

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero and
Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, January 22: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy
4pm Confessions and 5pm Divine Liturgy through Campus Ministry

Monday, January 23: 10am Confessions through Campus Ministry
4:30pm Confessions, 5:30pm Vespers

Wednesday, January 25: 2pm Confessions through Campus Ministry

Friday, January 27: 4:30pm Confessions 5:30pm Divine Liturgy
for Olga Revilakova on her birthday, by her family

Saturday, January 28: 4:30pm Confession, 5:30pm Great Vespers

Sunday, January 29: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy
for the deceased John Katsur Sr., by Mary Anne Meredith
4pm Confessions and 5pm Divine Liturgy through Campus Ministry

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

Important note regarding Liturgy intentions: If you are requesting a Divine Liturgy for the deceased, please note if the date requested is the anniversary of their death. If for the living, please specify if it is for a birthday, anniversary, etc. This will help schedule the Liturgy as accurately as possible, and will let Father know which setting to use. Thank you.

PARISH CALENDARS are now available in the narthex (back of the church).

HOUSE BLESSINGS FOR THE THEOPHANY SEASON: Fr. Michael will be blessing homes as part of our Theophany Season tradition. Please sign up in the back of the church (narthex). This blessing can be done every year!

AS WE APPROACH THE LENTEN GREAT FAST... This Sunday is Zaccheus Sunday, which begins our preparatory period for the Great Fast. While **fasting looks different for everyone** based on their station in life, physical needs, and spiritual growth, now is a good time to begin discerning what the Great Fast will look like for you. Discuss with Fr. Michael or your spiritual father / mother what would be appropriate. You may choose to reduce certain foods or technology use, add to your prayer rule, or something else.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY

We are given the first signal that the Great Fast is approaching. As we begin to change our mood slowly, almost imperceptibly, the initial call to repentance now echoes. The Apostle Paul tells Timothy that such spiritual exercises are exemplary, but we alone must desire to accomplish them. In wanting to come close to God, we have to emulate Zacchaeus who let no obstacle stand in his way of meeting Jesus.

EPISTLE: 1st Timothy 4: 9-15

Timothy, my son: You can depend on (training in godliness) as worthy of complete acceptance. This explains why we work and struggle as we do; our hopes are fixed on the living God who is the savior of all men, but especially of those who believe.

Such are the things you must urge and teach. Let no one look down on you because of your youth, but be a continuing example of love, faith, and purity to believers. Until I arrive, devote yourself to the reading of Scripture, to preaching and teaching. Do not neglect the gift you received when a result of prophecy, the presbyters laid their hands on you. Attend to your duties; let them absorb you, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch yourself and watch your teaching. Persevere at both tasks. By doing so you will bring to salvation yourself and all who hear you.

----- In this section of the first letter that he addressed to his faithful companion Timothy, the Holy Apostle Paul states that a genuine Christian labors and struggles for eternal salvation because he recognizes the paramount importance of spiritual things in his life. Bodily fitness is very important, but Paul calls special attention to the fact that spiritual fitness is absolutely essential both for this earthly life and for the eternal life that is yet to come. A truly Christian person must have, first of all, the Desire for salvation and subsequent eternal union with God. Such an individual then has to place his entire trust and confidence in God, Who has provided the possibility for all people to attain salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. As a presbyter (priest) of the Church, Timothy is instructed to be an exemplary model in the moral order for his flock. Thus Paul is saying in effect that such Christian leaders will in turn engender in their faithful this desire for salvation since their personal actions as exhibited in their daily lives will then attest to this.

GOSPEL: Luke 19: 1-10

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."-And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

----- On this first pre-great fast Sunday, the Holy Evangelist Luke recounts for us the story of a very wealthy tax collector whose name is Zacchaeus. As the Lord passed through Jericho, we observe that this diminutive publican was frustrated in his efforts to see Jesus. However, despite his shortness and in spite of the fact that he may have been dissuaded by others, nonetheless, his desire to see the Lord was so great that he was undaunted in his resolve, and quite resourcefully, he climbed a sycamore tree to rise above the dense crowd. After a brief encounter with Jesus Himself, this chief tax collector showed extreme repentance and was converted. Jesus thus declared that salvation had indeed come to the house of Zacchaeus. The Church, likewise, bids us to take example from this desire exhibited by Zacchaeus. As we now begin our spiritual preparation for the great fast season, we must emulate this same motivation, showing the Lord through our every day actions that we do desire to come close to Him and that we too want to amend our sinful ways.

Please pray for the causes of our four Sainly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen