

Sunday, January 31, 2021

15th Sunday of Luke – Zacchaeus Sunday

Cyrus & John the Unmercenary; Holy Women Martyrs Athanasia & her daughters: Theodote, Theoktiste & Eudoxia; and the Righteous Father Aresenius of Parus

WORSHIP SCHEDULE TODAY: Orthros: 8:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.

The church will be opened to the first 200 parishioners who have phoned into the church this past week and registered to attend worship (please review church protocols). This service will be live streamed and found on our Ss. Constantine and Helen Facebook Page and You Tube Channel.

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: (Found in red hymnal book)

1 – Του λίθου σφραγισθεντος υπο τον Ιουδαιων/With the stone sealed by the Judeans

55 – Τα θαυματα των Αγιων σου Μαρτυρων/The miracles of Your Holy Martyrs

134 – Του Σταυρου σου τον τυπον/The sign of the Cross in the sky

228 – Ο μητρων παρθενικω/You who sanctified by Your birth the Virgin's womb

READINGS: Orthros Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

(For further information go to Archdiocese website at: goarch.org or The Metropolis of Chicago website at: chicago.goarch.org.)

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL DUTY: Nick Kavadas & ALL Parish Council members and volunteers.

MEMORIALS

9 days	Maria Collaros	4 yrs.	Nikolaos Gouma
40 days	Pamela (Politemi) Mamouzelos	9 yrs.	Helen Vosos Monanteras
3 mons.	Ekaterini Yiatras	19 yrs.	Anastasios Vlahos
6 mons.	Deanna (Themelina) Paras	24 yrs.	Andreas Iyodo
1 year	Ekaterini Gouma	36 yrs.	Inez Iyodo
2 yrs.	George Papafilis	38 yrs.	Ioannis Spanos

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Tuesday, February 2nd – *Presentation of the Lord into the Temple* – Orthros: 8:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. in the Cathedral.

ΘΗΣΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ: Τριτη, 2 Φεβρουαριου – Η Υπαπαντη του Κυριου – Ορθρος: 8:00 π.μ. και Θεια Λειτουργια: 9:00 π.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE, celebrated on February 2nd, is one of the Twelve Major Feasts of the Church. This Feast Day commemorates the event that took place forty days after the birth of Jesus as described in Luke 2:22-40. In the Feast of the Presentation the divine and human nature of Jesus is revealed. We believe that Jesus is fully God and fully human. The act of presenting Him in the Temple reminds us of His humanity because even Jesus followed the Law. As an infant, Jesus chose to experience everything that all infants experience. The words of Simeon remind us, however, that this human being is the Messiah.

THE WORST FAULT of some people is telling others about theirs.

JESUS SEES ZACCHAEUS: “All that is necessary to be a saint,” said Thomas Merton, “is to want to be one. Don't you believe that God will make you what He created you to be, if you will consent to let Him do it? All you have to do is desire it.”

The trouble is we desire too many things. The desire for a new car, a bigger home, or more money has a subtle way of crowding out the desire for God. The desire for God is buried beneath countless other desires. Often it takes a soul-shaking crisis to get it out.

There are some desires that are positively sinful. They banish the presence of God from our lives. They are the thorns that Jesus speaks about in the parable of the soils. They need to be uprooted and destroyed through repentance and the power of the Holy Spirit, or they will kill our desire for God.

One of the early Christian writers, Cassian, describes what it means to place our desire for God first in life: “God will be our whole love and desire, our whole study and labor, our whole thought, our whole life, our speaking and our breathing. We will be so attached to Him that our whole learning and thinking and speaking will be about Him alone.”

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. No obstacle could stand in his way. He climbed a tree to catch a glimpse of Him. Jesus responded to that great desire. Of all the people who surrounded Him that day, Jesus noticed the one person who truly desired to be with Him. He called out to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.”

Zacchaeus sought to see who Jesus was, and he did because he so desired. When the Lord Jesus becomes our first and great desire in life, then all of the other desires in life will fall in their proper place. “You will seek Me and find Me; when you seek Me with all your heart,” says the Lord (Jeremiah. 29:13).

SAINTS OF THE DAY - Cyrus & John the Unmercenary; Holy Women Martyrs Athanasia & her daughters: Theodote, Theoktiste & Eudoxia:

These Saints lived during the years of Diocletian. Saint Cyrus was from Alexandria, and Saint John was from Edessa of Mesopotamia. Because of the persecution of that time, Cyrus fled to the Gulf of Arabia, where there was a small community of monks. John, who was a soldier, heard of Cyrus' fame and came to join him. Henceforth, they passed their life working every virtue, and healing every illness and disease freely by the grace of Christ; hence their title of “Unmercenary.” They heard that a certain woman, named Athanasia, had been apprehended together with her three daughters, Theodote, Theoktiste, and Eudoxia, and had been taken to the tribunal for their confession of the Faith. Fearing lest the tender young maidens be terrified by the torments and renounce Christ, they went to strengthen them in their contest in martyrdom; therefore they too were seized. After Cyrus and John and those sacred women had been greatly tormented, all were beheaded in the year 292. Their tomb became a renowned shrine in Egypt and a place of universal pilgrimage. It was found in the area of the modern day resort near Alexandria named Abu Kyr.

