

BULLETIN

Sunday of Zacchaeus

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.

Jan. 29 - The Transfer of the Relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer

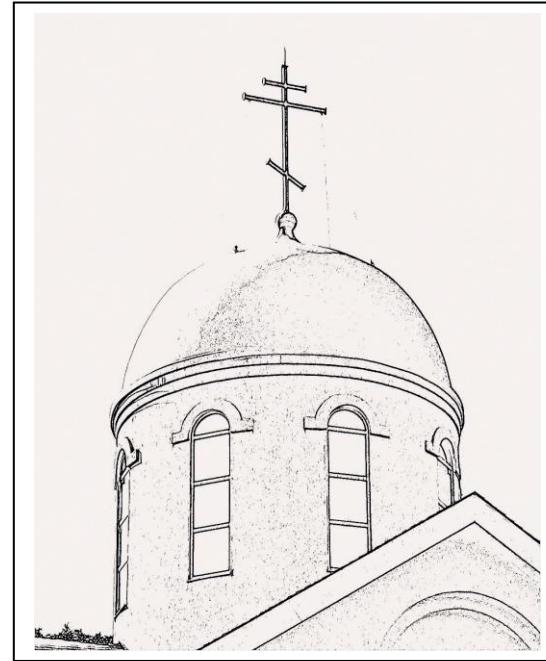
Embracing Christ as thy love, O God-bearer Ignatius,
thou didst receive the reward of being a priest of Christ’s Gospel,
even unto the shedding of thy blood.

Thus, becoming the immortal Sower’s wheat,
ground by the teeth of wild beasts,
thou didst offer thyself as a loaf of sweet bread to Christ.//

O blessed passion-bearer, never cease to pray for us!

Great Vespers, “Lord, I Call” Verse

WEEKLY



Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*
Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*
Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*
Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

January 29, 2023

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 8. Sunday of Zacchaeus. Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the Godbearer, Bishop of Antioch (107). St. Lavrentii (Lawrence), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves, Bishop of Turov (Near Caves—12th c.). Ss. Gerásim (1441-1467), Pitirím (1445) and Jonah (1470), Bishops of Perm. Martyrs Romanus, Jacob (James), Philotheus, Hyperechius, Abibus, Julian, and Paregonius, at Samosata (297).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Upcoming Service Schedule:

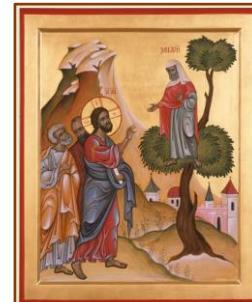
Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday – 6:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday – 6:00pm Gr. Vespers (*Blessing of Candles*)

Thursday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy (*Blessing of Candles*)



Sunday of Zacchaeus

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 and Hebrews 13:17-21

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14 and Luke 6:17-23

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Mat. Faith Kuharsky, Zoran Pejovic, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the veneration of the Cross. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

TODAY – All are welcome to join us for **Coffee Hour**. **Team 1** is scheduled for setup and cleanup today. **Team 4** will have Coffee Hour responsibilities next Sunday.

TODAY – **February Parish Calendars** are available on the parish website, www.orthodoxbrick.org. Please check weekly bulletins for changes.

THURSDAY, February 2 is the Great Feast of the **Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple**. Please check the Upcoming Service Schedule for service times. Bring candles to either service to have them blessed

Saturday, February 4 – A celebration in honor of **Archbishop Michael's 50th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood** will take place with an hierarchical Divine Liturgy served at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus followed by a banquet at the Brownstone in Paterson. More information may be obtained on the diocesan website, www.nynjoca.org. All are invited to participate in the celebration.

Father Gary & Matushka Mary will be out of town until Friday, February 3. **Father Paul Kucynda** will serve the Divine services during this time. **Father Michael Pejovic** is available at (848) 228-1563 for pastoral emergencies.

The **blessing of homes** will continue after Father Gary's return. A **sign-up sheet** is located in the church narthex. Please indicate days and times that are most convenient for you to have Father Gary come and bless your home. Alternatively, you may **email Father Gary** with your request for a houseblessing.

We continue to pray for **peace in Ukraine**, for the withdrawal of Russian troops from that land, and for the wellbeing of the Ukrainian people. Lord, have mercy!

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. More information is available at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.

Many Years!

Birthdays this week:

Wednesday – Liz Petrides

Thursday - Larisa Paxton

Saturday - Eileen Zamerovsky

Saturday – Jonathan Buchala

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!