

# Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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**January 14, 2018 + Sunday of Zacchaeus & Leave-taking of Theophany**

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Divine Liturgy</b>    | Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM                   |
| <b>Confessions</b>       | Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM                               |
| <b>Collection</b>        | Last week: <b>\$3,503.00</b> . God bless you for your continued generosity. |
| <b>Sunday Readings</b>   | 1 Timothy 4:9-15 + Luke 19:1-10                                             |
| <b>Sacramental Needs</b> | Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401                   |

During the month of January, the Altar Lamp burns before our Lord in the tabernacle in memory of +Rose Tisma by her son, Fr. Deacon Michael. *Vičnaja jeh pamjat.*

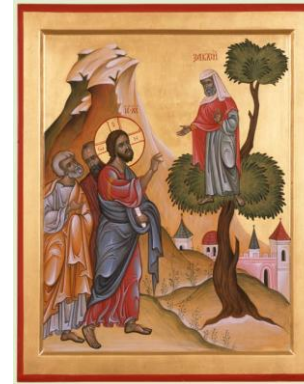


## *The Light of the East ...*

**“... should we fall, we should not despair and so estrange ourselves from the Lord's love. For if He so chooses, He can deal mercifully with our weakness. Only we should not cut ourselves off from Him or feel oppressed when constrained by His commandments, nor should we lose heart when we fall short of our goal ... let us always be ready to make a new start. If you fall, rise up. If you fall again, rise up again. Only do not abandon your Physician ... wait on Him, and He will be merciful, either reforming you, or sending you trials....”**

Saint Peter of Damascus

**Parish Feastday.** Our parish celebration for the feast of Epiphany last Saturday was a huge success with over 90 parishioners for Liturgy and breakfast. A huge “thank you” to all who worked on the event. Remember to take home blessed Theophany water for personal use in the home.



**Lenten Spring Begins.** Today we begin our spiritual and liturgical preparation for the Great Fast, which begins this year on Monday, February 12. Today's Gospel is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man and how his life was greatly changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus is the first movement of salvation; it begins the entire movement through the Great Fast towards the glorious feast of Pascha.

Let us begin our journey with recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. The example of the tax-collector 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; rather it is found when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our sinful actions.

Zacchaeus was a short person, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. We too as sinners have come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Let us begin to climb the ladder of virtues and prepare for spiritual effort and growth. We are assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9).

**Eastern Christian Faith Formation.** Children's “Sunday School” will begin later this month. Details and registration will begin next week. For high school students and adults, Fr. Deacon James will continue his class on the **Petateuch** of the Bible starting **February 19** and Fr. Deacon Michael will offer his class on the **Pillars of Byzantine Spirituality** starting **April 8**.

As the harvesters of the Lord's vineyard, it is our duty to be educated and well-informed of our Eastern Catholic faith in order to build up the Kingdom of God and to grow in our own personal relationship with the Most Holy Trinity. Our parish Faith Formation program seeks to nurture an encounter with God that leads each of us into a deepening communion with Him. Please make every effort to enroll children in Sunday School and to attend Adult Education classes.

**We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might ... to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.** Colossians 1:9-12

**Annual “State of the Parish” Meeting.** Remember to mark your calendars for our **Parish Meeting** following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, January 28, 2018**. This important meeting will be to openly discuss our financial position, maintenance needs and future development. The 2017 Financial Report will be distributed. This is an open meeting for all parishioners; please plan to attend and be heard. **God has entrusted this parish to us; its future is in our hands.**



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