

February 3, 2019: The 32nd Sunday after Pentecost (Zacchaeus Sunday)

Epistle: I Tim. 4:9-15:

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. 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. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all."

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10:



"Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Last Sunday we learned how Jesus, the Son of God, heard the prayer of the blind and poor man from Jericho who was crying: “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

The gospel reading of this Sunday teaches us that the same Son of God knows the very inner thoughts of the people. Up in the sycamore tree, Zacchaeus was waiting in silence to satisfy his curiosity, *"to see who Jesus was."*

I think it was much more than curiosity that drove this rich man to climb up a tree by the roadside. It must have been something much deeper: his desire to liberate himself from the guilt and the remorse which he could not shake off of his conscience. At least part of his wealth had been acquired through fraud and injustice. This must've been the spiritual obstacle that kept him away from the Savior, which was much more difficult to overcome than his physical impediment, the fact that *"he was of short stature."*

Just like in the story of the ten lepers, Zacchaeus too, seizes the moment of the Lord's presence and his sincere repentance and deep desire for complete restoration are rewarded by God: *"Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

May we all receive the joy of salvation!

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Arkin Gabriel Corbu
Alexander Stefanescu**

Sunday Fellowship

**The following families are scheduled to look after
this Sunday's fellowship:**

**Manolache Constantin & Jeni
Toma Richard & Lil
Shelemey Darline**

Thank you all very much!

Spring Dinner and Dance

On March 2, 2019, there will be a Spring Dinner and Dance at the Romanian Centre. For tickets (\$ 40 / adults and \$ 10/ children - 7-14) and more information, contact Mariana Diaconu: 780-473-6711, or 780-660-4748 (texting only).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2019, after the Divine Liturgy.

On the Agenda:

- Financial and other committee reports.**
- Election of the Church Board.**
- Election of the delegates to the Diocesan Congress.**
- Election of delegates to the Deanery Assembly.**

Members in good standing will be able to vote.

All are invited to attend.

PLEASE, PLAN TO ATTEND!

**ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF EDMONTON
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, February 3rd, 2019

AGENDA

- 1. Call the meeting to order and opening prayer.**
- 2. Confirmation of “Notice of Meeting” and quorum.**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda.**
- 4. Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting.**
- 5. Business arising from the 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes.**
- 6. Financial Statements, Membership and Casino Reports by Mrs. Corina Sasu,
Treasurer**
- 7. Church Report, by Fr. George Bazgan.**

Committee Reports:

- 8. Property and Maintenance, by Mr. Neculae Chiosa, Hall Manager.**
- 9. Social, by Mrs. Mariana Diaconu.**
- 10. Communications / Public relations report by Ștefan Mocanu.**
- 11. Ladies Auxiliary, by Psa. Maria Bazgan, LA President.**
- 12. President’s report, by Mr. Ion Mieila, Board President.**
- 13. Election of the Board of Directors for the next 2 years.**
- 14. Election of 2 delegates and 2 alternates to the Diocesan Congress.**
- 15. Election of 2 delegates to the Deanery General Assembly**
- 16. Adjournment.**

A Christian's conduct in Church

Before I begin to address the topic of „church conduct,” it is important to address the question „Why do we come to church?”

We come to church on Sundays (the Day of the Lord) in order to reaffirm our vocation as liturgical beings, to continue our spiritual growth and to strengthen our communion with Christ and His Church which began when we were accepted into the community of the faithful through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist (Communion).

For an Orthodox Christian, attending the Divine Liturgy is not only a privilege but an obligation as well. It is a privilege in as much as we, as members of the visible Church are called to bring the Eucharistic elements (bread and wine), be part of their transformation into the Body and Blood of Christ and then, partake of them in the form of the Holy Eucharist, all this in the context of the Divine Liturgy, the highest form of prayer we can offer to God. It is also our obligation to attend the Divine Liturgy, obeying thus one of the commandments of the Church.

In order to benefit the most from our presence in Church we must keep in mind a few rules:

- 1. Come to Church on time (before 10:00) in order to participate in the entire Divine Liturgy.**
- 2. If the service is already in progress, you must stop and see what is going on. If you came in during the Scripture readings (Epistle or the Gospel), you should wait at the back of the church until the reading is over and then, quietly, take your seat.**
- 3. Pick up the liturgical book and follow closely the service, reading all of the prayers.**
- 4. During the Divine Liturgy you are not allowed to move around or talk to other people. You can do that at the end, during the fellowship.**
- 5. Out of respect for the most important part of the Divine Liturgy, please refrain from walking in front of the Altar after the procession with the Holy Gifts.**