

PARISH NEWS - January 26th, 2020

Zacchaeus Sunday - Неділя Закхея

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS / ПРОСИМ О МОЛИТВУ ЗА ЗДОРОВ'Я

... all our parishioners who are in the hospitals, care homes, shut-ins and those who are not able to join us actively due to health reasons. Remember, if you would like a hospital or home visit, please call the parish office and let us know. Due to privacy laws, all requests must come from the individual or the immediate family.

Divine Liturgy:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. (Eng. & Ukr)

Weekdays: Please see Divine Liturgy Intention Schedule

Your Return Gift to God:

Last Sunday's Offering: \$745.00 (22 envelopes)

Jordan Dinner donations \$632.00 - \$189.66 (expenses) = \$442.34

Thank You for Your Generosity! Щиро Вам Дякуємо!

~ Parish and Community Announcement ~

Fr. Bohdan Winnicki will be away on Sunday February 2nd

Fr. Eugene Halitsky from Windsor will celebrate Divine Liturgy.

In case of emergencies please contact Fr. Bohdan directly at 416-419-1097.

SAVE THE DATE - 4TH ANNUAL KofC Spring Dinner Dance

Fundraiser for Coats for Kids, St Vincent de Paul and other charities. 7 pm - Sat, 25 April 2020 - Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall. Semi-Formal, 5-course sit down dinner by the Giresis. DJ, Cash bar, Dancing, 50-50, Photo Booth, Gift Baskets and more. Details to follow.

It seems that we just celebrated Christmas and here we are, talking about Great Lent again. And as every year we remind you that Great Lent is not only a preparation for the Feast of Easter but a time of rebirth. It is a time for self-examination, a time for prayer, a time for more frequent church attendance and a time for fasting. Lent is a spiritual journey and Easter is the destination. It is a journey that each of us must take if we are to celebrate Easter as it is supposed to be celebrated. **There are five Sundays that prepare us for Great Lent, the first of which is Zacchaeus Sunday, which we celebrate today. This Year the Great Lent begins on Monday 24th.** Strict abstinence from meat and dairy products on the 1st day of the Great Fast (Lent) and on Good Friday. No arranging or partaking in public events that have music and dancing.

Lenten Memorial Services will begin on Friday, February 28th, at 6:00 p.m.

Please give Fr. Bohdan the names of those whom you wish to remember in these services.

Сорокоусти - відправи за померлих членів наших родин відправлятимуться у кожну п'ятницю Великого Посту починаючи із п'ятниці 28-го лютого. Просимо подати імена членів родин, щоб виголосити їх в часі сорокоустих відправ.

Word & Wisdom

Reflect, upon Zacchaeus and see yourself in his person. You, too, are a sinner. But God's compassion is far more powerful than any sin. Let His loving forgiveness and acceptance of you overshadow any guilt you may feel. And allow the gift of His mercy to produce mercy and compassion in your own life for others.

Learn to differentiate between the important and the non-essential.

Higher education is not an indicator of wisdom. Beautiful words are not an indicator of love.

A beautiful appearance is not an indicator of a good person.

Learn to value a soul, and to believe in actions.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Luke 19: 1-10

What would you do if Jesus knocked on your door and said, "I must stay at your house today"? Would you be excited or embarrassed? Jesus often "dropped-in" at unexpected times and he often visited the "uninvited" -the poor, the lame, even public sinners like Zacchaeus, the tax collector! Tax collectors were despised and treated as outcasts, because they accumulated great wealth at the expense of others. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and was much hated by all the people. Why would Jesus single him out for the honor of staying at his home? Zacchaeus needed God's merciful love and in his encounter with Jesus he found more than he imagined possible. He shows the depth of his repentance by deciding to give half of his goods to the poor and to use the other half for making restitution for fraud. Zacchaeus' testimony included more than words. His change of heart resulted in a change of life, a change that the whole community could experience as genuine. The Lord is always ready to make his home with us. Do you make room for him in your heart and in your home?

REFLECTION: "Lord, come and stay with me. Fill my home with your presence and fill my heart with Your praise. Help me to show kindness and mercy to all, even those who cause me harm."

Visiting our Parish? Just stepped in? Checking us out? Came with friends or family? That's great! We are happy to have you with us today! Listen, if you have questions or need help or just want to know more about us or want to join us formally just ask the person beside you and/or speak with our Pastor, Fr. Bohdan and/or contact the Parish Office. 519-542-9903.

The End of the Christmas Season

The Christmas cycle of feast days concludes with the feast of the [Presentation of our Lord on Feb. 2nd](#), the fortieth day after the Nativity of Christ. The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter. "In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. **Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing of candles on this day.**

"In the garden of God's mercy, even a broken tree can bear fruit."

(Richard Dwayne)

There is a young American in Kenya who has a tattoo on her arm of a large broken tree with fruit on its branches. There is a sign under the drawing that reads, "Even a broken tree can bear fruit." When she was 17 years old, she went to Kenya to do missionary work, helping African children. Her church funded this mission and she worked hard. As time went by, she fell in love with a local driver who never married her and left her with a child. When the church found out that she acted against the moral tenets of the church, they disowned her and stopped funding the mission. Despite this, the girl decided to continue her work. What is she doing now? She, the broken tree, tends to the needs of invalid children. A sick child in Africa is often considered to be a curse, and these children are often taken to the woods and left there to die. She collects these children and saves them. "The stone that the construction workers rejected became part of a cornerstone." People renounced her, yet she picked herself up and plowed ahead. She found a pastor who helps her financially, and today her mission oversees over 120 invalid children suffering from Cerebral Palsy, over 30 mothers, and a school. The mission is alive and thriving. Anyone can make a mistake, and there are no people without sin. We are all broken trees. But even a broken tree can bear fruit... *(from the magazine Dyven Svit)*

Sunday, January 26, 2020

32nd Sunday after Pentecost - Sunday of Zacchaeus Our Venerable Father Xenophon and his wife Maria

Troparion, Tone 8: You came down from on high, O Merciful One,* and accepted three days of burial* to free us from our sufferings.* O Lord, our life and our resurrection,* glory be to You. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 8: When You rose from the tomb,* You also raised the dead and resurrected Adam.* Eve exults in Your resurrection,* and the ends of the world celebrate Your rising from the dead,* O most merciful One. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 8: To you, O Mother of God,* the invincible leader,* we, your servants, ascribe these victory hymns* in thanksgiving for our deliverance from evil.* With your invincible power free us from all dangers* that we may cry out to you:* "Hail, O bride, and pure Virgin!"

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

Pray and give thanks to the Lord our God.

verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. *(Psalm 75:12,2)*

Epistle - 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Timothy, my son, 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.

Alleluia, Tone 8

verse: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Saviour.

verse: Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms. *(Psalm 94:1,2)*

Gospel - Luke 19:1-10

At that time, *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

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. *(Psalm 148:1)*

Divine Liturgies this week:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>INTENTION</i>	<i>OFFERED BY</i>
Monday, January 27 th	9:00 AM	+Emilia Lajoie	Emilienne Phillion
Wednesday, January 29 th	9:00 AM	+ Charles Foster	Emilienne Phillion
Sunday, February 2 nd	9:30 AM	For our parishioners	Fr. Eugene Halitsky

Our Lord will never tell you "I am busy!"