



Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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January 29, 2017 + Sunday of Zacchaeus: Tone 4

Divine Liturgy
Confessions
Collection
Capital Campaign

Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM
Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM
Last week: **\$1,344.00**. God bless you for your generosity.
Pledges to Date: **\$13,912.00** · Received to Date: **\$12,722.00**



Thought for the Week...

Detachment from things does not mean setting up a contradiction between 'things' and 'God' as if God were another thing and as if creatures were His rivals. We do not detach ourselves from things in order to attach ourselves to God, but rather we become detached from ourselves in order to see and use all things in and for God.

Thomas Merton

Sing unto the Lord! Just a reminder that next **Sunday, February 5**, Deacon James will be conducting a learning session following the Divine Liturgy for all those who would like to better learn how to effectively use the green pew book and the liturgical calendar. Let's all work together to join the heavenly choirs and raise our voices in joyous song to our God!

Annual Contribution Statement. For your annual tax returns, if applicable, the statement of your contributions to Epiphany for the year 2016 is being mailed this week. Thank you for all your support of the parish this past year and for your wonderful generosity in building up the Kingdom of Heaven. God has truly blessed each one of us and our Holy Church.

Meatfare and Cheesefare Sundays. As is our custom here at Epiphany, we prepare ourselves as a family for the holy season of the Great Fast with our parish observance of both **Meatfare** (Sunday of the Last Judgment) on February 19 and **Cheesefare** (Sunday of Forgiveness)

Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!

on February 26. The Great Fast begins on Monday, February 27, a day of strict fast and abstinence for all Byzantine Catholics.

Next week there will be sign-up sheets in the narthex to bring you favorite pre-Lenten dishes for these pot-luck luncheons.

Please plan to stay after Sunday Liturgy on these important observances to break bread as a parish family and together in Christ to begin our Lenten journey.

Calling all Cantors. Next Sunday, **February 5**, following Divine Liturgy, there will be an important meeting for all cantors to review general information and to prepare for the season of Great Fast. All cantors are requested to please make every effort to attend. Also, anyone interested in becoming a cantor to lead the singing of the divine services, please see Fr. Deacon Michael.

Our Journey through the Great Fast Begins ... Today salvation has come to the world!

The first sign of the approach of the Great Fast appears today, February 29, five Sundays before its beginning. Today's 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 we also sing "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes our Lord's words. 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.

Courtesy: OCA

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

