

Українська Православна Катедра Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці

St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Protection of the Most Holy

Mother of God Cathedral

1031 Fullerton Ave,  
Allentown, PA 18102

Rev. Richard Jendras, Pastor



Telephone 610-820-0821

Web: <http://pokrova-allentown.org>

Email: [saintmaryuoc@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaryuoc@gmail.com).

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18 FEBRUARY 2024 - THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
(ZACCHEUS SUNDAY)

Today's Liturgical Propers

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen, //  
granting the world great mercy!”

**Tone 4 Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master, //  
He has risen on the third day!

**Tone 3 Parish Theotokian**

Today the Virgin stands in the church, / and with hosts of Saints invisibly prays to God for us. / Angels worship with Hierarchs, / and Apostles rejoice with Prophets, / for the Birth-Giver of God prays for us/ to the Pre-eternal God.

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You made them all.  
*(Ps. 103:26)*

*V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! (Ps. 103:1)*

**Epistle**

(285-ctr) 1 Timothy 4:9-15

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (Ps. 44:3b)*

*V. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity. (Ps. 44:6)*

**Gospel**

(94) Luke 19:1-10

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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**Announcements**

- **PRAY FOR UKRAINE!** - The Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy in the Lehigh sponsors weekly Moleben services for the peace and well-being of Ukraine. Last week's Moleben service was postponed because of inclement weather. **The next Moleben service will be this Tuesday; 20 February at 6:30 PM at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Kenmore Avenue. Bethlehem.** We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!
- ***NOTE WELL: Due to Fr. Richard's continued illness, all weekday services are currently postponed. Please listen to Sunday announcements for updates.***
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE** - In case of inclement weather, we direct our parishioners to our parish website and Facebook page. Information on the cancellation or delay of scheduled services will be posted there as soon as possible. In addition, the same information will be announced on television channel 69 WFMZ.
- **READER SCHEDULE:**

| DATE.  | HOURS          | EPISTLE     |
|--------|----------------|-------------|
| 02-18. | Dennis Ritter. | Nik Fartuch |
| 02-25  | Rich Bodnar.   | Bob Noecker |
- **COFFEE SOCIAL:** *Today's coffee hour is hosted by THE CHOIR.*
- Please pray for the sick and infirm of our Church: Fr. John Fencik, Fr. Yakiw Norton, Fr. Oleh Hucul, Fr. Vasyl Dovgan, Fr. Ivan Levitsky, Fr. Bohdan Heleta, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Tania Antoniewicz, Richard Antoniuk, Bohdan Baranczyk, John Chorney, Gloria Dunski, Marie Hinkley, Daniel Milinichuk, Maria Onulack, Michael Onushko, Nancy Onusko, Mary Ellen Mackiewicz, William Radio, Dori Bochnak, Katheryn Solan, Elsie Moroz, Child of God Karina Strashinsky and the Child of God Johnny Walson.
- **BULLETIN MAILING TO CEASE** - Due to rising postage and printing costs, effective 01 March, the weekly bulletin will no longer be sent out through the US

Postal Service, except to those who request it and make a donation to defray printing and mailing. (Those in long-term health facilities will continue to receive it regardless.) The bulletin will be available, as always, at the church - and, as of 01 March, will be posted on the parish website: [www.pokrova-allentown.org](http://www.pokrova-allentown.org). Anyone wishing to continue receiving the bulletin by mail, should notify the parish office and make a minimum donation of \$30 to cover printing and mailing expenses.

**Schedule for This Week**

**SUNDAY - 18 February - THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
*1 Timothy 4:9-15 Luke 19:1-10*

**9:30 AM - DIVINE LITURGY**

**Monday; 19 February - The Venerable Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna**  
*1 Peter 2:21-3:9 Mark 12:13-17*

**Tuesday; 20 February - The Venerable Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus**  
*1 Peter 3:10-22. Mark 12:18-27*

6:30 PM - MOLEBEN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF UKRAINE - ***at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Kenmore Avenue Bethlehem*** (*Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy of the Lehigh Valley*)

