

:: Zacchaeus Sunday and the Most Basic Premise of Spiritual Life ::

Igumen Sergius Bowyer, St. Tikhon's Monastery, S. Canaan, PA

“The rich, formerly corrupt business man, Zacchaeus, in his desire to behold and see Christ, climbed a tall sycamore tree (which is one of the tallest kinds of trees in that area.) He undoubtedly was in his fine business clothing, and thus caused quite a spectacle, heaping upon himself quite a bit of shame and humiliation in the process. And yet, it was precisely this willingness to endure shame and humiliation for the sake of Christ that attracted the Lord’s attention and put him in the way of the Lord. This encounter with Christ enacted a change within Zacchaeus’ heart that caused him to gladly restore all the riches that he had taken/stolen.

“If we ourselves desire to have a change in our lives, from a self-centered one to Christ-centered one, and to change from the slavery of sin and death to that of becoming true, shining, servants of God, we must constantly ask ourselves: Do we desire to see Christ? Do we really want to see and be with the Risen Lord at the end of Lent, on that Great and Glorious day of Pascha? (It is not by mistake that on the night of Pascha, and indeed, every Sunday we sing “Having BEHELD the Resurrection Christ,” or some translations, because we have beheld.) If we really are serious about seeing Christ, whether its fulfillment is found in this world or the next, we must also expect and be willing to suffer the shame, humiliation, and temptation that will inevitably follow it which is the way of the Cross, the way of Christ. The Book of Sirach in the Old Testament tells each of us plainly that “if you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation...For as gold is tested in the fire, so acceptable servants of God are tested in the furnace of humiliation.”

Do you have an announcement for our bulletin? Please call or email Fr. Andrew no later than Friday each week for anything to be included in Sunday's bulletin.



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of Spring Valley**

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Sunday, January 31, 2016

Holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John

Matins: 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM

Epistle Reader: Matthew Rowan

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: POTLUCK and Annual Meeting

Next Sunday's Coffee Hour: Dee Khoury (Memorial for Paul Khoury)

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou, O Immortal Life, didst humble Thyself unto death, then Thou didst destroy death by the brightness of Thy Godhead. And when Thou didst raise the bowels of the earth, then all the heavenly powers exclaimed: ‘O Christ, Thou art the giver of life! Glory to Thee, O our God!’

Troparion for Sts. Cyrus and John (Tone 5): Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs, Cyrus and John, as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind.

Troparion of St. George the Great Martyr (Tone 4): Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion for the Presentation (Tone 1): Thou, O Christ God, who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon’s arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org

THE EPISTLE

For the Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord will give strength unto His people.

Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord glory and honor!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's First Epistle to Timothy (4:9-15)

My Child Timothy, faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on 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 those who believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. Till I come, give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the priests. Meditate on these things; give yourself wholly to them; that your progress may be manifest to all.

THE GOSPEL

For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Birthdays and Anniversaries this Week:

Wayne Sanders, Jan. 31

Wayne and Genie Sanders, Feb. 5

Are we forgetting anyone? Please let Fr. Andrew know.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org.

This week's events and services:

- **Today:** Potluck lunch and Annual Meeting, downstairs after Liturgy. *Sunday school will take place UPSTAIRS in the church during the meeting.*
- **Tuesday, Feb. 2: Feast of the Presentation of our Lord.** Divine Liturgy at 10am.
- **Saturday, Feb. 6:** Vespers, 6:00 pm.
- **Next Sunday, Feb. 7:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap. Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Dee Khoury.

Looking ahead:

- **Monday, March 14:** First day of Great Lent.
- **Sunday, May 1:** Pascha Sunday.

Our church's Annual Meeting is today after Liturgy. All current members of St. George Church should make every effort to attend!

Thank you for all of your donations to St. George Church in 2015! If you would like a statement of your giving for tax purposes or for your own personal records, please contact our treasurer Anysia Medawar. She will be happy to provide this information for you.

House blessings have begun! Please contact Fr. Andrew to set up a date and time to have your home and/or workplace blessed with the Theophany Holy Water. *Please know it is not necessary to invite Fr. Andrew's entire family, or to provide a meal. All you need to have ready is a place to pray in front of an icon, and a list of living and departed for Fr. Andrew to remember in prayer.* Talk to Father if you have any additional questions.

The 2016 Holy Bread and Coffee Hour schedule is now posted on the ladies' bulletin board downstairs. Please look over your assigned dates, and let Fr. Andrew know if any changes need to be made. Many thanks for all of your service!