

# ***News from St. Nick's***

## **Sunday, January 30, 2022**

### **The Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost *Feast of the Three Hierarchs***

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***Apostolic Reading: 1 Timothy 4:9-15  
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10  
(The Conversion of Zacchæus)***

***Tone 7 • Resurrection Gospel 10***

➔ **For Live Streaming Link, [click here](#)**

**[\(Click here for a PDF version of this week's news\)](#)**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON THE IMPENDING STORM.*** A major storm is expected to hit our region this weekend. We will cancel Sunday's Divine Liturgy if predictions hold. **Look to your e-mail and our Facebook page TOMORROW, SATURDAY,** where we will post any cancellation. Please be prepared, and keep yourselves safe.

***DUE TO THE IMPENDING STORM THE FOOD PANTRY WILL NOT BE OPEN TOMORROW.*** The Pantry **WILL** be open **NEXT SATURDAY February 5th.** Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center. It is a great blessing to help those who could use the help. So, if you're open to sharing a small part of your Saturday morning once a month, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at [nicole.apostola@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.apostola@gmail.com). She can give you more details. You'll see what a difference it makes.

***HOLY TRINITY RECEIVED A 5-STAR CMS RATING.*** This is an impressive achievement especially during this time when every healthcare institution, but particularly nursing homes, have been challenged to the limit. Please take a moment and read about this below!

***THE ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY*** will be held following the Divine Liturgy, on **Sunday, February 6th.** Please plan on staying and participating.

***HOLY WATER AND HOUSE BLESSINGS.*** Because of Covid, Fr. Nick will not be making his usual house visits, but will come to your home if requested. You can and should bless your home together with the members of your family. We've prepared a sheet with simple instructions and a service to follow. [You may download it here.](#) If you would like Fr. Nick to come and bless your house, you may either [e-mail](#) him or call him at 508-335-7378, to set up a specific time.

***THE FALL 2021 CREDINȚA / THE FAITH*** magazine of our Metropolia is available for download. Take some time to look it over. [Just click here!](#)

***SUPPORT IOCC ON SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!*** February 13th is Souper Bowl Sunday. Please come prepared to make a donation to support IOCC's work. If you'd like more information, go to [IOCC.ORG](http://IOCC.ORG).

***The Town of Shrewsbury has issued a MASKING ORDER.*** Masks are required in all indoor spaces, including Churches. We are now asking that all persons attending the Divine Services wear masks until is order is lifted.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

***HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE.*** Father Chris Stamas from St. Spyridon Cathedral will be leading a **trip to the Holy Lands** in November, 2022. With a goal of about 100 people, they can still accommodate up to 15 more people! The hope is to accommodate as many parishioners from our local parishes as possible. The dates are November 10-20 and the cost is

\$3,500. [Click here](#) to see the flyer. For more information, [e-mail Fr. Chris](#).

**ALL THINGS ORTHODOX** is a weekly show hosted by Fr. Christopher Stamas of St. Spyridon Cathedral. Fr. Chris interviews people active in the life of the Church on questions of faith and action. It is aired on the **Worcester Cable channel 194** on **Mondays** at 7 pm, **Saturdays** at 8 pm and **Sundays** at 9 pm. Also look for it on the Cable website: [wccatv.com](http://wccatv.com), or the **Worcester TV** Roku app.

## **NOTES FROM HOLY TRINITY**

**HOLY TRINITY RECEIVES A FIVE STAR RATING WITH CMS!** Holy Trinity is pleased to announce the achievement of reaching the CMS 5-star rating! The Center of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) uses a 5-star quality rating to measure the quality of care, inspection, and staffing of nursing homes across the state. Holy Trinity is among the top 10% in the State of Massachusetts to achieve a 5-star rating! To learn more about the 5-Star Rating System, [click here!](#) **We want to congratulate our staff for their outstanding achievement and dedication to our residents! Our staff's talents have no limits!**

**COVID UPDATE.** At this time, we have no positive employees. We continue to test every 3 days, of which all long-term care residents have continued to test negative. If we continue with this trend, we expect to be off Quarantine by Monday, February 7th.

**COVID-19 REHABILITATION UNIT.** We have a dedicated unit for COVID-19 Patients. In coordination with our medical director, we have a dedicated team of registered nurses and patient care technicians who care for COVID-19 patients.

**REHABILITATION.** At Holy Trinity Rehabilitation Center, we understand the importance of selecting the best recovery center for your loved one. You can rest assured that our services are reliable, and our nursing staff is skilled and compassionate. Our commitment to providing dependable rehabilitation and wellness services sets us apart from other facilities.

**JOB OPENINGS.** Come work for an organization that walks the talk and cares about you and your well-being! We have openings for Physical and Occupational Therapists, Nurses, and CNAs for all shifts. [Click here](#) for a full listing of our openings with detailed job descriptions. Recent grads and people familiar with the languages and cultures of our Orthodox communities are encouraged to apply.

**STAY CONNECTED.** Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos.

You can now find us at [www.holytrinityrehab.org](http://www.holytrinityrehab.org)!

