

Sunday 18th of February 2024

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Kontakion – Tone 3

You were the Church's instrument / in strengthening the teaching of true doctrine; / you shone forth from the West like a sun dispelling the errors of the heretics. / Righteous Leo, entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Lanie, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and irene.

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

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THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

February 18th, 2024

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.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 17th of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 18th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 24th of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 25th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

After brief coffee hour

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation, and ask any questions you may have.

Prayer Requested for Archbishop Nathaniel

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America accepted His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel's request for medical leave. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has appointed His Grace Bishop Andrei as the administrator of the Romanian Episcopate for the duration of His Eminence's recovery. For more information, please follow the link: [Prayers Requested for Archbishop Nathaniel - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](http://OCA.org)

Call for a Prayer

The Rev. Father Gregory White is recovering from a heart attack. He is in great spirits and improving by day. Matushka Kathy is also struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your prayers. Matushka Katherine White wants everyone at Holy Spirit to know they are very grateful for their prayers.

Good News

Elizaveta Rudneva and Robert Ruther Ford recently joined our church. Let us extend a warm welcome to them and take a moment to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Again, welcome and our blessings Liza and Rob.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On February 25th of 2024, after a brief coffee hour, we will have our Annual Parish Meeting. At this meeting, we will vote for acceptance of the Budget Proposal for 2024. We will also reflect on Parish life throughout the year 2023. We will remember all the achievements of our Parish as well as point out all our shortcomings that hopefully, we will address during 2024. Parish Annual Meeting is the congregational event and as such we are all expected to be present.

Blessing of Homes and Blessed Water

If you would like your home to be blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Father Michael at pejovicveljko@gmail.com, Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and baby diapers (size newborn to 6-month-old).

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com