



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Sunday of Zacchaeus

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 4

When the women disciples learned from the angel, the joyous message of Thy Resurrection. They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of Annunciation, Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

Kontakion of Annunciation, Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

The 37th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 4, February 18th, Lu. 19:1-10

The Holy Fathers placed today's commemoration here to prepare us, little by little, for dawning season of Great Lent. Knowing that we are basically slow to exhibit a desire for repentance, the Holy Fathers, by Zacchaeus' example, teach us in these preliminary weeks the need to recognize our sins and our need to turn away from them.

Zacchaeus, the Holy Apostle of Christ, was that earnest and wealthy chief tax-collector appointed by the Romans about whom the divine Apostle and Evangelist Luke speaks in his Gospel (19:1-10). As we learn from this passage of the Holy Gospel, Zacchaeus was very short, and hence, due to the crowds, he could not see our Lord Jesus Christ with his own eyes, as he desired when the Lord was passing through Jericho. He therefore went up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him. The Lord acknowledged this good will of Zacchaeus and his sincere faith, and as He passed by, He called him by name and announced His wish to be guest in his house, saying to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (Luke 19:5).

Zacchaeus accepted this proposal of the Lord with all his soul, and he rushed with joy and received Him in his home and offered Him hospitality with all willingness. It was not only because he believed in Christ with all his soul that he hosted Him with particular willingness, but also because he actively repented for his former sins, and he said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold" (Luke 19:8). True, the Jews could not tolerate this, and "they all murmured, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner"" (Luke 19:7); but the Lord, who knows the hearts of all, saw his disposition and, honoring the power of his repentance, forgave and blessed him and all his house, saying, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham" (Luke 19:9).

Zacchaeus' conversation in this manner offers us two important lessons: first, God's compassion and the signs of sincere and active repentance, and second, the fact that correction of evil as far as one is able is an inseparable proof of sincere repentance. In this manner the good Zacchaeus exceeded the ordinances of the Mosaic Law in his generosity, for which cause he was account-

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee is being sponsored by Luci A. Next week's Coffee Hour will be our monthly potluck.

Church School/Adult Ed— February 25th, at 9AM.

Parish Council— today, after the Divine Liturgy.

Lent— As I have a little space in the Announcements section, please allow me to note that Lent is fast approaching. Next Sunday will be the first of our Lenten, preparatory Sundays. Please be sure to make every effort of mark your calendars for the Services of the first week of Lent: March 18-23. This year, our parish Feast, the Annunciation falls early. The Sunday of the first week of Lent will be the Vigil of Annunciation, at 6. Because it replaces the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers we usually serve in Santa Barbara, several local priests in our clergy brotherhood will join us. Archbishop BENJAMIN will be with us for the celebration of the Feast. LOCK-IN your calendars to be present to honor the Theotokos on our parish feast. The Vigil will be at 6PM, on Sunday the 24th, and the Vespertal Divine Liturgy at 5PM on Monday the 25th, followed by the festal banquet. Please remember to also LOCK-IN Holy Week, April 29th— PASCHA on May 5th. These are such powerful and life-changing services. Some people take the whole week off or work to attend every service— morning and evening. They are never the same, there-after. Jump in, if you are able to do so.

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy**— who are ill. **Jonathan**— ill. **Reposed Barbara Ranjo**. . **Laure**— battling Cancer. **Paul**— ill **Ralph**—ill **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Tsige Roman**—our beloved Tsige reposed on December 3rd. Please keep praying for her homeland of Ethiopia. **Brian**— ill. **Jonathan**— ill. **Katia**— sister of Shkbarra's . **Patrick**, reposed. **Heather Mary**— uncommon fatigue Dr. Joseph— personal needs. **Lance**— special request for prayers. **Christian**—prayers for upcoming surgery. Mike Meko's Mother-in-law, Larissa's newly-reposed husband **Raphael**. Departed **Matushka Priscilla** and **Newly-departed, George**. **Luci F**. recovering from surgery. **Newly- Departed Marylyn**; ill, **Diane**, ill, **Colin**. **John Truman**—lightheadedness and a recent fall. **Daniel** reposed, Tom and Amy, who lost their son. **Nicholas**, the father of a friend. **Rose Marie**— Rachel's mother, cancer. **Barbara H.**— recovering from a fall. **Claude (Moses)**- in need of housing

ed worthy of the Lord's blessing.

After the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of the Lord, it is said that Zacchaeus was a disciple of the divine Apostle Peter, who afterwards ordained him Bishop of Caesarea. His memory is also celebrated on April 20.

The Holy Fathers, knowing the weakness of human nature in our attempts to change from sinful, self-centered life to one of humility and repentance, placed this Gospel lesson before us today to instill in us a desire to repent just as Zacchaeus possessed a desire to behold Christ. Having his example before us, let us now prepare ourselves for the approaching struggles of the Great Lent as we set out on our journey to behold Christ's Life-giving Resurrection.

(Synaxarion for the Sunday of Zacchaeus, taken from the internet)

From the Lives of the Saints...

SAINT LEO I, POPE OF ROME

Leo was born in Italy of devout parents. He first served as archdeacon under Pope Sixtus III, and following the death of Sixtus he was elevated against his will to the throne of the Pope of Rome. When Attila, with his Huns, drew near to Rome and was prepared to destroy and burn the city, Leo came out before him in his episcopal vestments. He subdued the wrath of the leader of the Huns and averted the destruction of Rome. Attila allowed himself to be counseled by this holy man, but was also frightened by a vision of the Apostles Peter and Paul, who stood alongside Leo and threatened him with flaming swords. Not only did St. Leo save Rome, but he also contributed much to save Orthodoxy from the heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus. This heresy consisted in the merging of the divine and human natures of Christ into one and, consequently, the denial of the two wills in the person of the Lord Savior. Because of this, the Fourth Ecumenical Council [Chalcedon, 451 A.D.] was convened, at which time the epistle of St. Leo was read. St. Leo had written this epistle and placed it on the tomb of St. Peter, who corrected it. Before his death, Leo spent forty days in fasting and prayer at the tomb of St. Peter, beseeching him to tell him whether his sins were forgiven. The Apostle Peter appeared to him and said that all of his sins were forgiven except sins committed in the ordination of priests (whence it is evident how grave a sin it is to ordain one who is unworthy). The saint again fell to prayer until he was told that even those sins were forgiven. He peacefully gave up his soul to the Lord. St. Leo reposed in the year 461 A.D.

SAINT FLAVIAN

Flavian became Patriarch of Constantinople following St. Proclus. He was a contemporary of Pope Leo. He fought resolutely against Eutyches and Dioscorus, but did not live to see the triumph of Orthodoxy at the Fourth Ecumenical Council, for, prior to that, he was so mercilessly beaten and trampled upon at a heretical council in Ephesus that he died there. Flavian was a faithful soldier of Christ—a courageous defender and confessor of the Orthodox Faith. He reposed in the year 449 A.D.

Taken from the Prologue of Ochrid, Compiled and written by St. Nikolai Velimirovic

“There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives” (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)