

#### Holy Ghost Orthodox Church 714 Westmoreland Avenue PO Box 3 Slickville, PA 15684-0003

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**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yurij, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William & Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciow, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia

Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin,

George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton-Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Linda Snow, Zack Blair [Pani Gina's nephew], Greg & Mary Lou Sheakley [Pani Gina's cousins—COVID], the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert & Eleanor Rodrigues & family, Don Menagon [COVID-19], Father Nick Mahaly [COVID-19], Mike Wilcox [COVID-19], Father Deacon James Rossetti & Diakonissa Kari-ordination!, Steve Sivulich, Steve Sawchuck, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, and Susan Pulcini-Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our February babies: David Shirley on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Kevin Tkacik on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Kyle James Weiser on the 12<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohayha Lita! God Bless them and their families!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is <u>NOTHING</u> to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be SAFE!!! God Bless!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and ALL American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

# REMEMBER-PRAYERS ARE <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

#### **SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE**

SUNDAY, February 13 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 34<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE; HOLY WONDERWORKERS & UNMERCENARIES CYRUS & JOHN & MARTYRS ATHANASIA, THEOCTISTE, THEODOTA, & EUDOXIA; MARTYRS VICTORINUS, VICTOR, NICEPHORUS, CLAUDIUS, DIODORUS, SERAPION, & PAPIAS OF EGYPT; MARTYR TRYPHAENES AT CYZICUS; SAINT NICETAS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

\*\*\*\*\*BLESSING OF WATER DOWNSTAIRS AFTER SERVICE\*\*\*\*

Tone 1
2 Timothy 3:10-15
Luke 18:10-14

Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nickolai Pivtoraiko, Evelyn Burlack, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke, Katherine Debick, Kevin Dalby, & Dollie Mae Irvin—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, February 20 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 35<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON; AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD; VENERABLE PARTHENIUS-BISHOP OF LAPSACUS ON HELLESPONT; VENERABLE LUKE OF MOUNT STEIRION; 1,003 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA

*Tone 2* 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Luke 15:11-32

SUNDAY, February 27 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MEATFARE SUNDAY; SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT; SAINT AUXENTIUS-MONK OF BITHYNIA; SAINT MARON-HERMIT OF SYRIA; SAINT ABRAHAM-BISHOP OF CHARRES IN MESOPOTAMIA; SAINT CYRIL-EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES & TEACHER OF THE SLAVS; SAINT ISAAC-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; 12 GREEK MASTER-BUILDERS OF

# DORMITION CATHEDRAL IN PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF PRINCE-MARTYR MICHAEL & HIS COUNSELOR SAINT THEODORE OF CHERNIHIV

Tone 3 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Matthew 25:31-46

# **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 13 FEBRUARY 2022**

34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE; HOLY WONDERWORKERS & UNMERCENARIES CYRUS & JOHN & MARTYRS ATHANASIA, THEOCTISTE, THEODOTA, & EUDOXIA; MARTYRS VICTORINUS, VICTOR, NICEPHORUS, CLAUDIUS, DIODORUS, SERAPION, & PAPIAS OF EGYPT; MARTYR TRYPHAENES AT CYZICUS; SAINT NICETAS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

\*\*\*\*\*BLESSING OF WATER DOWNSTAIRS AFTER SERVICE\*\*\*\*

### TROPARION—TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;

While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

Granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life:

Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!

Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

## KONTAKION—SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE—TONE 4

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee

And learn humility from the Publican's tears.

Let us cry to our Savior:

Have mercy on us, O only-merciful One.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### KONTAKION—TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.

Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished!

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:

Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

#### **PROKEIMENON-TONE 1**

**READER:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! **PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.** 

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. **PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.** 

#### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!

#### **Physician of Souls**

God is not a Prosecutor, but a Physician

The Scriptures, the works of the Early Church Fathers, and the liturgical texts of the Church, all attest to the fact that the Ancient Church did not teach that Christ's Incarnation was intended to be a propitiation of divine righteousness. Rather, Christ came as a Physician intent on bringing healing to fallen mankind. Christ's Incarnation brought the whole of human nature together, with His Divine Nature, for a cure. His spiritual medicine brings healing, removes the stain of sin that had introduced death to the cosmos, and makes everything whole.

This condescension of God, taking on our human flesh, and joining His Divinity to us, cannot be seen in legalistic terms, but must be seen from a medical perspective. We are ill. Our sin is not about law, but about illness. In our fallen state, we've departed from communion with God, and Christ's death upon the cross was accomplished, not because the Father demanded blood, but because He desires to heal us, and restore life to His creatures who've inherited death from our fallen forefather, Adam. That Christ assumed our human nature, made possible the cure.

The Lord Jesus Christ established His Church as a hospital of the soul, and it is within Her walls that we are given the medicine to bring about the healing we so need. God does not desire suffering, nor our blood, but only that we be restored to the image He intended for us. This loving Father is not our prosecutor, but our physician.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

#### **Father Jonathan Tobias:**

"To frighten theologically is a fruitless and inappropriate activity. It is unworthy of human beings, who are called to the free love for God."—Fr Sergius Bulgakov, in "Parousia, Resurrection, and the City of God" (Bride of the Lamb).

