



MP.



OX.



Rejoice

MARY,

full of grace,

The Lord

is with you,

Blessed are you

among Women.

Luke 1:28



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

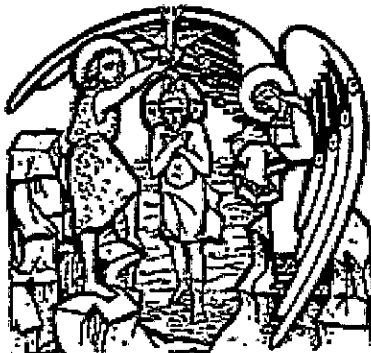
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Theophany



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HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM – If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

EMERGENCY CALLS – Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS – Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE – Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

January 25, 2026
Volume 62: Number 04
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of January 25 – February 1, 2026

Sunday, January 25 – Sunday after Theophany - Sunday of Zacchaeus - Tone 8

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM – Prayers Preparation for Holy Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhya: +Vasilij Bazinovs (15 yrs.) – M/M Anatolij Bazinovs

Coffee Hour

Thursday, January 29 – Precious Chains of the Apostle Peter

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Saturday, January 31

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy – Names Day, Birthday and Enthronement of His Eminence,
Metropolitan Antony – St. Andrew Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, NJ

Sunday, February 1 – Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee - Tone 1

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM – Prayers Preparation for Holy Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhya: +Archimandrite Anastasij and Father John Udics (10 Yrs)

Souper Bowl Sunday – Annual Meeting

SCRIPTURE READINGS

33 Sunday – Sunday after Theophany – Sunday Zacchaeus – Matins: John 21:15-25;
Theophany – Ephesians 4:7-13; Matthew 4:12-17; Zacchaeus – 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Luke
19:1-10

Monday – 1 Peter 2:21-3:9; Mark 12:13-17

Tuesday – 1 Peter 3:10-22; Mark 12:18-27

Wednesday – 1 Peter 4:1-11; Mark 12:28-37

Thursday – Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Apostle Peter – Acts of the Apostles
12:1-11; John 21:15-25; Day: 1 Peter 4:12-5:5; Mark 12:38-44

Friday – Venerable Antony the Great – Matins: Matthew 11:27-30; Liturgy: Hebrews
13:17-21; Luke 6:17-23; Day: 1 Peter 1:1-10; Mark 13:1-8

Saturday – 1 Timothy 2:11-19; Luke 18:2-8

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee – Matins: Matthew 28:16-20; Liturgy: 2 Timothy
3:10-15; Luke 18:10-14

" PREPARATION FOR LENT

1. THE DESIRE : SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Long before the actual beginning of Lent, the church announces its approach and invites us to enter into the period of pre-Lenten preparation. It is a characteristic feature of the Orthodox liturgical tradition that every major feast or season - Easter, Christmas, Lent, etc. - is announced and "prepared" in advance. Why? Because of the deep psychological insight by the Church into human nature. Knowing our lack of concentration and the frightening "worldliness" of our life, the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state to another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invites us to meditate on its significance. Before we can "practice" Lent we are given its "meaning". This preparation includes five consecutive Sundays preceding Lent, each one of them - through its particular Gospel lesson - dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance.



The very announcement of Lent is made the Sunday on which the Gospel lesson about Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) is read. It is the story of a man who was too short to see Jesus but who **DESIRED** so much to see Him that he climbed up a tree. Jesus responded to his desire and went to his house. Thus the theme of this first announcement is **DESIRE**. Man follows his desire. One can even say that man **IS** desire, and this fundamental psychological truth about human nature is acknowledged by the Gospel: "Where your treasure is," says Christ, "there will your heart be." A strong desire overcomes the natural limitations of man; when he passionately desires something he does things of which "normally" he is incapable. Being "short", he overcomes and transcends himself. The only question, therefore, is whether we desire the right things, whether the power of desire in us is aimed at the right goal, or whether - in the words of the existentialist atheist, Jean Paul Sartre - man is a "useless passion".

Zacchaeus desired the "right thing"; he wanted to see and approach Christ. He is the first symbol of repentance, for repentance begins as the rediscovery of the deep nature of all desire: the desire for God and His righteousness, for the true life. Zacchaeus is "short" - petty, sinful and limited - yet his desire overcomes all of this. It "forces" Christ's attention; it brings Christ to his home. Such, then, is the

first announcement, the first invitation: ours is to **DESIRE** that which is deepest and truest in ourselves, to acknowledge the thirst and hunger for the Absolute which is in us whether we know it or not, and which, when we deviate from it and turn our desires away, makes us indeed a "useless passion". And if we desire deeply enough, strongly enough, Christ will respond.

The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle, Peter The details of this feast are present in the 12th chapter of the Acts of the Holy Apostles. The first serious persecution of Christians began under King Herod Agrippa. He had St. James the Apostle killed by sword and Peter imprisoned. St. Peter was behind bars, put in iron fetters and guarded by 16 soldiers. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out to kill him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. An angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." The chains fell off his hands. The angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals. Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." Peter did as he was told went out and followed him. He did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and told that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are mad." But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel!" But Peter continued knocking; and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell this to James and to the brethren." Then he departed and went to another place.