HARDEST CASE TO SAVE: The hardest case for God to save is not the thief, not the adulterer, not the murderer, not the homosexual, not the fornicator, not the blasphemous. The hardest case for God to save is the good person who is so self-righteous that he/she will not confess themselves to be a sinner in need of a Savior.

Christ came to seek and save the lost, but no man can be saved until he knows he is lost. “For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance,” said Jesus (Matthew 9:13).

CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK: The path of God is a daily cross. No one has ascended to heaven by way of ease. We know where the easy way leads! -St. Isaac the Syrian

**ATTENTION FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF SAINTS
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CATHEDRAL**

**OUTLINE OF SAFETY PROTOCOLS
BEFORE ATTENDING CHURCH**

- The church (or areas used for worship) will be sanitized before each service.
- The church will only be allowed to hold as many people (200) as can maintain social distancing (6 feet distance).
- Due to the limited seating available, every person who is planning on attending worship services will need to register through the church office (219-769-2481) between 11am–1pm, Monday through Friday. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. This will allow us to ensure that we can accommodate everyone. Those who come to church without registering will not be allowed to enter.
- According to the directives of the Metropolis of Chicago, the high-risk population and those caring for them should not attend services. Our parish will be using a system of self-reporting. We will not be verifying your age or medical history at the door.
- Those who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who are in the same household as someone positive for COVID-19, or who are feeling sick should not attend services.
- Worship Services will continue to be lived streamed on our Cathedral's Facebook Page and You Tube Channel for those who cannot or may not feel safe to attend.

COMING TO CHURCH

- Every person attending worship will need to check in upon arrival at the designated area in the Exo-Narthex. There will be a brief screening process (verbal questions and a temperature check) at the sign-in table.
- Every attendee will need to wear masks (you must provide your own mask) at all times while they are in the physical area of worship, except when receiving Holy Communion. The only exception will be children under the age of 2.
- Use non-contact greetings (waving, a bowing of the head) with fellow parishioners instead of the traditional hugging, kissing or shaking of hands. Social distancing must be maintained. No walking about the church proper to greet, talk or visit with one another.

IN THE CHURCH

- There will be hand sanitizer stations at the entry of the church, at the candle stands, at the entry into the Nave, and at the Solea.
- There will be no veneration (kissing) of icons, sacred objects, or the priest's hand.
- Parish Council members will distribute candles for the faithful to light, as well as place the 3-hour votives and 5-day red votives in there designated areas of the church. After lighting candles you will be asked to sanitize your hands before entering the Nave of the church.
- No paper bulletins, monthly newsletters or other items will be distributed to those attending worship.
- Due to the need to socially distance, a Parish Council member or a designated usher will escort you to your seat. Please do not insist on sitting in "your spot," as the Parish Council's only concern will be in maintaining social distancing to maximize safety.
- Every other pew will be available for seating with six feet in between each worshiper. People living in the same household can sit together.
- There will be no liturgical books in the pews.
- At the time for Holy Communion, the Parish Council will direct people to approach the Chalice and observe social distancing. Sanitize your hands before approaching the Chalice (sanitizer stations will be available on the Solea).

- At the conclusion of services, families will depart directly from the side doors and go to their cars to return home. Please do not congregate in the parking lot.
- The church and other worship areas will be sanitized again after services conclude.

**Please remember: It is YOUR CHOICE whether to ATTEND CHURCH or not.
It is YOUR CHOICE whether to RECEIVE Holy Communion or not.
DO NOT BE JUDGMENTAL of those who do or don't.**

STEWARDSHIP: When it comes to making decisions on stewardship, a very common question that we ask ourselves is: *"What should we do?"* People have been asking this question for quite some time. Even the people who came to see John the Baptist asked this question while he was preparing the way for the Lord. People from all walks of life asked *"What should we do?"*

John told them to be responsible with the gifts that God had given them. Be gracious to others in need. Give as you have been blessed. Be content with what you have, and do not be anxious about what you desire or think you need. Do not accuse others falsely for your benefit. God knows what you need, and He always provides. (Luke 3:10-15)

"What should we do?"

Please take a few minutes to review your 2021 Stewardship Commitment in support of our Parish Ministries. We have taught the importance of including the entire family in your stewardship pledge. Including everyone underscores the importance of the Stewardship Program and that everyone plays a significant role. Discussing the Program will teach everyone about stewardship and the importance of their participation.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves, and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Be prepared to make your Pledge for 2021! Help us reach our goal of raising \$800,000 to cover our Cathedral's operating expenses. This can be accomplished if we can average \$1500 a pledge per family.