## **Orthodox Links**

[Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas](#)  
[Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America](#) (Assembly of Bishops)  
[International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) (IOCC)  
[Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC)  
[Orthodox Christian Radio Network](#) (OCN)  
[Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Central Mass.](#) (CEOC)

## **Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom**

### **Feast of the Three Hierarchs**

**Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs:** Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom: During the eleventh century, disputes raged in Constantinople about which of the three hierarchs was the greatest. Some preferred Saint Basil (January 1), others honored Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25), while a third group exalted Saint John Chrysostom (November 13).

Dissension among Christians increased. Some called themselves Basilians, others referred to themselves as Gregorians, and others as Johnites. By the will of God, the three hierarchs appeared to Saint John the Bishop of Euchaita (June 14) in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. "There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another." They ordered that the disputes should stop, and that their common commemoration should be celebrated on a single day. Bishop John chose January 30 for their joint Feast, thus ending the controversy and restoring peace.

# **A Prayer of Fr. Laurence**

## **Let us pray to the Lord**

**When all the difficulties and troubles of life** seem to overpower us at once, Lord, come quickly to our aid and give us the wisdom and strength we need to deal with it all. From on high, reach down and seize us, as it were, pulling us out of the depths of our problems and difficulties and rescuing us in your love. Do not forget us, but help us always

For you are God and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

## **Today Salvation Has Come to This House**

**This week's Gospel reading** is the story of the conversion of Zacchæus, the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10). This encounter takes place in Jericho, following on the healing of the Blind Man (Luke 18:35-43) which occurred just on the outskirts of the city as Jesus was making his way into Jericho. Although the Evangelist Luke doesn't say so explicitly, it would be fair to assume that Zacchæus had heard of the miracle and, like so many others, was curious to see this Jesus.

St. Luke tells us a few things about Zacchæus. He's a chief tax collector and he's rich (v. 2). From what we know about how tax collectors operated in those days, we might infer that at least some of his wealth was ill-gotten gain. And, he is short (v. 3).

As Jesus is walking into Jericho, a crowd begins to form and people are struggling to get a glimpse of him. Because of the crowd, it is difficult for Zacchæus to see Jesus as he passes, so he climbs a sycamore tree. Sycamore trees have short, fat trunks and branches that spread broad and wide, making it relatively easy for someone to climb up and gain an advantage of a few feet. Nonetheless, it must have been something to see — a prominent official climbing a tree, like a child.

When Jesus gets to where Zacchæus is he says to him: "Zacchæus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today" (v. 5). Zacchæus is overwhelmed. He hurries down and welcomes him with joy. People in the crowd began to grumble complaining that Jesus was going to Zacchæus' house, the house of a sinner, but Zacchæus isn't cowered. He turns to Jesus and says, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay it back four times as much" (v. 8).

St. John Chrysostom draws our attention to the way Zacchæus shows his repentance. Chrysostom reminds his listeners that when there has been a fraud, it is not enough simply to restore what was stolen. There have to be reparations as a necessary part of making amends. In this case Zacchæus says that he will pay back four times as much, clearly a step beyond. Chrysostom takes this example and challenges us. He asks, if when we bring our sins before God asking for forgiveness, will we follow the example of Zacchæus? Will we offer to repay our debt four times as much?

Then he gives us another interesting point to ponder. He says that when someone hosts an important guest the first impulse is to clean and redecorate, to fill the house with fine and even luxuriant furnishings. Zacchæus, Chrysostom says, chooses to "decorate" his house with this profound act of repentance.

When we bless a new home, the service uses this very same Gospel reading, illustrating for us what it means to ask Christ to come into our own homes. The prayer says: "O Lord, who condescended to enter under the roof of Zacchæus, bringing salvation to him and his whole house ... keep safe from harm those who dwell here ..." In a prayer written by St. John Chrysostom that we read when preparing for Holy Communion we say, "O Lord my God, I know that I am not worthy that you should come under the roof of the house of my soul, for all is desolate and fallen in ruins ..." In these moving words, we remember the faith of the Centurion (Matthew 8:8) who asked Jesus to heal his servant who was close to death. But, Chrysostom also intended that we should find in this phrase the image of Zacchæus' great act of repentance. It is a powerful model for us to follow.

When Jesus sees Zacchæus' repentance, he says, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham" (v. 9). Some early Fathers speculated from the way in which Jesus said this, that Zacchæus might have been a Gentile. Others say that the Lord is clarifying what makes each of us a true son or daughter of Abraham: faith in the Living God. Whichever it is, one or the other, what we do know for sure is that love of God and our true repentance is what will make us true children of Abraham.

Zacchæus followed Jesus until the day he died. He was ordained Bishop of Cæsarea in Palestine by the Apostle Peter. Later, during one of the persecutions of the late first century, he suffered martyrdom along with the Apostle Alphaeus. The story of Zacchæus' great act of repentance comes alive for us each time we read it in Holy Scriptures, and especially when we put his example into practice in our own lives.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Jan 29 Orthodox Food Pantry CANCELLED  
Sat, Feb 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry  
Sun, Feb 6 General Assembly Meeting  
Sun, Feb 13 Triodion Begins  
Souper Bowl Sunday (IOCC)  
Fri, Feb 18 Mustard Seed Meal  
Sat, Feb 26 Saturday of the Dead  
Sun, Feb 27 Last Judgment/Meatfare Sunday  
Sun, March 6 Forgiveness Sunday/Cheesefare Sunday  
Mon, March 7 Great Lent Begins  
Sun, April 25 Great and Holy Pascha

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*Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am*