

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Commemorated on [February 14](#)

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. St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Questions to Ponder:

- *Put yourself in the Gospel scene. Who am I? Zacchaeus? One of the people who wanted to see Jesus? Who murmured against Jesus? Who wants to Harm Jesus?
- *Once you decide which you are ask the question, WHY?

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

Questions to Ponder:

- *Do we Truly live the phrase from the Lord’s Prayer:

1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Epistle)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Luke 19:1-10 (Gospel)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

“forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”?

*Each Evening as we go to sleep, have we forgiven those who have wronged us during the day?

*Are we more like the Pharisee and proud of our piety, or more like the Publican and Constantly ask God for forgiveness of our sins?

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Questions to Ponder:

*Why does Christ our true God, through our Church’s readings, offer this story of the Prodigal Son at this time before the Great Fast?

*Do I appreciate the real meaning of responsible repentance? *What demands will my sincere repentance ask of me, as I observe this Pre-Lenten Sunday?

**MASLENITSA
SLAVIC PANCAKE FESTIVAL**

Where:

St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church
6980 South Country Rd
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

When:

Forgiveness Sunday, March 13 beginning:
11:15 am: Drinks & Refreshments
11:30 Performance
Noon Russian Tea Buffet

We would be delighted to share with you the traditions of Russian Cuisine, Folk Music & Dance, as well as an exhibition of Wooden Folk Toys, and Souvenirs for purchase from our Church Kiosk & the Russian Gift Shop.

Any Donations are appreciated!

More information please contact:

- Fr. Herman: 630-323-3525 or frherman.kincaid@gmail.com
- John Sutko: 708-424-3592
- Olga Metlushko: 630-416-3649 or olga@wowway.com

Flier in Church Basement!

**TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY
PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS
Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy
Association of Greater Chicago**

When: Sunday, March 20, 2016

Time: 6:30 PM

Where:

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
893 Church Road
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Homilist:

His Grace Bishop Paul
Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Responses will be offered by the Pan Orthodox Choir of greater Chicago, Gordana Trbuhovich, Director

Flier in Church Basement!

ALL YOU CAN EAT

**FISH
FRY**

Our Village of Summit Trustee, Sam, has graciously offered to run a *Fish Fry* at his restaurant every Wednesday and Friday from February 12th to April 30th. This is during the Western & Eastern Lenten periods. Sam will donate twenty percent (20%) of all proceeds to our parish.

Sam has been very gracious to St. Panteliemon and us. She is currently attending our Orthodoxy 101 class. I encourage everyone to support him and his business on Valentine's Day or any other time.

Fr. John Udic Continued

Father John will be remembered as a dedicated and charitable priest who was always concerned about the spiritual well-being of his flock, as well as those outside his parish. He was very knowledgeable about the spiritual life and matters concerning the Church. He had a great gift for preaching and teaching in an accessible manner so that all people could understand. He also put much effort into writing articles to teach people about Christ and the Church.

A driving force in the greater Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood, Father John encouraged unity and cooperation among Orthodox jurisdictions, developing many enduring relationships with his brother priests and lay people. He also served as a volunteer police chaplain with the Philadelphia Police Department's Clergy (Chaplain) Program which provides care to members of the police department and their families. He especially valued riding with police officers as they performed their work in the community.

Father John's entire life was devoted to loyally serving Christ and His Church. He had a kind heart and a contagious sense of humor. He was a pastor, teacher, counselor, and mentor to many people, who will miss him immensely.

Father John is survived by three sisters: Rose Udics (Jim Gomes), Arlington, MA; Margaret Kappanadze (Archpriest Jason), Elmira Heights, NY; and Mary Ray (Ron) of Kirtland, Ohio; four nieces and three nephews; one great-niece; and several God-children.

Fr. John was laid to rest this past Friday.