Also, as we are starting a new year, please make sure your 2020 pledge is current or paid in full. To date, there is still over \$16,000 in unpaid stewardship pledges for 2020. This unpaid amount adds to the deficit that our parish has each and every year. Please pay the amount you promised to God and His Church. Your support and cooperation in this matter is always deeply appreciated.

EVERY PARISHIONER of a Greek Orthodox parish, 18 years and older, single or married according to Archdiocese regulations should be a supporting member, a steward, of a parish. Everyone should contribute their fair share to the financial support to their parish. We all need to have the willingness to make a commitment of faith and to "go on record" as being a believer and a supporter of God's work through His Church. Since the Coronavirus Pandemic hit, the income of our parish has been cut by 90% (loss of revenue from worship services, especially Holy Week and Easter, no Annual Summer Greek Fest, no banquet rentals, just to name some). To make giving easier for all our faithful, we have established an online program called [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). This will allow those who have internet accessibility to continue to make offerings for stewardship payments, candles, Helping Hand, Food Pantry and other donations that help cover the costs of operating our parish with just a click of your computer keys. Look below and check out the link listed. It is a profession of faith when we all work together and help our church to better plan for its various financial needs and expenditures. Thank you!

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1385847>

JC'S CLOSET will be held this Friday, February 5th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Gold Room. Donations of new & packaged underwear and socks, new or gently used coats (all sizes) for men, women & children, as well as new or gently used sweatpants for men and women (sizes large to 3XL) are in great need.

YOUTH MEETING DATE: For the month of February GOYA, Jr. GOYA, HOPE & JOY will be meeting Monday, February 1st, 6:30-7:30pm. These programs are open to the youth of our parish. GOYA: 8th-12th grade; Jr. GOYA: 5th-7th grade; HOPE & JOY: Kindergarten-4th grade. We encourage all the young people of our community to take advantage of these ministries that allow you to meet other Orthodox Christians in a fun environment, as well as learn about our Orthodox Faith and yourselves through discussions, social events and service projects. Come on out and see! You will be glad you did!

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will be held via Zoom this Tuesday, February 2nd, 7:00 p.m. Fr. Dimitri will lead the discussion on the topic of the Gospel according to St. John. Everyone is welcomed to tune in live and review it afterwards on Facebook or You Tube. For specific details, contact Fr. Dimitri.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: Registration for the February Faith Box is now open. Sign up at tinyurl.com/febfaithbox.

Each month, families will have the opportunity to register to receive a box packed with activities, readings, discussion questions and games for the whole family! Families can pick up their box after church on Sunday, at the monthly Youth Night, or during the week and complete the different elements at their own pace. That way, everybody can have a few no-stress, faith-centered family nights each month focused on a particular Christian virtue. Just open the box, and the work is done! Contact Fr. Dimitri if you have any questions.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Along with our usual needs of canned goods, boxed foods, and cleaning items, we are in need of personal hygiene products. Instead of our regular parishioner crew working the food pantry, volunteers from the Ross Township office will. Anyone 18-40 without any medical conditions who would like to volunteer during these times is asked to contact Karen Petalas at the Township Office or Patty Makarounas through the church office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Godparent Sunday – Sunday, February 7th

Triodion begins – Sunday, February 21st

Saturday of Souls – March 6th, 13th & 20th

Great Lent begins – Monday, March 15th

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 25th

Orthodox Easter (Pascha) – Sunday, May 2nd

Ss. Constantine & Helen Vespers – Thursday, May 20th

Ss. Constantine & Helen Feast Day – Friday, May 21st

Grecian Festival – Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 9th, 10th & 11th

Memorials will not be celebrated on the following Sundays in 2021: March 21st, April 4th & 25th, May 2nd & 9th, June 20th, August 15th, and November 21st

GODPARENT SUNDAY: Godparent Sunday will be held in our parish on next Sunday, February 7th. Make plans to attend worship services (call the church office to reserve your place for worship) with your Godparent or Godchild.

LOUKOUMADES SALE: On Sunday, February 7th, following worship services for Godparents Sunday, our Philoptochos will sponsor a “Take Out” Loukoumades Sale in the Great Hall. The cost is \$7.00 per container of these mouth-watering delicacies. Call ahead to Frances Klimis 219-776-3091 and place your orders to go so as to cut down on waiting time and insure that you will be able to get some of these treats for home. Proceeds raised benefit our Philoptochos’ charitable endeavors.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING UPDATE: Tentatively, the monthly meeting of our St. Helen’s Philoptochos Society will be Monday, February 8, 2021, 6:30 pm in the Great Hall. Due to COVID-19 restrictions all those attending must wear a mask and keep social distancing.