He is writing here particularly of those who work hard at propping up a "juridical and penitentiary conception" of eschatology, in which "God's relation to the world is determined only by the principle of retribution, contrary to what the Lord Himself said, 'God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved'."

I still cannot understand—and I do not pretend to sympathize with—the motive of those who go to absurd lengths in insisting upon this conception. Some say that they are defending freedom—but it is a poor and debased sort of freedom that is predicated on the possibility to participate in evil indefinitely. Others say that such a conception is necessary to urge people to virtue and repentance—which seems to me quite opposed to the pastoral and servanthood ethic that the Lord enjoins upon His ministers.

Besides, repentance comes at the memory of the Father's house, "where there is bread enough and to spare." As St. Isaac the Syrian says, "To know Christ is to love Him...Love is produced by knowledge of the truth."

Love is what causes repentance, not fear and dread. Never fear.

# **The Tongue**

# Romans 14:11- For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures provide sound guidance for daily life in the use of the tongue. The greatest care and the highest standards are necessary in the daily use of words. Believers benefit when confessing regularly to God with heartfelt sincerity. Confessing to the Lord God gives direction, purpose, and strength to the believer.

# I Corinthians 13:1- Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. (KJV

The believer's love of God and love of neighbor are essential in the tongue's use. Words are hollow if the believer's heart and actions are not well founded in love. The heart, mind and soul give direction to the words uttered throughout life. The choice of words reflects the content and values of the person's character. When asked, God will provide the words necessary to stay on the blessed path.

# Philippians 2:11- And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (KJV)

Interest in following the Lord and being blessed will influence word choice. The tongue's expressions will reflect the interest of the heart, mind and soul. A believer's strength of faith is revealed when actions correspond with the tongue. The tongue can be used for repentance when the heart, mind and soul are willing. Words expressed combined with improved behavior signal growth in the Lord.

# James 1:26- If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. (KJV)

Restraint in the tongue's use keeps a person on the narrow path to the Kingdom. Certain words chosen can have a healing effect on others or a devasting impact.-Daily life offers believers consistent opportunities to speak in God-pleasing ways. Wise use of silence and refraining from speaking will be God-pleasing at times.

# I Peter 3:10- For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: (KJV)

The tongue's use reflects if the Lord God is the center, purpose and goal of life. Words used in daily life help to form the believer's record for the Last Judgment. The Lord God has a way of knowing the words used and their intended purposes. Each day is an opportunity to refrain from evil and attempt to do good in life. The Lord provides the strength and the way to refrain from evil and to do good.

Venerable Euthymius the Great, January 20/February 2, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

#### **Father Jonathan Tobias**

This Sunday is already Zacchaeus Sunday [06 February 2022]. Here's a little meditation:

"Once Upon a Time in a Sycamore Tree"

We love this story, don't we? It's a conversion story, like Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol." A bad guy turns around and becomes a good guy.

And, truth be told, it's pretty funny. A little guy can't see because of the crowd. So he cleverly climbs a handy tree and hides himself in the upper boughs.

But then he's caught and called out.

And it's a breathtaking story. Jesus, the Holy One of God, Who is beyond the moral superiority of the religious leaders, Who on His own "out-Puritans the Puritans," invites Himself to the house of a guy who out-villains even a villain like Scrooge.

Finally, it's a heartbreaking story—but heartbreaking in a good way—as in icy, crusty hearts need to melt and break.

The heart of Zacchaeus was as cold and hardened as Scrooge or worse, as Mr. Potter of "It's a Wonderful Life."

But Jesus found him, like the Good Shepherd seeking out, finding and rescuing the one lost lamb in the darkness and storm. And Jesus ate with him in his own house, not caring about the tut-tutting disapproval of the usual religious sensibilities.

This bad guy was met by the "God Who so loved the world."

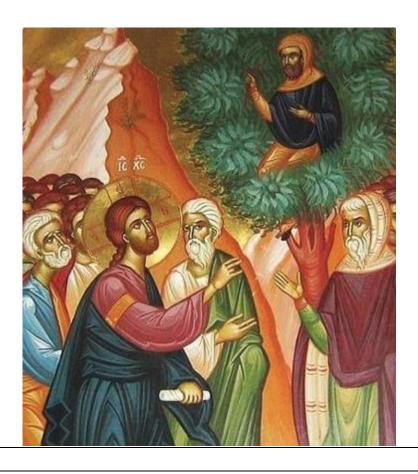
And so, at dinner's close, Zacchaeus stood up. "I'm giving half my wealth directly to the poor. And for the other half—if I've cheated anyone, I'll pay them back four times the amount I defrauded them."

Zacchaeus went from Rich Man to Poor Man in a twinkling of an eye. What Jesus asked the Rich Young Ruler to do, to sell all he had and give the proceeds to the poor, and that rich young guy refused, Zacchaeus actually followed through. Unlike the Rich Fool who built barns to keep his surplus instead of giving it away to the hungry, Zacchaeus actually tore down what "barns" he had—all his securities, his stashed away riches and secret offshore funds.