**Wednesday; 21 February - The Holy and Great-Martyr Theodore Stratelates**  
*1 Peter 4:1-11 Mark 12:28-37*

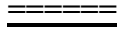
**Thursday; 22 February - The Holy Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch**  
*1 Peter 4:12-5:5 Mark 12:38-44*

**Friday; 23 February - The Holy Anna of Novhorod, wife of St. Yaroslav the Wise**  
*2 Peter 1:1-10 Mark 13:1-8*

**Saturday; 24 February - The Holy Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebastea**  
*2 Timothy 2:11-19 Luke 18:2-8*

**SUNDAY - 25 February - THIRTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
*2 Timothy 3:10-15 Luke 18:10-14*

## 9:30 AM - DIVINE LITURGY



### Zaccheus Sunday

There is a story about a fitness center that was offering \$1,000 to anyone who could show that they were stronger than the owner of the place. Here's how it worked. The owner would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and then hand the lemon to the challenger. Anyone who could squeeze out just one more drop of juice would win the money. Many people tried over time - other weightlifters, construction workers, even professional wrestlers, - but no one could do it. One day, a short, skinny guy came in and signed up for the contest. After the laughter died down, the owner grabbed a lemon and squeezed away. Then he handed the shriveled remains of the fruit to the little man. The crowd's laughter turned to silence as the unassuming challenger clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass. As the crowd cheered, the manager paid the winning prize and asked

the short guy what he did for a living. "Are you a lumberjack, a weightlifter, or what?" The man replied, "I work for the IRS. "

Each year as we approach Great Lent, we listen to the Gospel selection about Zaccheus, the tax collector in the time of Jesus. Tax collectors then were as unpopular as they are today, and Zaccheus was no exception. In those times, tax collectors were not really government employees, but rather sub-contractors who earned their living off revenue they collected. In essence, they were extortionists. Zaccheus was chief among them. In addition to being disliked because of his profession, Zaccheus was a short man, which invited more criticism.

Zaccheus heard that Jesus was coming to town and, like everyone else, he wanted to see what Jesus was all about. However, with so many people lining the streets and given Zaccheus' short stature, he couldn't get a good view. What was the poor little guy to do? He climbed up a sycamore tree and crawled way out onto a tree limb to get a good view.

From this vantage point, not only did Zaccheus get a good view of Jesus, but Jesus also got a good view of Zaccheus - both physically and spiritually!! Why did Zaccheus really want to see Jesus? Was it out of mere curiosity, or was there emptiness in his life that he wanted to fill? He had his money; he had his career, but he had very little else. Apart from Roman officials and the tax collectors who worked for him, Zaccheus had few friends. Most theologians believe that Jesus saw the void that existed within Zaccheus and this is why He told him to come down from the tree and invited Himself to dine at Zaccheus' house. Through this gesture, Jesus shined His heavenly light on Zaccheus' heart, transforming Zaccheus' worldly priorities to spiritual priorities. Through his extortionist activities, Zaccheus had become quite wealthy, but his wealth could not buy him happiness. After he experienced this enlightenment, Zaccheus was a changed man, no longer concerned with money, turning instead to correcting his past wrongs.

In our hectic world, we often focus on achievement of material rewards, just like the old Zaccheus. We think we can find our fulfillment in these things. But like the old Zaccheus, we discover that no matter how we try, we will always find an emptiness still waiting to be filled. Sometimes, it takes going out on a limb to find that spiritual fulfillment that we lack.

A few Sundays ago, we heard the story of the rich young man. Both Zaccheus and the rich young man had positions of authority. Both Zaccheus and the rich young

man had their money and material possessions. The difference was the young man could not part with his wealth when asked to; but Zaccheus decided to give away half of his wealth without even being asked to do so. He chose to do so out of gratitude and repentance. As the rich young man walked away from our Lord, Jesus made the comment about a camel trying to get through the eye of a needle and how difficult it is for a rich person to get into the Kingdom of God. The story of Zaccheus, however, ends with Jesus saying, "Today, salvation has come to this house".

Jesus can do the same for us today. It does not have to be as difficult as a camel going through the eye of a needle. The story of Zaccheus shows us that. All we have to do is accept His message in faith and repent. Maybe, we may have to make an effort in faith, by going out on a limb to get a better view, but if we do, Jesus will take care of the rest.