

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905

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SUNDAY, February 14, 2021

36th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Martyr Tryphon (Forefeast of the Meeting of our Lord)

Epistle I Timothy 4, 9-15. Gospel Luke 19:1-10

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, forso much 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)

Zacchaeus Sunday has arrived on the calendar of God's Holy Church. Zacchaeus Sunday signals Great Lent is approaching and the need exists for serious repentance.

Zacchaeus was a rich man who tried to make right his past wrongs. Zacchaeus had compassion on the poor and shared his wealth with the poor. He restored fourfold to those he had taken from falsely,

Zacchaeus was not consumed by greed. He was not so attached to his possessions that he would avoid a close relationship with Jesus Christ. Zacchaeus sensed he needed more in life than acquiring material wealth.

By his behavior and initiative, Zacchaeus showed he valued the Lord Jesus Christ. He exerted great effort to see Jesus. He wanted to draw close to Jesus. Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home.

Each of us is wealthy in ways we may not realize. Zacchaeus teaches us to be compassionate to the poor and to make right our past wrongs. Zacchaeus teaches us to make the effort to draw near to Jesus Christ and to welcome Jesus.

Jesus came to Zacchaeus' home. Jesus will enter our hearts, homes and minds if we do not block him out by our thoughts and behavior. Jesus will bring salvation to our homes if we welcome Him as did Zacchaeus.

The hunger in our souls seeks the authentic joy, love and nourishment found in Jesus Christ. With all of his wealth, Zacchaeus knew that he needed more in life. He turned to Jesus to satisfy the soul's need.

Zacchaeus applied his wealth in useful and compassionate ways to set his life aright. Each believer has the responsibility to use personal wealth to make right past wrongs and to seek peace in Jesus Christ.

The current Gospel challenges our daily personal daily way of life. The Gospel spurs attentive believers to seek growth in Christ. Stagnancy has no place in the Christian life. Prayer and focusing on Christ bring peace and joy,

The Church structures the liturgical year for growth in Christ to take place. Gospel readings enrich the soul and address the hunger of the soul. Individuals separated from Christ are encouraged to return.

Jesus notices initiatives among those seeking Him. Even small efforts bring a response from Jesus. Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus and Jesus acknowledged Zacchaeus' presence,

Jesus visiting Zacchaeus' house has become a lasting lesson for succeeding centuries. Jesus reaches out to the lost. Each person is lost to sin to a certain degree. Only the Lord Jesus Christ is without sin.

Taking strong steps against personal sin is expected with each hearing of the Gospel. Repentance is the expected action expressed by St. John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Mt.3:1-2, Mt. 4:17)

Now is the time to take a strong personal look at the self and determine the personal action necessary to live in ways more pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today is the day to learn from Zacchaeus' example to take corrective steps.

Zacchaeus was blessed to personally experience the Lord Jesus Christ and to have Jesus come to his house. The Epistle to the Hebrews says:

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb.13:8)

Believers taking the initiative to draw closer to Jesus today will not be disappointed. Believers showing compassion to the poor and making the effort to make right past wrongs will find peace with Jesus Christ.

Now is the time to turn the mind to repentance and to seriously seek complete unity with the Lord Jesus Christ. Today is the day to ensure Jesus Christ is welcome in the heart, the mind and the soul.

Each home welcoming Jesus Christ is a home built upon a rock. The Psalmist said:

"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Ps.126/127:1)

Life emanates from the Lord Jesus Christ, is nourished by Christ and is to be lived in Christ. Efforts that do not include Christ are in vain. Zacchaeus teaches the value of repentance and seeking Jesus Christ.

During the remaining time of life, let our lives be united with and immersed in Jesus Christ. Let nothing separate us from Christ. Let only unity with Christ prevail and sin be repelled.

With God's help, may we learn from Zacchaeus to make things right in life. With God's help, may we follow Zacchaeus's example and draw closer to Jesus Christ.

Zacchaeus Sunday. February 114/2021. Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Holy Martyr Tryphon. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Following is a letter written by our Father Dragan to His Grace Bishop Irinej, our St Nicholas Parish and is posted on the Diocese web page:

Faith, hope, and love in the Lord seem to make up for all the shortcomings and heal.

With the blessing and paternal love in Christ, by His Grace Bishop Irinej, I was appointed the new parish priest of St. Nicholas of Myra in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Although I came to this community for the first time, I felt love and welcome, a welcome that exudes Eucharistic love in which we have all known each other in the Lord for a long time, as brothers and sisters and companions of His saving Sacrifice that unites us and makes us the Church! Gathered with an open heart in which their temple is located and all those who approach it with faith, they made me have the impression that it was one big family that was entrusted to me and that hugged me. The experience of the Kingdom of Heaven in which everyone rejoices in each other and greets each other with love.

Also, I must say that nostalgia for the previous priest, Fr. Milan Dragović, but out of love and obedience to the Episcopal blessing, they accepted everything with love and humility, as true faithful children of the Church of Christ, which they are!

Love, welcome, and support at every step that lasts constantly, is really an educational moment where I can be ashamed and from that shame, I learn that I need to give myself even more in the service of God and this wonderful community. Also, I am very grateful to God that I was convinced once again in action how wonderful obedience to the Church of Christ and the Blessing of Her Bishop is, without which the community would not be a community. Life in the Church is life through blessings, with blessings, and in blessings, it is a confirmation of unity that enables the community to survive, for love to multiply, even when it seems difficult to us! Because where there is love, there is also the Church, because Christ is there! Christ is not there where hatred dwells, no matter how great it is, even if it could not be seen. Our freedom in which we live is a blessing of the Church!

On this occasion, I would like to thank His Grace Bishop Irinej and all the faithful children of this parish who showed me love and trust in me and my family! May God grant you many years!

Presbyter Dragan Vukovic

Mnogaja ljeta Father Dragan, Popadija Vladanka and Petar!
With Love from your St Nicholas Parish

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Monday, February 15, Divine Liturgy 8:30 AM
The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Donations Sunday February 7, 2021

Offering - \$787

Candles - \$37.00

Dues - \$150

Building Fund

A Birthday Remembrance for my Tete Donna Koalin Wharton from Sharon Urban - \$100

In Memory of Mother Mildred Tumbas from Milica Knepp - \$25

Bell Tower Fund

In Memory of Cookie & Mitch Saula from Blinne Finnegan and Daniel Ruck - \$50

Donations

In Memory of Mildred Tumbas from Dianna Dunnington - \$100

In appreciation to the members who were thoughtful and kind in attending my father, Harold Gardenhour Sr.'s funeral. From Harold Gardenhour Jr.- \$150

Large Candle

In Memory of Betty Gjurich – Lazo Gjurich

In Memory of Lillian Fleck – Cameron & Linda Palmer

In Memory of Carlos Garcia – Cameron & Linda Palmer

In Memory of Betty Gjurich – Lawrence Bertino

For the Health of Sylvester “Peti” Gjurich – Lawrence Bertino

In Memory of Andrew & Kata Grisin – Suzette & Richard Gardenhour

Please keep the following in your prayers: Linda Palmer, Dragich Banda, Danica Wess, Joanne Uzelec, George Moncilovich, and Irene Martinovich

FISH FRY

Fish Fries will begin Friday, February 19, 2021 and continue every Friday until at least Friday, April 2, 2021 from 3:00 PM to 6:30. Take out Only.

ALL HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

(Please see Richard or Suzette Gardenhour for any information)
