



St. Nicholas

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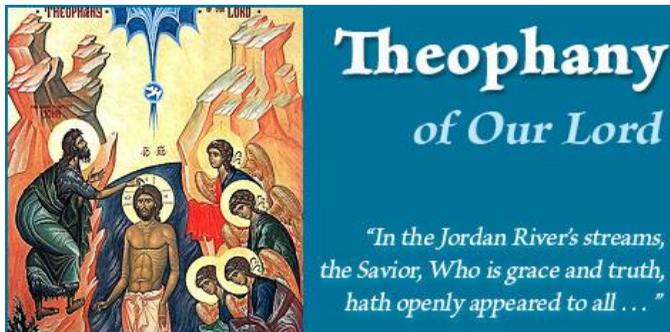
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January 21, 2018

Zacchaeus Sunday

Mon - Sunday after the Epiphany

Commemoration of St. George the Chozebite, abbot (7th century)



Epiphany Blessing of Homes...is concluding today. Please contact Father Ed if he missed your home.

Board meeting....today following the social hour.

Our sympathy is expressed to Mary Ann Kelch on the loss of her husband George last week.

Vicnaja jemu pamjat! Eternal memory!

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The Great Feast of Pascha 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. 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”*

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.



In conjunction with our parish meeting on February 11 is our first *“Great Chili Cookoff”*.

Bring in your favorite chili. Following anonymous voting by all of us, a prize will be awarded!

