immigrant communities of North Eastern Pennsylvania (NEPA)

Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 2 pm.

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church

430 N. 7th Avenue, Scranton, PA

Though everyday moments, community events, and candid storytelling,

Making NEPA Home explores the rich traditions, resilience, and contributions of those who have helped shape the regions evolving cultural identity.

Q&A and Guest Speakers following screening.

Presented by:

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

PIGGIE DINNER

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre will hold a Piggie/Holubtsi Dinner on Saturday, January 31, 2026. 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. Dinners

include; 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.

MYASOPUSNA 2026

A Ukrainian Cultural Celebration

Join us for a vibrant celebration of Ukrainian culture at MYASOPUSNA 2026! Experience an afternoon filled with traditional dance, music, and authentic cuisine on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from noon to 4:00 PM at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Church Hall, located at Bliss & Center Street in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke.

Event Highlights

- Live performances featuring the Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, St. Mary's Ukrainian Dancers, and The Englot Sisters
- Handcrafted Ukrainian items for sale, including a Pysanky (Easter egg) demonstration, embroidery, and a variety of gift items
- Exciting basket raffle

Homemade Ukrainian Dinner

Savor a delicious homemade

Ukrainian dinner, including Halubtsi, ham, kobasa, kapusta, varenyky, black bread, beverage, and dessert. Ukrainian beverages will also be available for purchase.

Dinner tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for children (12 & under). Please note: advance purchase only—no tickets will be sold at the door.

Doors open at 12:00 PM, with dinner service from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM. Entertainment begins at 1:30 PM.

Ticket Information

To purchase tickets, call 570-735-4654 or leave a message at 570-735-1901. Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in Ukrainian heritage and celebrate with the community!

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2026 is

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

Sunday Collection for Jan. 10 & 11, 2026: \$

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: olyphant@ukrcatholic.org

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