

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For eternal memory of:**

**Andrew**, Father of Matushka Barbara, offered by the Parish Council.

**For health of:**

Father **Steven** and Matushka **Emily** Shuga, offered by Bill and MaryAnn Kuzemchak.

**Andrew** Romanofsky on his birthday, offered by his family.

**Readings:**

- 1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Zacchaeus Sunday)
- Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus Sunday)

**BRETHREN**, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

**At that time**, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

**Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM (new time)****Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

(**Private Confession** – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)

(**General Confession** – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month.)

(**Pannikhidas** – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)

**Church School – 9:30 AM**

No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.

**Coffee hour** - after Liturgy

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.**

**Announcements:**

- Last week the parish had its annual meeting. Elected to the Parish Council were Holly Dawson as President, Paul Jankowski as Vice-president, Trudy Ellmore as Secretary, Linda Dantine as Assistant Secretary, and Andrew Romanofsky as Treasurer. Congratulations to everyone.
- **The services of Great Lent for 2013** have been announced and posted on our website and on the bulletin boards of our church. We will have Sunday Liturgy and Saturday vespers at the usual times. The **Canon of St. Andrew of Crete will be served on Monday, March 18 at 6:30PM**. We will celebrate the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** on Wednesdays this year at 6:30 PM.
- On Sunday, 24 February, at 4:00 pm the choir of the **Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, Medford NJ**, and the Seneca High School Chamber Singers will present a **Benefit Concert in support of Covenant House, Camden NJ**. Representatives of Covenant House, including **Father Stephen Siniari**, will be present. **The concert will take place at the church: 11 Wilkins Station Rd, Medford NJ**. Visit the parish website for more information: [holycrossmedford.org](http://holycrossmedford.org)

**Special Announcements:**

- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2013**, Total **Parish Membership Fee is \$200**. Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Sunday of Zacchaeus:**

The paschal season of the Church 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 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. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

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" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

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.

(St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.)

**Notes on Lenten Fasting:**

**Fasting for Presanctified Liturgy** should begin after consumption of Lunch. **Fasting through Great Lent** should include abstaining from meat after Meatfare Sunday, and dairy products as well after Cheesefare Sunday. We may eat shellfish at any time, and fish with backbones on Annunciation, and the Entry into Jerusalem. **Fasting for Holy Saturday** should be a small dinner around 5PM in preparation for the Pascha Vigil Service at 11:30PM. All of us should regularly participate in Confession (once every three to four weeks) especially during Great Lent in preparation for Pascha. *To facilitate regular Confession, we will continue to celebrate a General Confession and will be available for personal Confession after all Lenten services.*



See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

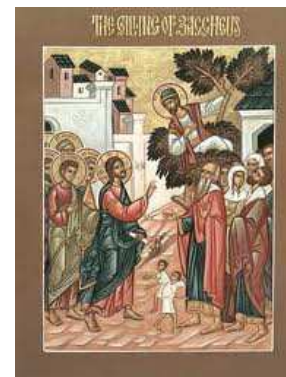
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**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,**

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Sunday of Zacchaeus

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
Forever**

*Great are the accomplishments of faith,  
For the Holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced in the flames as though at the waters of rest,  
Offering himself as sweet bread to the Trinity.  
So by his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!*

Troparion

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Sunday of Zacchaeus • Greatmartyr Theodore the Tyro ("the Recruit"—ca. 306) • Hieromartyr Germogén (Hermogenes), Patriarch of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1612) • Ven. Theodore the Silent, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.) • St. Mariamne, sister of Apostle Philip (1st c.) • Uncovering of the Relics of Martyr Menas of Alexandria (867-869) • The weeping "TIKHVIN" Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos on Mt. Athos.**

**February 17, 2013**

**Tone 4** of the Octoechos  
**Zacchaeus Sunday**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**