

Christ Is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and guests, and pray that your participation in the Divine Liturgy will be enriching and meaningful.

January 29, 2017 ~ Sunday of Zacchaeus

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4: 9-15

Gospel: Luke 19: 1-10

Troparia are in **Tone 7**, found on **page 103** of the navy blue missals

This Week's Liturgical Services

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

10:00 a.m. ~ The Three Holy and Great Hierarchs

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

10:00 a.m. ~ Feast of the Encounter (Presentation) of Our Lord
(Blessing of candles will take place)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

5:00 p.m. ~ Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Epistle Reader: Gloria Opaski-Sherban

Sunday, February 5

10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Epistle Reader: Andrea Warywoda



Your Return Gift to God

JANUARY 21/22

Envelopes: \$1,285.⁰⁰

Initial Offering: \$50.⁰⁰

Vigil Lights: \$210.⁷⁵

Mission Collection: \$47.³⁰



Thank you for your generosity!

Щиро Вам дякуємо!

The **Mission Collection** for January has been designated for **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thunder Bay**.

Parish News & Events

Thank you

Many thanks to those who brought items for last Sunday's mini-luncheon/coffee hour and to all who attended and helped. It was a nice turnout and pleasant gathering. Our next one will be in conjunction with the Annual General Parish Meeting. Hope to see many there!

Nominations to Parish Council: Andrea Warywoda and Father Stepan will be soliciting people to stand for election to Parish Council. Serving on the Council is not a tremendous task and it can be very rewarding, so we encourage all parishioners 18 years and older to let their names stand. **Please note:** at this year's General Parish Meeting, a notice of motion will be brought forth to amend the tenure of service of council members from three years to two years, therefore lessening the commitment for those who wish to serve, but might not be always available to do so. All council members will still have the option to stay on for another term if desired. Please consider sitting on the Parish Council if approached by Andrea or Father Stepan.



Important news! St. George's Society is planning a 'Cabbage Roll Making Session and Sale' in early March for parishioners only. Orders will be taken beginning next weekend in the narthex. The actual date and sale will be published in the next bulletin. As in the past, we are counting on all men and women who have the time and expertise to make this endeavour run smoothly and be another success. *Thanks!*

It's Holy Cross' 50th Anniversary and we need pictures! A box is now in the narthex to receive them. We ask that you place them into an envelope with your name clearly indicated and, if possible, label each picture on the back with a brief description (event, group, year, etc.). A historical subcommittee has been established to assist in this important task with the intention of providing a written account to be included in the event program and possibly a souvenir booklet. If you are approached, we respectively ask for your cooperation and support.

In today's Gospel, Luke tells the story of Zacchaeus who had a major handicap: he was short in stature. We don't know how 'vertically challenged' he was, but it must have been enough for Luke to feel like he should mention it. This handicap kept him from seeing the Lord and in that he was somewhat like each of us. He then decided that if he was going to overcome his handicap he would have to take matters into his own hands. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. For Zacchaeus, this action might have been undignified for a tax collector, but his goal was to see Jesus. And because he was short, he had no choice but to 'swallow his pride', which in reality was his real handicap, and climb up into that tree. Zacchaeus was willing to break with tradition and go against the flow. He took the risk and something wonderful happened: Jesus came to his house for a meal.

When Jesus calls people, He calls them out of mediocrity and into risk taking. If the Twelve hadn't been willing to take a risk then the Gospel wouldn't have spread throughout the Holy Land, and if Paul hadn't been ready to take a risk then the Gentiles would never have heard the Gospel. It may not sound real spiritual, but if we are going to get anything done for God, then we are going to have to take a risk, or more succinctly, a leap of faith.

Jesus says, "Salvation has come to your house." The chief tax collector, one of the most hated men in Jericho had opened his heart to Jesus and Christ had washed that sin-stained heart whiter than snow. But why Zacchaeus? Because Jesus said that He had come to seek and to save what was lost. And by finding Jesus, Zacchaeus became a changed man. Let us give glory to God!

Inspirational Words

“...For the Son of Man
has come to seek and save
that which was lost.”

~ Luke 19:10

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Parent Expo - Giant Indoor Yard Sale of gently used baby/toddler/children clothing, toys, etc. in support of legion scholarships **Sunday, January 29** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the RC Legion “Slovak” Branch, 801 Atlantic Avenue. Free admission ~ everyone is invited!

Teens Encounter Christ - This weekend retreat, free from the pressures of school and work, is for youth in grade 11 and up and 16 years of age or more, and will be held **February 3 to 5, 2017** at Corpus Christi Church, 664 Red River Road. For more information, please visit www.tec-thunderbay.org or contact chaplain Debbie DeBruyne at ddebruyn@tbcschools.ca.



Valentine Tea - presented by St. Dominic's CWL on **Sunday, February 19** from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the parish hall featuring sandwiches, dainties, draw prizes and door prize. Adults: \$5.00; children (5-10 years): \$3.00; children (4 and under): free. Welcome all!

For a complete listing of all events happening in and around Thunder Bay, visit the website

www.thunderbay.ca/Living

and check out the monthly calendars.

They're filled with fun and interesting information for the whole family!

Holy Cross Golden Agers ~ Fun for Seniors ~

Yippee! Regular Thursday activities will resume on **Thursday, February 2** at the usual time. New members (55+) will be welcome with open arms. It's just \$10 per year and well worth the membership fee. Come to the parish hall and check us out!

