

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

Bill Allard, Sr Warden SrWarden@HolyApostlesLansing.org

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

37th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Sunday of Zacchaeus. Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia (ca. 470). Repose of St. Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs (869). Ven. Isaac, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—ca. 1190). The Twelve Greeks who built the Dormition Cathedral in the Lavra of the Kiev Caves (11th c.). Translation of the Relics of Martyrs Michael and his councilor, Theodore, of Chernígov (1578). Ven. Maron, Hermit, of Syria (4th c.). St. Abraham, Bishop of Charres in Mesopotamia (5th c.).

EPISTLE: 1 TIMOTHY 4.9-15: Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

GOSPEL: LUKE 19.1-10: Today salvation, Christ, has come to the house of Zacchaeus.

COFFEE HOUR: Worthington Family. **NEXT WEEK:** Allard Family.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE UPDATE: As we continue to grow and are blessed with many young children, we add them to our prayer lives as well. Each Thursday morning, the Akathist to the Mother of God, the Nurturer of Children will be sung. May the Lord bless our work with the youth that He has sent to us.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next Know Your Faith Class will be held this Tuesday, February 16th at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be moving on to the Desert Saints and looking at the life of St Anthony the Great. The readings can be found on pages 55-56 of the handouts, available at holypostleslansing.org/knownyourfaith.html

EPISCOPAL VISIT: This year's Episcopal visitation will be on Palm Sunday, April 24th. Mark your calendars.

CHANTING WORKSHOP: In cooperation with St Catherine's Church in Ithaca, on Saturday, March 26th, we will be holding a chanting workshop, looking at both the Greek and Slavic/OCA styles of chant. There will be instruction on basic vocal techniques and healthy singing for choirs. An introduction to basic chanting will be offered as well. The day will be capped off with a joint Vespertal service. Mark your calendars!

WELCOME!: We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

HOUSE BLESSINGS: Many of the homes of this parish have blessed so far. If you have yet to schedule your house blessing, please contact Fr James immediately.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: On the weeks when the Adult Ed class is not held, choir rehearsal will be held at Greg's house at 7 PM. All skill levels are invited to come and sing – no prior experience is necessary!

YEAR END DONATION LETTERS: If you gave to the parish in 2015, a letter has been prepared and is available at the back of the Church thanking you for your offering and which doubles as a record of your tax deductible contribution to a non-profit charity.

THANK YOU: We are grateful to Fr Vladimir Kantor who is serving the Divine Liturgy for us today as Fr James is away at the Altar Servers Retreat. Please greet him warmly.

SUMMER CAMPING: Now is the time to make plans for another summer camping program at Saint Andrew's Camp! Counselors and volunteers are needed and are now being recruited. We cannot "get the word out" to eligible workers and volunteers without your assistance. Please help us in making this year's Orthodox camping experience a success.

PROSPHORA: We are low on prosphora for the Divine Liturgy. If you can make some, or would like to learn how, please see Fr James.

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H
Apr Herman S
Apr John C
Apr Thomas E
Apr Michael T
Apr Stephen M
Apr Jason & Family
Abbess Silouana
Mother Raphaela
Mother Christophora
Mat Cecelia
Mat Katya
Mat Kathy K
Mat Mary G
Joshua
Brittany & Isaac
Gretchen
Peter
Marriane

Terrence
Helen
Judy
Gretchen
Mary & Susan
John & Carmine
Nathan
Leah
Helen
Lindsey
Elizabeth
Mary
Joe A
Daniel
Andrew & family
Harold
Wilhemina
Elizabeth
David
Shirley

Larry
Christina
Jim & Kim
Rachel
Constantine & Maria
Gaetan
Christine
Samuel
Lisa
Lyudmila
Nickolay
Anetta
Zachary
Iconographer Helena
Natasha, Lena, Vera, &
Sergei
Caleb
Cleopatra
Brian & Ally
Danielle

Catechumens: Elliott.

Children: Christopher E,
Anthony, Mia and Isabel
Seminarians: Rdr Robert
and Ivan

BIRTHDAYS: Shiloh, Patrick.

ANNIVS: None.

NAMESDAYS: None.

REPOSED:

Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph

Laura
Martha
Stanley & Helen,
Taissia
Steluta
Theophan
Lynda
Florence
James
James R
Vasily
Modercai
Alexandr
Ron
John
NEWLY REPOSED: Apr
John, Arch Athanasy.
ANNIVERSARIES: Harry S.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy, and Social Hour

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16: Know Your Faith at Unwind Café in the Ithaca Mall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17: 8:30 Daily Matins

7 PM Cornell OCF in Anabel Taylor Hall

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18: 8:30 Morning Prayers; Akathist to the Nurturer of Children

8 PM Ithaca College OCF

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19: 8:30 Morning Prayers

9:20 Cornell OCF Morning Prayers in Anabel Taylor Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20: 6 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy, and Social Hour

FEBRUARY 24: OCF Steak Dinner and Fireside Chat with Abp Michael

MARCH 6: Meatfare Sunday

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that you would renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only Merciful and loving Lord Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: We pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,
Thou didst shake all of creation.

