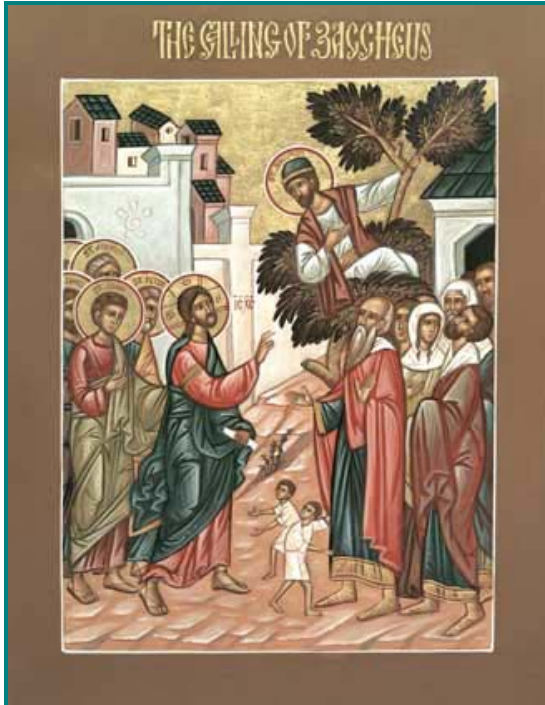


**SS. Cyril & Methodius
Bulgarian Orthodox Mission**

www.bocdc.org



ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

Preparation for Great Lent begins today
Great Lent begins: February 15

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Our services are held at:
St. Luke Orthodox Church
6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101

His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH
The Very Reverend Timothy Perry
Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of Washington

www.oca.org

Theophany

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.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

† May Their Memory Be Eternal †

The newly departed servant, the Archbishop JOB,
the Archbishop GREGORY;
the Priests Peter, Ishmael, Leo, Homer, Victor, and Thomas;
the Matushki Mary, Platonida, Sophronia, and Barbara;
the Readers John, Philemon, John, and Robert Michael; and
the servants of God Magdalena, Alexander, Sophia, Shafik, Michael, Steven, Christo, Radka, Anna, Dale, Mary, Carmel, Thomas, Vasili, Mary Ellen, Andrew, Irene, Stamatia, Peter, Steven, Olivera, George, Marianthe, Panaigiotti, Christophor, George, Rada, Stephen, Stefan,& Julia.

Those Who Are In Need of Prayer

Priests Photius, Anthony, Milorad, Vadim, and Joseph;
Presbyteras Artemis, Marie, Miriam, & Alexandra;
The servants of God Catherine, Albana, Mathew, Helen, Venko, Tanya, Charlie,
Vera, Bojanka, Kyriaki, Yekaterina, Sasha, John, Carmeta, Charlie, and
Patricia.

Saints Commemorated Today

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Sunday of Zacchæus. Venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great (356). Ven. Anthony of Dymsk (Novgorod—ca. 1224). Ven. Anthony of Chernoezérsk (16th c.).

Schedule of Services

Jan. 24 – SERVICES AT ST. GEORGE BULGARIAN CHURCH

Jan. 31 – Following Liturgy, Annual Parish Meeting of SS Cyril & Methodius

January Parish Council Meeting

The next Monthly Parish Council Meeting will be held Thursday evening, January 17 at St. Luke Orthodox Church in MacLean, VA. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will end promptly at 9:00 PM.

The Council will be preparing the Agenda for the Annual Meeting.

2010 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 31, 2009. The Annual Parish Meeting agenda will include, 1/ Treasurer's Financial Report on 2009, 2/ Priest's Report on 2009 and Outlook for 2010, 3/ Adoption of 2009 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes, 4/ Budget for 2010, 5/ Election of 2010 Parish Council members, and 6/ New Business (items proposed and accepted by the Parish Council by January 13). Only members of good standing may either stand for nomination to the Parish Council and vote on issues.

Parish Bulletin

The Parish Bulletin is prepared bi-weekly by Fr. Timothy. Should you have any questions regarding contents, please contact him or consult www.oca.org. The website of the Orthodox Church in America contains news, articles, explanations of Orthodox belief, and links to other autocephalous churches.



St. Timothy, Apostle of the Seventy

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. St Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, St Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future St Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5).

The seed of faith, planted in St Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became St Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved St Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude.

He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed St Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when St Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, summoned his faithful friend, St Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

St Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. St Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ.

The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. St Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

In the fourth century the holy relics of St Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of St Andrew (November 30) and St Luke (October 18). The Church honors St Timothy as one of the Apostles of the Seventy.

In Russian practice, the back of a priest's cross is often inscribed with St Paul's words to St Timothy: "Be an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).