



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule This Week

- Sunday, February 6**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Tuesday, February 8**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, February 9**
6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study
- Thursday, February 10**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, February 12**
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir
5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, February 13**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Zaccheus Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org February 6, 2022

Announcements

➤ **The Orthodox Men's Book Group** will begin a new book for February and March. We will meet each month once. The book is "O God Arise" by Father Andrew Stephen Damick. See Dn Luke Loboda with any questions.

- **Important upcoming dates:**
Feb 13 – Publican and Pharisee (fast free week)
Feb 27 – Meatfare Sunday
Mar 6 – Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday
Monday, Mar 7 – Beginning of Great Lent
Apr 17 – Palm Sunday (*Western Easter*)
Apr 24 – Holy Pascha
Jun 12 – Pentecost

The Sunday of Zacchaeus rings like a bell in the distance to alert us that Great Lent is approaching. Starting this Sunday we are to start preparing, to ready ourselves, to start pondering the coming of Great Lent.

Great Lent is a time of purification, of earnest work, the kind that allows Christ to perform His work in us. Great Lent is to be taken seriously; each person according to his ability is expected to take on the disciplines of Lent so that the interior cleansing we undertake can be met with a greater revelation of Christ to us at the time of His choosing. In order to meet Christ and share our life with His, we first have to do some interior house cleaning. Great Lent offers us the means to do that. We worship more, we pray more, we discipline our bodies more – we make a greater effort to conform our lives to Him in ways that can deepen our communion with Christ and our experience of Him.

Start preparing now by thinking about Great Lent. Then when it comes you will be ready for it.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka, Olga Tryszyn

➤ **Vigil Lights From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; special thanks. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris and Marsh. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family and Many Years to Mary Beth Madalinsky on her birthday. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Caleb. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Fr. Vladimir Soroka and Valentina Barsom. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, Cheryl, John, Gregory, Kayla Elizabeth, and Cindy. From **Susan Sipes Stroehlen and Bobbie Sipes Chapas** for our departed parents, Robert (2/2/02) and Emma (2/1/18).

Thank You

➤ to our February donors, **Bob and Marybeth Madalinsky** (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10).

St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Zaccheus

Questions to ask/review:

- What did Zaccheus do for a living? Do we know another tax collector in the Bible? (Matthew, the disciple)
- Why couldn't Zaccheus see Jesus? What did he do? (he was short, he climbed a tree to see)
- What are some things that money can't buy us in life?
- What did Jesus say to Zaccheus? (come down, today I must stay in your house)
- How did Zaccheus react? (promised to give away his money and repay those he has wronged)
- How did Jesus's visit with Zaccheus probably change him?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture together before bed: Luke 19:1-10.
- Go for a walk and look at trees. Discuss the shapes of trees, their leaves or lack thereof, how they change with the seasons.
- Invite one of your child's friends over for dinner. Ask your child to help prepare the food and plan the menu.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Thank you for caring for us and loving us each day. Amen.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 6

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,//
Who grants us the Resurrection!

Tone 4 Troparion (St Nicholas)

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility, and a teacher of abstinence.
Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to you!
Because of your poverty riches were granted to you!
O holy Bishop Nicholas,
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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

Tone 1 Kontakion (Feast)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb
and didst bless Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love.

Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,//
O only Lover of Man!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Theotokos)

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the Creator,
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos
For you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Timothy 4:9-15)

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.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 19:1-10)

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."

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

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.

This memorable story demonstrates the generosity of our God. To be generous is to give freely and abundantly; it is not to be stingy or reluctant to bless. Zacchaeus did not even have to ask for the love, forgiveness, and mercy of the Lord. All that he did was to climb a tree out of curiosity, but that was enough to begin to open himself to the overwhelming generosity of Christ.