If you missed the last bus to Grand Portage, the next one is on **Wednesday, February 15** leaving the church parking lot at 3:45 p.m. To book your seat, please contact either Ann Kozlowski (322-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805). This is a **free** service for everyone. Non-members are invited also. Come out and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship!



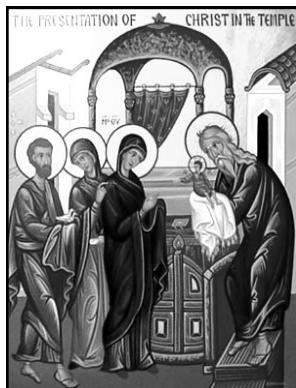
St. George's Society

Copies of the January/February edition of **The Plentiful Harvester** are now available in the narthex. Please pick yours up today!

Attention members: our first gathering in the new year will be the annual **'Super Bowl'** Meeting next **Sunday, February 5** beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by a delicious dinner and social. We extend an open invitation to **all men** of the parish to join us and to consider becoming a part of this important parish brotherhood as well.

The next Superior Shores Bingo Training Session will take place in our parish hall on **Tuesday, February 7** beginning at 7:00 p.m. and it only takes one hour. Members (and parishioners) are asked to inform **Gerry Bullock, Fred Humeniuk, Joe Myslicki or Michael Watral** if you are interested in attending. Since future money raised from bingo will be used to cover the cost of the installation of air conditioning in the parish kitchen, everyone (18+) will be allowed to volunteer at bingo, but must first undergo a brief but important training. The next scheduled bingo is an afternoon session on **Monday, February 13** at the gaming centre.

The Encounter (Presentation) of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ



THIS FEAST, celebrated on February 2, is also known in the Eastern Church as the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple (in *Ukrainian* 'Стрітення'). Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians call the feast 'The Purification of the Holy Virgin.' Around 450 AD in Jerusalem, people began the custom of holding lighted candles during the Divine Liturgy of this feast day. Therefore, some churches in the West refer to this holy day as 'Candlemas.' The Feast of the Presentation concludes the observances related to the Nativity of Christ, a period that opened on November 15 with the beginning of the Nativity fast (or Advent).

The Holy Icon shows that the meeting takes place inside the Temple and in front of the altar. The altar has a book or a scroll on it and is covered by a canopy. The Virgin Mary Mother of God (Theotokos) stands to the right and is holding out her hands in a gesture of offering. One of her hands is covered by her cloak or as it is known, the omophorion. She has just handed her Son to Simeon.

Christ is shown as a child, but He is not in swaddling clothes. He is clothed in a small dress; His legs are bare and He appears to be giving a blessing. Simeon holds Jesus with both hands which are covered. This shows the reverence Simeon had for the Messiah. Simeon is bare-headed and there is nothing to show that he is a priest. Some biblical scholars say that Simeon was probably a priest of the Temple or a Doctor of the Law. Joseph is behind the Virgin Mary. He is carrying the two turtle doves for the sacrifice. Anna the Prophetess is also standing behind Mary and is pointing to the Christ child. "With my own eyes I have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal You to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel!" (Luke 2: 30-32)



A Little Man With A Big Problem

Have you ever been to a parade where you couldn't see over the person in front of you? It isn't much fun to go to a parade if you can't see the marching bands, the floats, or the fire trucks with their flashing lights, is it? When that happens, a periscope may be just what you need. A periscope has two mirrors in it so that you can look in the bottom and see out the top. It allows you to see over tall objects or even around a corner. Periscopes are used in submarines so that the people in the submarine can see what is happening above the water. Some people use these at parades and at sports events where they may have difficulty seeing above the crowd.

Today's Bible story is about a man who went to a parade, but couldn't see above the crowd. The main attraction in this parade was Jesus Who had become quite famous because He had performed many miracles. He had raised Lazarus from the dead and had restored sight to a blind man named Bartimaeus, so when Jesus entered the City of Jericho, the atmosphere was very much like a circus parade. People lined the streets hoping to get a glimpse of Jesus. One of the people in the crowd was a man who was very short — so short that he couldn't see above all the people in the crowd. His name was Zacchaeus. He didn't have a periscope to help him see above the crowd, but he really wanted to see Jesus, so he climbed a tree and waited for Jesus to pass by.

As Jesus travelled through the streets of Jericho, He came to the place where Zacchaeus sat up in the tree. Jesus stopped, looked up in the tree, and said, "Zacchaeus, you come down, for I am going to your house today." The people in the crowd were shocked! You see, Zacchaeus was one of the most hated men in all of Jericho. Why? Because Zacchaeus was a little man with a great big problem! He was a thief and a cheat! He was the chief tax collector and he had become very rich because he cheated people by collecting more taxes than they owed and keeping it for himself. The people could not believe that Jesus would go to the home of a man like that!

Zacchaeus knew that he had cheated people and when he and Jesus arrived at his house, he confessed and said that he was sorry for what he had done. He said to Jesus, "I am going to give half of all that I own to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Because Zacchaeus was sorry for what he had done and confessed his sin, Jesus forgave him and said, "Today salvation has come to this house."

Yes, Zacchaeus was a little man with a big problem -- sin! But he met Jesus and his life was changed. It doesn't matter if you are short or tall, when you meet Jesus, He will change your life, too!

