

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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Erin Zawolowycz
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Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Please check weekly schedule
for specific days (last page)

AMBO: Articles for publica-
tion should be submitted to:

ambo-theodosius

@googlegroups.com

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS
VEN. AUXENTIUS OF BITHYNIA



St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Bishop of Japan (February 16)

Saint Nicholas, Enlightener of Japan, was born Ivan Dimitrievich Kasatkin on August 1, 1836 in the village of Berezovsk, Belsk district, Smolensk diocese, where his father served as deacon. At the age of five he lost his mother. He completed the Belsk religious school, and afterwards the Smolensk Theological Seminary. In 1857 Ivan Kasatkin entered the Saint Peterburg Theological Academy. On June 24, 1860, in the academy temple of the Twelve Apostles, Bishop Nectarius tonsured him with the name Nicholas.

On June 29, the Feast of the foremost Apostles Peter and Paul, the monk Nicholas was ordained deacon. The next day, on the altar feast of the academy church, he was ordained to the holy priesthood. Later, at his request, Father Nicholas was assigned to Japan as head of the consular church in the city of Hakodate.

At first, the preaching of the Gospel in Japan seemed completely impossible. In Father Nicholas's own words: "the Japanese of the time looked upon foreigners as beasts, and on Christianity as a villainous sect, to which only villains and sorcerers could belong." He spent eight years in studying the country, the language, manners and customs of the people among whom he would preach.

In 1868, the flock of Father Nicholas numbered about twenty Japanese. At the end of 1869 Hieromonk Nicholas reported in person to the Synod in Peterburg about his work. A decision was made, on January 14, 1870, to form a special Russian Spiritual Mission for preaching the Word of God among the pagan Japanese. Father Nicholas was elevated to the rank of archimandrite and appointed as head of this Mission.

Returning to Japan after two years in Russia,

he transferred some of the responsibility for the Hakodate flock to Hieromonk Anatolius, and began his missionary work in Tokyo. In 1871 there was a persecution of Christians in Hakodate. Many were arrested (among them, the first Japanese Orthodox priest Paul Sawabe). Only in 1873 did the persecution abate somewhat, and the free preaching of Christianity became possible.

In this year Archimandrite Nicholas began the construction of a stone building in Tokyo which housed a church, a school for fifty men, and later a religious school, which became a seminary in 1878.

In 1874, Bishop Paul of Kamchatka arrived in Tokyo to ordain as priests several Japanese candidates recommended by Archimandrite Nicholas. At the Tokyo Mission, there were four schools: for catechists, for women, for church servers, and a seminary. At Hakodate there were two separate schools for boys and girls.

In the second half of 1877, the Mission began regular publication of the journal "Church Herald." By the year 1878 there already 4115 Christians in Japan, and there were a number of Christian communities. Church services and classes in Japanese, the publication of religious and moral books permitted the Mission to attain such results in a short time. Archimandrite Nicholas petitioned the Holy Synod in December of 1878 to provide a bishop for Japan.

Archimandrite Nicholas was consecrated bishop on March 30, 1880 in the Trinity Cathedral of Alexander Nevsky Lavra. Returning to Japan, he resumed his apostolic work with increased fervor. He completed construction on the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Tokyo, he translated the service books,

and compiled a special Orthodox theological dictionary in the Japanese language.

Great hardship befell the saint and his flock at the time of the Russo-Japanese War. For his ascetic labor during these difficult years, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop.

In 1911, half a century had passed since the young hieromonk Nicholas had first set foot on Japanese soil. At that time there were 33,017 Christians in 266 communities of the

Japanese Orthodox Church, including 1 Archbishop, 1 bishop, 35 priests, 6 deacons, 14 singing instructors, and 116 catechists.

On February 3, 1912, Archbishop Nicholas departed peacefully to the Lord at the age of seventy-six. The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified him on April 10, 1970, since the saint had long been honored in Japan as a righteous man, and a prayerful intercessor before the Lord.

From the Desk of Fr. Adamcio...

Course Correction...

It is a fascinating factoid: When you get on an airplane, the aircraft can be “off course” more than 90% of the time! Yet, it manages to arrive at its destination safely on time. Due to weather conditions and other factors, the pilot has to make necessary course corrections from time to time, getting back “on course.”

We are coming close to the beginning of the Great Fast. The Holy Orthodox Church in her wisdom gives us four preparatory Sundays to get us ready for the Fast itself. Incidentally, there are several Sundays that lead up these preparatory Sundays, allowing us to “change gears” in order for us to get the most out of our Lenten preparation for Holy Pascha.