By being laid in the tomb Thou hast raised those who dwelt in the tombs,
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//

Therefore in songs we glorify Thy rising on the third day. - Aposticha, Tone 4

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2016
36TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Troparion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
"Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!"

Troparion Tone 1 (for Venerable Auxentius)

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body,
thou wast shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Auxentius.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer:
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown!
Glory to Him Who through thee granteth healing to all!

Kontakion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master, //
He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion Tone 2 (for Venerable Auxentius)

Thou didst delight in abstinence,
restraining the desires of the flesh.
Divinely wise and holy Father Auxentius,
thou wast revealed to be shining with faith,
blossoming like a plant in the midst of Paradise.

Prokeimenon Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps 103/104:24)
v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps 103/104:1)

Alleluia Verses Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (Ps 44/45:5)

v: For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. (Ps 44/45:8)

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Zacchaeus Of Little Stature

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

"Today, salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9).

Thus it was spoken by the One Whose word is life and joy and restoration of the righteous. Just as the bleak forest clothes itself into greenery and flowers from the breath of spring, so does every man, regardless of how arid and darkened by sin, becomes fresh and youthful from the nearness of Christ. For the nearness of Christ is as the nearness of some life-giving and fragrant balsam which restores health, increases life, give fragrance to the soul, to the thoughts and to the words of man. In other words, distance from Christ means decay and death and His nearness means salvation and life.

"Today, salvation has come to this house" said the Lord upon entering the house of Zacchaeus the sinner. Christ was the salvation that came and Zacchaeus was the house into which He entered. Brethren, each one of us is a house in which sin dwells as long as Christ is distant and to which salvation comes when Christ approaches it. Nevertheless, will Christ approach my house and your house? That depends on us. Behold, He did not arbitrarily enter the house of the sinner Zacchaeus, rather He entered as a most desired guest. Zacchaeus of little stature climbed into a tree in order to see the Lord Jesus with his own eyes. Zacchaeus, therefore, sought him; Zacchaeus desired Him. We must also seek Him in order to find Him and desire Him in order that He would draw nearer to us and, with our spirit, to climb high in order to encounter His glance. Then He will visit our house as He visited the house of Zacchaeus and with Him salvation will come.

Draw near to us O Lord, draw near and bring to us Your eternal salvation. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

Prayer in the Spirit

All Christian prayer must be prayer in the Spirit; and all genuine prayer most certainly is. Men pray to the Father, through Christ the Son and Word of God in the Holy Spirit. This is the case wherever men pray, whatever their method, whether they know it or not. For prayer is not man's lonely cry across empty spaces to a far-off God. Prayer is man's being in God; being in the Holy Spirit, as made in Christ's image, the dwelling place of God. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?... God's temple is holy, and that temple you are. (I Corinthians 3:16-17, cf. Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Psalms 139:7-14, Romans 10:5-13)

Christian prayer is done consciously in the Holy Spirit, with all faith and awareness. It is addressed to and through Christ, to the Father. In the Orthodox Church there is only one prayer among all the prayers of the Church addressed to the Holy Spirit. This is the prayer **O Heavenly King** which begins all prayers and clearly creates the conditions in which all prayer is performed.

*O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
You are everywhere and fill all things,
Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life,*

Come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

Even on Pentecost Sunday in the Orthodox Church the three special prayers of the feast are addressed to Christ and the Father.

The prayer to God for the coming of the Spirit is itself a sign that the Spirit is already in man enabling him to call to the Father. This is the mystery of man's nature and existence; that he is only truly man when the Holy Spirit is in him. This is the mystery of God's gracious work in man. It is the mystery of prayer and life itself.

One calls God "Our Father" only in the Spirit. One calls Jesus "Lord" only in the Spirit. One prays to God in any manner or form only in the Spirit. The words of the psalms, the prayers of the Saints, the liturgical worship of the Church, is the **"breathing of God's Spirit"** in man. (*Father John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ*) For all prayer, like the scripture itself, is by the inspiration of God.

Even when men do not know how to pray or for what they should ask, it is the Holy Spirit who prays in them that they would have what is needed, that God's will would be done.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with signs too deep for words. And He who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

Thus the prayer in the Spirit, as well as the prayer for the Spirit, has as its purpose the "acquisition of the Spirit" so that by the "fruits of the Spirit" man would be holy and divine by God's grace. This is the basic mystery of the spiritual life. For as Saint Augustine has said, the person who seeks the Lord has already been found by Him. The very seeking in prayer, when one knows not how to pray, makes a person already the dwelling place of God.

For more on this subject, head to tinyurl.com/hywq3v7

Sunday of Zacchaeus - The Lenten Journey Begins



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.