

## January 22, 2017: The 32<sup>nd</sup> 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've seen how Jesus, the Son of God, heard the prayer of the ten lepers and cleansed them from this terrible and debilitating disease. Last Sunday, the gospel reading conveyed to us how our Lord and Savior, again, answered the persistent prayer of the blind man: ***"Have mercy on me, Jesus, Son of David!"***

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 and of the blind man, 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**

### **Sunday Fellowship**

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

**Ionescu Costel & Vasilica  
Ciocan Viorel & Veronica  
Lăcătușu Petrică & Gina**

**Thank you all very much!**

**Altar boys for this Sunday:**

**Matthew Cotfasa  
Arsenie Gavriș**

***Valentine's Supper & Dance***

**On Saturday, February 11, 2017, there will be a  
Valentine's Supper and Dance at the Romanian Center.  
Supper will be served at 7:00 P.M.**

**For tickets (\$40.00/adults, \$10.00/children) and details,  
see Luminița Ștefănescu at the church on Sundays.**

***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

**The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for  
February 19, 2017, after the Divine Liturgy.**

**On the Agenda:**

- Financial and other committee reports.**
- Election of a new Church Board.**

**Members in good standing will be able to vote.  
All are invited to attend.**

**PLEASE, PLAN TO ATTEND!**