And instead of dying in his miserable riches, like the Rich Man did in the Parable of Lazarus, Zacchaeus gave everything away to the Lazarus's of this world, of which there are still so very many.

So I ask you—did Zacchaeus win or lose in his meeting with Jesus? When he climbed out of the branches when Jesus called—unlike Adam and Eve who tried to stay hidden in their shame—did Zacchaeus end up poorer or richer?

And that is why it's a comic story—a comedy in the classic sense of the word. Not at all a tragedy, but one with the happiest of endings, for truly Zacchaeus is "happily ever after."



## **Zacchaeus Sunday** Luke 19:1-10

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (KJV)

The arrival of Zacchaeus Sunday each year signals the approach of Great Lent and the journey to Pascha. The Church prepares believers gradually to participate in the Lenten journey.

This is a day to begin to orient the heart, mind and soul toward the coming of Great Lent and Pascha. Now is the time to increase interest in the Lord Jesus Christ and to draw closer to Christ.

Zacchaeus was a sinner with interest in seeing the Lord Jesus Christ. He exhibited a readiness to change his ways. Zacchaeus was a rich man of action. He put forth the effort to climb the sycamore tree so that he could see Jesus.

To demonstrate his good faith Zacchaeus was willing to give half of his goods to the poor and to restore fourfold to anyone he deceived. Everyone attentive to the Gospel can learn from Zacchaeus and take action to repent.

The journey to Pascha and to eternal life can feel very long. Repentance is expected of believers. The Gospel lessons guide believers on the journey to Pascha, to the heavenly Kingdom and to eternal life.

Jesus Christ noticed Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree and called Zacchaeus to come closer. Jesus wanted to bring salvation to Zacchaeus' house. The Gospel makes clear that Jesus came to save the lost.

When sinners take action to draw closer to Jesus, Jesus invites and draws the person closer. Today is a day to draw closer to Jesus Christ as did Zacchaeus. Now is the time to experience salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel intends change in believers. The Gospel enriches and nourishes the believer's soul for beneficial change to occur. God's Church proclaims the Gospel at each Divine Liturgy with wisdom rooted in the ages.

Believers are expected to grow in Christ from the time of Baptism until departure from this life. The cycle of liturgical life in the Church offers a proven structured experience for the life in Jesus Christ.

Believers benefit by ordering personal life in the liturgical life of the Church.

Heeding the opportunities for nourishment and repentance keep the believer on the narrow path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.

Every believer is expected to prepare for Jesus's Second Coming and the Final Judgment. Daily actions create the record for the final judgment. Willingness to reject sin and repent determines whether eternal life is experienced.

Today is a turning point in direction in God's Holy Church. The movement toward Great Lent is small and subtle. The Church moves as a whole around the world toward the approach of Pascha.

The journey to Pascha is deeply rooted in the Church. Interest and use of the believer's mind determines the value ascribed to salvation of the soul and interest in eternal life.

Events in daily life can cloud personal judgment. Daily stresses of life can consume the believer's attention. Jesus Christ is the bright light to guide the believer through all of life's struggles and challenges.

Hunger in the soul will draw the believer toward Christ. Daily decisions determine whether the person will put fort the effort as did

Zacchaeus to get a close look at Christ and to become more visible to Christ.

Zacchaeus Sunday is about a small man whose stature in Christ was elevated by Christ entering his house. Believers learn from Zacchaeus that when effort is made to draw near to Jesus, life improves dramatically.

Each person can take action to correct personal wrongs in relationships and transactions. Zacchaeus is an inspiring example for beneficial change in life. The Lord Jesus Christ brings unexpected joy to sinners seeking to repent.

Zacchaeus Sunday has an impact around the world and through the centuries. Zacchaeus Sunday is the Lord Jesus Christ at work through the Church to transform believers.

Zacchaeus Sunday merits serious attention. The present time is important in life. The present is the time of life guaranteed. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is not for certain.

Jesus Christ welcomes sinners today. Today is the day to reject sin. Today is the day to repent. Today is the day to exert the effort to draw closer to Jesus Christ.

Welcoming Jesus Christ into the home today opens the opportunity for great joy.

Zacchaeus Sunday. Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome. Holy Martyr Bablyas of Sicily. January 24/February 6, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic



### MAN OF GOD

Exiled unjustly, convicted without trial, slandered without cause. MAN OF GOD depicts the trials and tribulations of Saint Nektarios of

Aegina, as he bears the unjust hatred of his enemies while preaching the Word of God. View the trailer at:

www.imdb.com/title/tt6060964/

There will be a one-day showing of this movie in Pittsburgh on <u>Monday, March 21 at 7:00 pm.</u> Call the movie theater today to reserve your seat:

Cinemark Monroeville Mall - 1-800-326-3264 600 Monroeville Mall, Monroeville, PA 15146