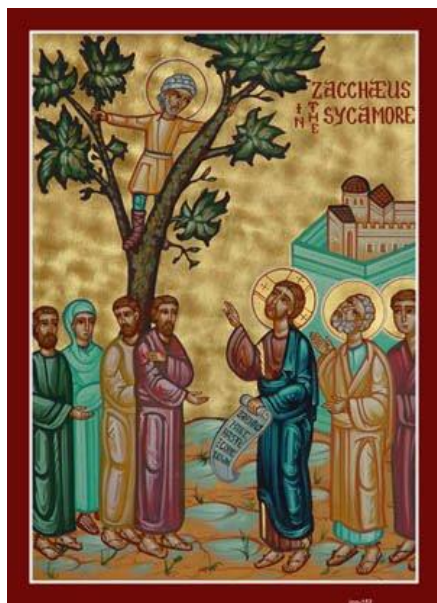


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Zacchaeus Sunday

Venerable Auxentius of Bithynia

36th Sunday After Pentecost

February 14th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10

A warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

***Compline/Adult Ed. (Bible Study/St. Mark) – Wednesday, Feb 17th @ 6pm**

***Great Vespers – Saturday, Feb 20th @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Feb 21st @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)
Fellowship After in the Hall**

***THANK YOU to Barbara Linnehan (and Mark) for being with us this weekend, and for helping with our Choir!**

***Parish Council Meeting this Thursday Feb 18th @ 5:30pm**

***If you would like to have your home blessed, please see Fr. Seraphim to setup a day and time.**

Our Giving – January 7th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,169.00

Candle Offerings – \$89.00

Love Offerings - \$21.10

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer [i.e., *Prayers Before Communion*], recent confession, and who were at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. *We should all be at peace with each other too.* If you have any questions about this, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

“...awareness of sin is a result of love and humility, while unawareness is a result of pride and hardness of heart.”

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov
The Arena p.89

The Sunday of Zaccheus

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.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/02/14/1-sunday-of-zacchaeus>

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

His Beatitude, Met. Jonah, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Presbytera Eva (Koutroulelis), Mary (Federoff) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Newly Illumined Child Lucille Ruth Crews, & the Newly Illumined Servant Ephraim Heller

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

His Beatitude, Met. Philaret of Minsk (+1/12), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (+1/20), Proto-Pres. Daniel Hubiak (+2/5), Archimandrite Alexander Cutler (+1/26), Archpriest Joseph Gibson (+1/20), Protodeacon John Eby (+2/3)