The chains were carefully preserved by the early Christians and have been preserved from the fourth century in Rome and in Constantinople. Small filings from the chains have been distributed to holy places throughout the world and are venerated as precious relics which had healing powers.

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



Once again, we are asked by our Church to prepare ourselves to make a journey. The actual trip will begin four weeks from tomorrow. We call this journey "The Great Fast". If we take this expedition of our soul seriously, we shall find that when we reach our destination; the week of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we shall feel closer to Him than we did before Great Lent began. This is the purpose of this adventure: to get to know the Lord a

little better and to understand a little more that "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-15).

Most people who have a problem with Great Lent complain that it begins too quickly and that before they are prepared to start it, they have already failed in fasting and prayer. The solution to that problem is quite simple. As with any major undertaking in our life, we have a need to get ready, to prepare for the long haul. And so the Church helps us by giving us a few weeks before the Fast to get our hearts, our minds and our souls focused on where we are to go during the Fast. The first thing that we need to prepare for Lent we learn from Zacchaeus: we must desire to see Christ and become closer to Him in our lives.

Have you ever tried to picture the scene in today's Gospel? Zacchaeus is a rich man who would have held at least the same status of a director of a bank in a small town. Zacchaeus was wealthy in material goods but yet had an empty spot in his soul. He decides that he wants to see Jesus. In spite of living a life against his own religion and a life perhaps even unworthy of him as a man, he still had a yearning to search out that which is true, that which is good.

In his passionate desire to see Jesus, Zacchaeus meets with two obstacles. First, he must catch the eye of Jesus. This will be no easy task since he was a very short man. Surely he would be hidden by the throng of the crowds. Secondly, if he openly seeks Jesus, he will be criticized by his fellow men.

What should he do? He makes the decision. He will climb a sycamore tree. Can you imagine a director of the bank in which you do business climbing a tree in order to see a passing preacher? He was whistled at, laughed at, jeered at, mocked and then it got ugly! Zacchaeus did not care. His mind was made up. He was going to see Jesus. This was the most important thing in his life.

Let us ask ourselves, what would we have done if we were in the position of Zacchaeus? Would our desire to see Jesus, to be with Jesus have been so great that we would have tried to overcome any obstacle that stopped us from doing so, even at the expense of being a laughing-stock to our friends and neighbors?

Being afraid of ridicule is probably what stops most people from building a closer relationship with God. The Fathers of the Church tell us that it is not often the attraction of evil nor the opposition that we encounter that prevents us from starting a new life - it is the fear of being ridiculed - to be laughed at that stops us.

There are only two possible choices for overcoming this vanity to public opinion: pride or humility. There is no third choice. The person who is vain becomes the slave of others. The conscience becomes silent before the voice of the crowd. God's laws are out - the will of the people is "in". The choice to give into peer pressure becomes even more foolish in the respect that the very people whose opinion we hang onto are usually the very people whom we do not even respect. But we are "small men" and would rather not work at trying to lift ourselves up and out of the hole that we dug for ourselves. It's easier to stay with the crowd.

Zacchaeus was different. In all humility he sat in that tree and waited for the coming of the Lord. What happens next is a total reversal of the plot. We saw that it was Zacchaeus who desired to see Jesus. But now, who finds whom? It is the Christ who finds Zacchaeus. As He approaches, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, finds His faithful servant prepared and waiting for Him. "Zacchaeus, come down, for today I must stay in your house," (Luke 19:15) Jesus says. What a beautiful picture! The seeker becomes the one sought after.

There is another reversal as well. Our old adage of being "up a tree", meaning that we are in trouble is now turned on its ear. For here was Zacchaeus, up a tree, but not in trouble: he is saved.

Let us begin our preparation for the Great Fast in all earnestness and seriousness. Let us stop deluding ourselves into thinking that we are the best that we can be and therefore have no room for improvement. Let us imitate Zacchaeus and let us desire to see Jesus with all our heart, all our mind, and all our strength. Let us put all other things aside as we prepare. Let us place God first in our minds, in our hearts and in our souls. Then we shall truly have begun our preparation for the Great Fast.

LOST AND FOUND

Today is the Sunday of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was, as we know, one of the last to convert before Jesus ascended the Cross (The penitent thief who was crucified with Jesus was the final convert).

Zacchaeus said to himself that it was curiosity that drew him to Christ. There was something better that must have been stirring within him; possibly, Zacchaeus may have been afraid to acknowledge this within himself. The fame of Jesus as a friend of Publicans had probably reached Zacchaeus and touched him. There is no other instance where Jesus volunteered His company by inviting Himself to Zacchaeus' house. Christ never goes where He is not wanted, nor does He stay away from where He is wanted.

This voluntary association with the outcast Zacchaeus is a symbol of Christ's whole work. The desire to save Zacchaeus coupled with His willingness to be identified with sinners) which led Him into the house of the shunned Zacchaeus) led our Lord from Glory to earth and caused Him to "dwell among us".

