

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

The first sign 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 more times as much as they had lost. In this he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Exodus 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 in correcting ourselves and making 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, 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 (Romans 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.

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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PARMA, OHIO 44134

THE TRINITARIAN

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6822 BROADVIEW ROAD, PARMA, OHIO 44134
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 216-524-4859
CHURCH WEBSITE: <http://www.holy-trin.org>
V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 216-524-8989

BULLETIN 14 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 8

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST,
IN THE TEMPLE
Sunday of Zacchaeus

“Rejoice, O full of grace, O Theotokos and maiden pure: For from you there rose the sun of justice, Christ, our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You, too, exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you bore in your arms the Savior and Redeemer of our souls, and from Him have we all received the grace of resurrection.”

Troparion, Tone I

“On Mount Sinai, Moses saw the back of God, and he heard God’s voice as a storm raged in the darkness around him. This same God took flesh without change, and now Simeon has taken Him into his arms. For the old man, his life is now complete, and so he prepares joyfully to depart this life, saying: Now, You may let Your servant go in peace, Master, as You said You would.”

Jerusalem Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: HEBREWS 7:7-17
I TIMOTHY 4:9-15

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40
LUKE 19:1-10

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, February 8 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, February 3	I Peter 2:21-3:9	Mark 12:13-17
Tuesday, February 4	I Peter 3:10-22	Mark 12:18-27
Wednesday, February 5	I Peter 4:1-11	Mark 12:28-37
(St. Theodosius)	Hebrews 13:17-21	Luke 6:17-23
Thursday, February 6	I Peter 4:12-5:5	Mark 12:38-44
Friday, February 7	II Peter 1:1-10	Mark 13:1-8
Saturday, February 8	II Timothy 2:11-19	Luke 18:2-8

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

- 2, TODAY HTOC Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner
- 8, Saturday Pre-Lenten Retreat at St. Demetrios Church; Rocky River
- 9, Sunday Food Sale
- Parish Council meeting
- 10, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 28-29 Retreat at St. Innocent Church

HALL KITCHEN NEWS:

After discussion and research, the Parish Council has begun a mini-renovation of the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Many appliances and equipment are almost 50 years old, some broken and non-functioning. The initial project, already underway, is removal and replacement of two of the stoves. As these are commercial grade and quality, they are not inexpensive. Parishioners contributions to offset the cost are appreciated. Use your donation envelope and mark in the small empty box, "Kitchen." Other improvements to the kitchen will be forthcoming.

LA COUPOLE:

Stop by La Coupole and enjoy 50% savings on Christmas cards and ornaments; and 25% off all matryoshka dolls.

PARISHIONER SUNSHINE:

If you know of a parishioner who could use a "thinking of you" message, please contact Dianna Kall at 216-741-2888, or dkall@ameritech.net. Please include name, address, city and zip code, as well as the need, so an appropriate card can be sent.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Dave and Judy Howe.

PRE-LENTEN RETREATS:

"The Beauty of Repentance and The Mystery of Confession" is the topic of a retreat on Sat., Feb. 8, at St. Demetrios Church; 22909 Center Ridge Rd, Rocky River. The guest speaker is Fr. Joseph, Abbot of St. Gregory Palamas Monastery.

On Feb. 28-29, at St. Innocent Church, 8526 Usher Rd, Olmsted Falls, a retreat will be held with the theme of "Paradise in the Desert: A Paschal Ecology for Great Lent." The guest speaker is Dr. Tracy Gustilo, an instructor at St. Vladimir Seminary.

Further details for both events are posted in the Fellowship Hall.

BOOK CIRCLE:

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, Feb. 10, at 12:30 p.m. Our new book, available at La Coupole, is Treasures New and Old (St. Nikolai Velimirovich). Read Part I, the biography, pages 15-48. All are welcome.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Steve and Janene Hatch.

A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to make an offering toward costs of The Trinitarian.

"When you look upon the icon of the Mother of God and her Eternal Infant, marvel how most truly the Godhead was united with human nature and glorify the goodness and omnipotence of God. Then recognize your own dignity as man and live worthily of the high calling to which you are called in Christ — that is, the calling of a child of God and an heir to eternal bliss."

St. John of Kronstadt

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, JANUARY 26	\$ 2434.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	2565.00
BUILDING FUND	264.00
CANDLES	142.00
KITCHEN STOVE FUND	630.00
COFFEE HOUR 1/19/20	110.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 14 – Volume LVII

February 2, 2020

THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Today, Sunday, February 2, we celebrate the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. It is one of the Orthodox Church's Twelve Great Feasts. Listed in chronological order of the Liturgical Year (beginning on September 1), they are: Nativity of the Theotokos, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Entrance of the Theotokos, Christmas, Theophany, Meeting of the Lord, Annunciation, Palm Sunday, Ascension, Pentecost, Transfiguration, Dormition. All twelve have liturgical similarities, but all have specific characteristics. Looking at the list one can see that some of the feasts are "more popular" than others, as are, for example, Christmas, Palm Sunday and Pentecost. The Meeting of the Lord is often overlooked, but it is an ancient observance with interesting liturgical aspects that make it quite unique.

The Meeting of the Lord is based on the Scriptural account in St. Luke's Gospel (2:22-40). A religious tradition of the Old Covenant was that forty days after birth a child was to be brought with offerings to the Temple. That is why we celebrate the Feast on February 2, which is forty days after December 25. As Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the Temple, they were met by two Righteous elders, Simeon and Anna. They spent their lives in prayerful contemplation and were able to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, the Righteous Simeon declared: "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples; a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel." His words have become one of the most beloved of Christian prayers, recited privately and sung liturgically at every evening service.

The Meeting of the Lord is unlike other feasts in honoring both Jesus Christ and His Mother. Among Eastern Christians it is recognized primarily as the "Meeting of the Lord." In the Christian West, it is known by two names, "The Purification of the Blessed Virgin" and as "Candlemas." A number of unique customs became associated with the Feast, the most notable of which is the blessing of candles. Of course, there was a practical aspect, as for many centuries candles were the common source of interior lighting. But "light" is a spiritual theme as Simeon's prayer indicates by referring to Christ as the "light of revelation." The theme of light may have been behind the origin of old Northern European superstitions that badgers emerged from their holes at this time and, depending on whether they see their shadows, predicted the outcome of winter. In the 19th century German immigrants in Pennsylvania displaced the badger with a groundhog. It is also possible that weather-predicting animals were pagan customs which the Church refashioned and connected to a Scriptural event.

While most everyone knows that February 2 is Groundhog Day, I suspect not many Americans know that it is the Feast of the Meeting. I hope most American Orthodox Christians know differently. It is a meaningful and inspirational feast. While it is in some ways a weather harbinger of Spring, the Feast is a beautiful holy day that brings us to the doorstep of that most glorious and spiritual time of the year, Great Lent. As the final link to the Christmas-related liturgical cycles, the Meeting of the Lord celebrates a special spiritual moment. Filled with joy in acknowledging Christ's appearance, we proceed to face challenges without anxiety, knowing that with faith the Lord's blessed light will guide us in our way.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus