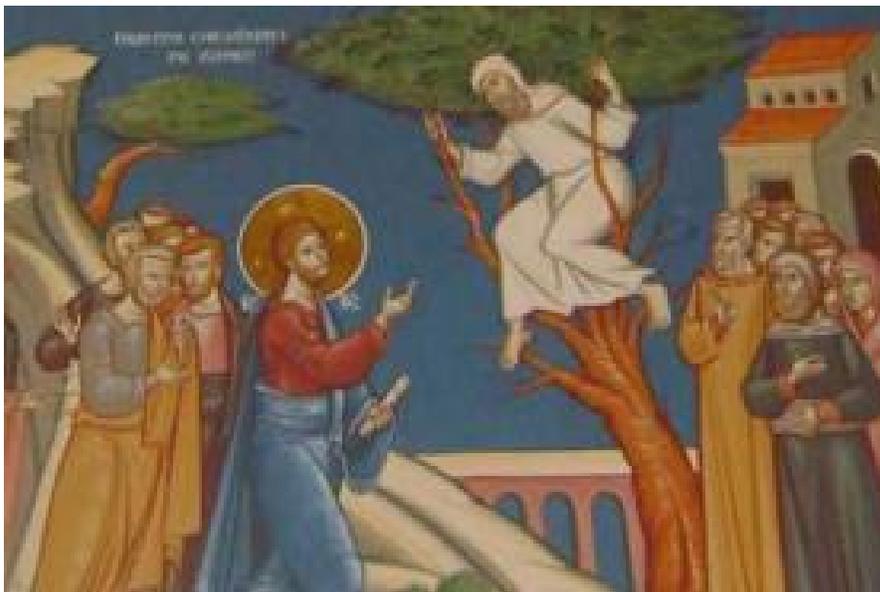


January 31, 2016: The 32nd Sunday after Pentecost (Zacchaeus Sunday)

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."

Two Sundays ago 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:**

**Demchuk George & Pearl
Iftody Delima
Harrison Elisabeth**

The new Fellowship Roster begins on February 14, 2016.

Thank you all very much!

Valentine's Supper & Dance

**On Saturday, February 13, 2016, 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 Viorel Ciocan at the Church on Sundays.**

Spread the word

**We make an appeal to all of you, subscribers to our weekly electronic
Bulletin, to invite your family members and friends to submit their
email address and join the list of our parish subscribers.**

This is so we can reach as many people as possible.

Thank you for your help!

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors would like to thank all those who paid their membership and honored their financial pledges for 2015!

At the same time, we would like to remind everyone that, based on the decision of the 2015 Annual General Meeting, as of January 2016, the Church membership fee is \$150/person (\$300/couple),

Please keep in mind that \$35.00 from each membership is sent to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2016, after the Divine Liturgy.

On the Agenda:

Financial and other committee's reports.

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

PLEASE, PLAN TO ATTEND!