Among these pre-preparatory Sundays are the Blind Beggar who miraculously receives his sight by our Lord, and the Canaanite Woman by whose humble, yet insistent pleading prompted Jesus to heal her daughter.

Today, we hear about the encounter between our Lord and Zacchaeus. In this incident, our Lord brings “salvation to his house,” and Zacchaeus changes his attitude and life.

These pre-preparatory Sundays bring us to the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, which is the beginning of the Lenten Triodion, a selection

of special verses and hymns taking us through the Great Fast to the celebration of the Feast of Feasts, the Holy Day of Holy Days: Pascha.

In this space over the next few weeks, we will examine the ways we can take advantage of making personal “course corrections” so that we can truly celebrate the wonderful and most joyous day of Pascha. We will examine the practice of prayer, fasting, receiving Confession (especially during days of penance and repentance), as well as preparing to receive Holy Communion. With the wonderful Scripture readings the Holy Church gives us, as well as the marvelous opportunities for corporate prayer (especially the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts) we will be shown the way to Pascha.

Bit by bit, we will be able to see where we have “gone off course” and the best way to get back on course. Thus, we will be able to travel that road which the Holy Prophet Isaiah prophesizes: *A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness (Isaiah 35:8).*

This is an exciting time to be on this highway, and one to which we can look forward traveling together.

SUNDAY OF ZACCHÆUS

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.





PRAYER REQUESTS



Departed:

Archimandrite Alexander

Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Arlene Czajkowski

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

Horia Dascalescu

Debra Ellis

Gregory Galan

Aleksei Green

Virginia Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

Don Hinkl

Matthew Hunly (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Paul Mihal

Natalya Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Jim Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

James Peter Petkac

Susan Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Andrew Sykaluk

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Tony Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

Janice Tkacz

Gayle Vidovitch

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Robert Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Colleen Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Kristin Robinson

Janet Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Kelly Buehner

Anna Sykaluk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Edward Zewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Joe Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

Patrick Gallagher

Elliott Udell (*grandson of Michael Udell*)

Constance Zimmerman (*Cindy's cousin*)

William Nasi (*brother-in-law of Kenneth Kovach*)

Jonathan Maas (*friend of Eric Seddon*)

Michelle Frampton (*cousin of Fr. Zdinak*)

Louis Klinar (*father of Bob Klinar*)

Jeanne Charles (*friend of Arlene Neal/Czajkowski*)

Carol & Bert Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister & brother-in-law*)

Tammy Ponomarenko

Gregory Ponomarenko

Haralambos Steingass

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 14

Feb 14
 Mark 16:9-20
 1 Tim 4:9-15
 Luke 19:1-10

Feb 17
 1 Peter 4:1-11
 Mark 12:28-37

Feb 20
 2 Tim 2:11-19
 Luke 18:2-8

Feb 15
 1 Peter 2:21-3:9
 Mark 12:13-17

Feb 18
 1 Peter 4:12-5:5
 Mark 12:38-44

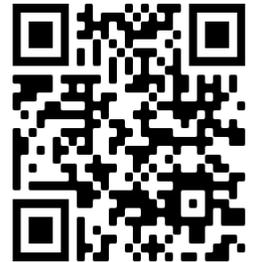
Feb 21
 Luke 24:1-12
 2 Tim 3:10-15
 Luke 18:10-14

Feb 16
 1 Peter 3:10-22
 Mark 12:18-27

Feb 19
 2 Peter 1:1-10
 Mark 13:1-8

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In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate>
 Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



FAITH ENRICHMENT HAS CONCLUDED

Stay tuned for more information & future announcements!

Please contact Subdeacon Leon Felon at (440) 666-7601 if you have any questions.

Sunday, Feb 14

Sunday of Zacchaeus
 Ven Auxentius of Bithynia
 3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
 Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

Monday, Feb 15

Apostle of the Seventy Onesimus

Tuesday, Feb 16

St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles,
 Archbishop of Japan

Wednesday, Feb 17

Greatmartyr Theodore the Tyro—the
 “Recruit”

Thursday, Feb 18

St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome

Friday, Feb 19

Apostles of the Seventy Archippus and
 Philemon

Baptismal Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM
 (Alexandra and Scarlett Dieppa)

Saturday, Feb 20

St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily
 Great Vespers 6:00 PM

Sunday, Feb 21

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
 St. Makarios of Glinsk Hermitage
 3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
 Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2021