

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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Send announcements for the bulletin and/or website to bulletin@stjohnorthodox.org

Send announcements to be emailed to all members to announce@stjohnorthodox.org

Zacchaeus Sunday January 22, 2012



The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

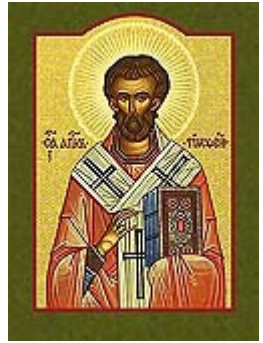
The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth

Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

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 (June 29). 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) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5).



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, 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 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.

In Russian practice, the back of a priest's cross is often inscribed with St Paul's words to St Timothy: "Be an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12)

WISDOM OF THE FATHERS

Precepts of Clement of Alexandria (c.195AD) To the Newly Baptized

Cultivate quietness in word, quietness in deed, likewise in speech and gait; and avoid impetuous eagerness. For then the mind will remain steady, and will not be agitated by your eagerness and so become weak and of narrow discernment and see darkly; nor will it be worsted by gluttony, worsted by boiling rage, worsted by the other passions, lying a ready prey to them. For the mind, seated on high on a quiet throne looking intently towards God, must control the passions. By no means be swept away by temper in bursts of anger, nor be sluggish in speaking, nor all nervousness in movement; so that your quietness may be adorned by good proportion and your bearing may appear something divine and sacred. Guard also against the signs of arrogance, a haughty bearing, a lofty head, a dainty and high-treading footstep.

Let your speech be gentle towards those you meet, and your greetings kind; be modest towards women, and let your glance be turned to the ground. Be thoughtful in all your talk, and give back a useful answer, adapting the utterance to the hearer's need, just so loud that it may be distinctly audible, neither escaping the ears of the company by reason of feebleness nor going to excess with too much noise. Take care never to speak what you have not weighed and pondered beforehand; nor interject your own words on the spur of the moment and in the midst of another's; for you must listen and converse in turn, with set times for speech and for silence. Learn gladly, and teach ungrudgingly; never hide wisdom for others by reason of a grudging spirit, nor through false modesty stand aloof from instruction. Submit to elders just as to fathers. Honour God's servants. Be first to practice wisdom and virtue. Do not wrangle with your friends, nor mock at them and play the buffoon. Firmly renounce falsehood, guile and insolence. Endure in silence, as a gentle and high-minded man, the arrogant and insolent.

Let everything you do be done for God, both deeds and words; and refer all that is yours to Christ; and constantly turn your soul to God; and lean your thought on the power of Christ, as if in some harbour by the divine light of the Saviour it were resting from all talk and action. And often by day communicate your thoughts to men, but most of all to God at night as well as by day; for let not much sleep prevail to keep you from your prayers and hymns to God, since long sleep is a rival of death. Show yourself always a partner of Christ who makes the divine ray shine from heaven; let Christ be to you continual and unceasing joy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANASTASIOS THE PERSIAN IN TONE FOUR

Thy Martyr, Anastasios, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For, since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God; ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke—"Zacchaeus Sunday")

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sisterhood Meeting Today

We will be having a Sisterhood meeting today after lunch. I'd like to meet with all the ladies for about 15 minutes and then with the officers for the rest of the time. We have had a suggestion regarding meetings that I think would be very effective and streamline our work, but I feel that everyone should have the opportunity to weigh in on it before we implement it.

Please come and give your input. I would also like to set a schedule for social meeting for the next 6 months and encourage you to bring your calendar. Please consider whether you might be willing to host a get-together at your home or bring an idea for an outing for the group.

If you've never participated in the Sisterhood or haven't been in a while, come and join us! Let's set up some fun activities for the coming months!

See you there!.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Allyson

Shirley's cat needs a home

We just found out that Shirley's cat, Callie, is going to need a home. None of the family is able to keep her. She is a 12 year old calico cat with a sweet disposition. If you are able to give her a home please call Diakonissa Joanna at 208-777-2152.

Thank You from Shirley Touros

Thank you to all my dear brothers and sisters at St. John's for my wonderful 80th birthday party! I would especially like to thank Fr. Basil & Joy Corey for the beautiful narration of my life history. I was so thrilled – and I just wanted to thank everyone for making it such a special day!

Love in Christ,

-Shirley

Iconography Workshop, January 23-27

St. John's will be hosting an Iconography workshop, taught by Eleni Schumacher & Dianne Nolan the week of January 23rd through the 27th. Please register early, as space is limited. To register, contact Dianne at 208-667-2222.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, January 22 – Zacchaeus Sunday – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School & Lunch following; Sisterhood Meeting after Lunch

Wednesday, January 25 –Vespers 6:00pm; Study Group at the Townsend's 7:15pm

Friday, January 27 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, January 28 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, January 29 – Publican and the Pharisee - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School & Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

January 22 - Owen Rush

January 29- Reader Mark Fellegly

February 5 - Tabitha Townsend

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Jan 23 - Goolsby

Week of Jan 30 - Townsends

Week of Feb 6 - Fellegly/Holman

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

January 22 - Team 5 - Poland, Schaefer, Gallatin, Johnson

January 29 - Team 2 - Corey, Tecca, Wood, Roth, Holman

February 5- Team 3 - Garbinski, Tourous, Weddle, Ayres, O'Daniel

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Paul Truebenbach, Ed Mattmiller, Rebecca Ebert & family, Adam Roth, Celia (sister of Lucille Horton), Jean (Fr. Basil's mother), Jim Ayres, Tim Peterson's grandfather, Bob Rutherford, Sarah Riccio, Cameron (son of Michelle Parge), Jon Paul, Bobby Clark (friend of the Olinger's), Karen Kares, Emmet (friend of Nanette's), James Bentley (Bryne's grandfather), Bob (Owen's father), Baby Girl Sunny Fox & mother Tiffany, Terri (Dianne Nolan's sister), Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Rita & Kent Little (friends of Trudy Olinger), Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's mother), Lou Papachristos (friend of Karen Karres), Teri Hundt (sister of Tiffany Gallatin), Inna Epling, Moses Kemper, Pam, Susan, Marc (Jenny Dancy's sister-in-law and friends), Crystal, Riley, Emily, Boston, Caleb, Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, George Kucera.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Mike Kerr, Shirley Jenkin, Diantha Ebert, Fr. Michael Lewis, Fr Basil Steiger, Fr. Thomas O'Dea, Charlotte, Carla Scherer (Hannah's grandmother), Bill Goolsby (Steve's father), Wisdom Gonzalez (Bartimaeus' cousin), Nina Bergoltseva, John Schrom Sr. (father of Sbdn. John Schrom). William Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jack and Steve (Dianne Nolan's father and brother-in-law), Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Vasso Papachristos.