Zacchaeus comes down from the tree as fast as he can and is happy for He has found the Savior. Christ is glad for He has found a sinner whom He will make a Saint. The experience of Christ's love convinces Zacchaeus far more than any threat. The touch of love melts him as a warm hand laid upon the snow.

His so-called curiosity is changed into a higher feeling. The change shows itself in the new kind of life that he proposes to lead. It is Jesus Who chooses Zacchaeus. Jesus, the searcher of souls, knew that this particular soul was ripe and ready. And so, Jesus calls Zacchaeus down from the tree and invites Himself as a guest in his house: "I must stay at your house today". He needs only to see a soul willing to be changed. He seeks only a loving response from people when He offers to live with them

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PYROHY & FOOD SCHEDULE FOR THE BAZAAR

Saturday, February 14

Saturday, February 28

Saturday, March 14

Making Holubtsi – Saturday, March 21

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

January 25 - Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

February 1 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

February 8 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

February 15 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik

February 22 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik

March 1 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026

Sunday, February 1 – Annual Meeting

Thursday February 5 – Saturday, February 7 – Boy Scouts

Monday, February 23 – 1st Day of the Great Fast

Saturday, March 28 – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 12 – Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 19 – St. Thomas Sunday – Visiting Cemeteries

Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost

Monday, June 8 – Apostle' Fast

Sunday, July 12 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul – Patronal Dinner

Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar

Saturday, November 28 – St. Philip Fast

Sunday, December 20 – UOL Cookie Sale

BREADS FOR SALE – All of our frozen breads are available for \$5. See Kathy Duncan if you are interested.

100th ANNIVRSARY – will be held on Saturday, July 17th with a 10:00 AM – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with a Banquet at the Claymont Ballroom. Mark your calendars! Our first fund Raiser for the event is the sale of T-shirts (\$10) polo shirts (\$15) and sweat shirts (\$20) with the Anniversary Logo on them thanks to the art and stitching work of Michael Kapelus.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 25 - Sandy Cramer

February 1 - Sonya Patronik

February 8 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

February 15 – David and Eve Lazaration

February 22 - Kathy and Michael Chalfont

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 25 - Jean Roeth
February 1 - Thomas Scholz
February 8 - Andrew Duncan
February 15 - John Plachuta
February 22 - Thomas Sulpizi
March 1 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
March 8 - Linda Hnatow

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

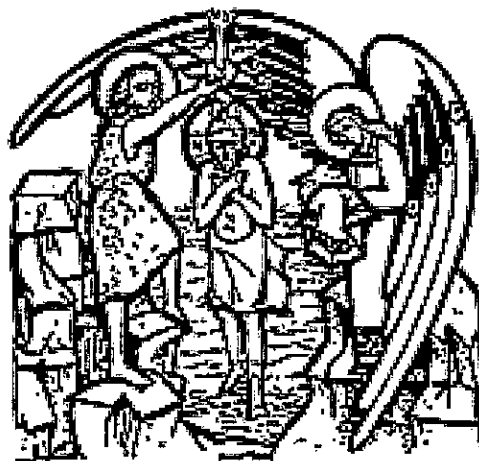
Week of January 26 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus
Week of February 2 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of February 9 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly
Week of February 16 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of February 23 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of March 1 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

MEETINGS

Annual Meeting - Sunday, February 1

Parish Board - Wednesday, February 11 @ 6:30 PM

Theophany



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan

Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father James Weremedic, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pani Matka Maryann Ozlanski, Jonathan Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Joyce Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Taylor Davis, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Rose Eldridge, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farell, Kandi Fullerton, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Serhii Ivashyna, Violet Jaskolka, Stephen Johnson, Bill Jones, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Tommy Knight, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Francis Lano, Ed Lavender, Ron Lazaration, Joan Libera, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Michelle Michalcewiz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Rick Orner, Sienna Ozboya, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Janilyn Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Chuck Redden, Patricia Redden, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Richard Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Alexandra Sparco, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook

IN PRAISE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Mary, Mother of God, we salute you. Precious vessel, worthy of the whole world's reverence, you are an ever-shining light, the crown of virginity, the symbol of orthodoxy, an indestructible temple, the place that held Him whom no place can contain, mother and virgin. Because of you, the holy gospels could say: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

We salute you, for in your holy womb He, who is beyond all limitation, was confined. Because of you, the Holy Trinity is glorified and adored; the cross is called precious and is venerated throughout the world; the heavens exult; the angels and archangels make merry; demons are put to flight; the devil, that tempter, is thrust down from heaven; the fallen race of man is taken up on high; all creatures possessed by the madness of idolatry have attained knowledge of the truth; believers receive Holy Baptism; the oil of gladness is poured out; the Church is established throughout the world; pagans are brought to repentance.

What more is there to say? Because of you, the light of the only begotten Son of God has shone upon those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death; prophets pronounced the word of God; the apostles preached salvation to the Gentiles; the dead are raised to life, and kings rule by the power of the Holy Trinity.

From a Homily delivered by

St. Cyril of Alexandria

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin

Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey

Litho in U.S.A.