

## Sunday of Zacchaeus

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 has come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: “Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy.”

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.

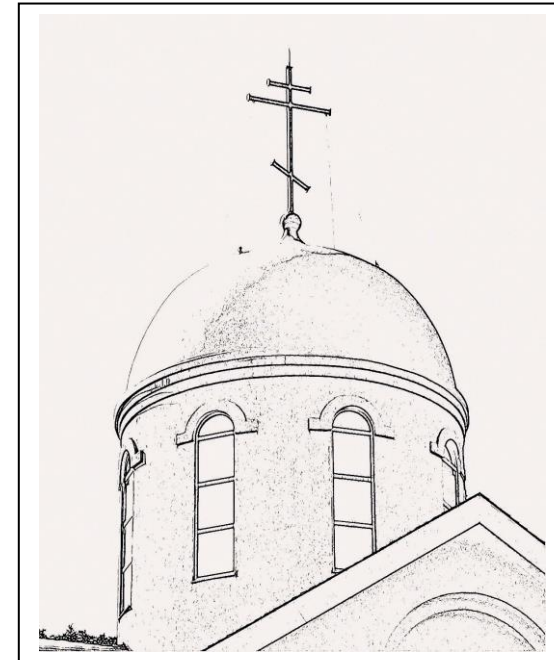
Saint Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

### **The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple**

Today the holy Mother who is even more exalted than the Temple,  
has come into the Temple,  
clearly showing to the world the Creator of the world and the Giver of the Law.  
Simeon the Elder receives Him in his arms and honors Him, crying out:  
“Now let Thy servant depart in peace,  
for I have seen Thee, the Savior of our souls!”

*Litya Verse from Great Vespers*

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

*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!*

*Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos*

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Christian Gamboa, *Choir Director*

February 2, 2025

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Tone 7. Sunday of Zacchaeus. The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple.

#### Today's Readings:

*Epistle:* 1 Timothy 4:9-15 and Hebrews 7:7-17

*Gospel:* Luke 19:1-10 and Luke 2:22-40

#### Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy w. *Blessing of Candles*

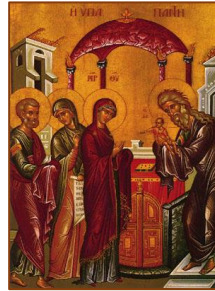
Saturday – 6:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

#### Next Sunday's Readings:

*Epistle:* 2 Timothy 3:10-15 and Hebrews 7:7-17

*Gospel:* Luke 18:10-14 and Luke 2:22-40



*The Meeting of Our Lord  
in the Temple*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org), diocesan news by visiting [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org), and parish news by visiting [www.occa-brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org).

***Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!***

### Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted.

Among them are **Fr. Paul Kucynda, Brian Price, Victorianne Vessio, Mary Herelick, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Alan Diaz, Ellen Norman, Maryann Sivilic, Lia Eickhorn, Jack Rinderer, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy. **The reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

## Annunciations

**TODAY** – We welcome all our guests visiting us today. Please join us for the **COFFEE HOUR** in the Parish Hall after we venerate the Cross. **Team #2** is in charge of today's Coffee Hour.

**TODAY** – **Church School** will be held during Coffee Hour.

**TODAY** is the Great Feast of the **Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple**. Everyone is invited to **bring candles** to church to be blessed. Candles will be blessed at the end of Divine Liturgy.

**TODAY** – The **parish calendar for February** has been published and is available at our parish website ([www.orthodoxbrick.org](http://www.orthodoxbrick.org)).

**THIS SUNDAY** – The **Parish Annual Meeting** will be held after Divine Liturgy. All parishioners are strongly encouraged to participate in the meeting. Please plan accordingly. **Reports for the meeting** are being sent out electronically. A limited number of **paper reports** will be available at the meeting. Kindly **print** the reports at home and bring them to the meeting.

**Many thanks to Father Bohdan Chaikivskyi** for serving the Divine services in Father Gary's absence.

**Houseblessings** have resumed. All parishioners are encouraged to have their homes blessed. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Appointments may also be made by contacting Father Gary.

**Memory Eternal!** With deep sorrow and in the hope of the Resurrection, the Orthodox Church in America joins the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania and the entire Orthodox world in mourning the falling asleep of **His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios** of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania, who reposed in the Lord on January 25, 2025, at the age of 95.

Please continue to use the **clothing bin** located in the church parking lot. A list of items that can be donated is located on the whiteboard in the Parish Hall. Each donation helps the parish financially. Many thanks for your participation.

### ***MANY YEARS***

#### ***Birthdays this week:***

*Today* – Larisa Paxton

*Monday* – Michael Ginty

*Tuesday* – Eileen Zamerovsky

*Tuesday* – Jonathan Buchala

*The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Donations to the program are down significantly this year compared to years past. Please consider participating in the program. More information is available at the diocesan website at [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org).*