

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Tone 8. Epistle, 1 Tim. 4:9-15 / Gospel, Luke 19:1-10

Ven. Maximus the Confessor / Martyr Neophytus / Ven. Maxim the Greek

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR will be held today, following the Divine Liturgy.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held next Sunday, January 28, following the Divine Liturgy.

ALTAR TABLE CANDLES (7), offered by Denise Ricci (45th remembrance of falling asleep of dep, father, Michael Chuhran) Memory Eternal!

ANNUAL SUPERBOWL HOAGIE SALE will be held Saturday, February 3. Orders are due by Friday, January 26. To order, call Caroline Ruev at 724-379-6478. Cost is \$8.00/hoagie. Sponsored by our St. Nicholas Society. Pickup is Saturday, February 3, from 11 a.m. to Noon. Workers are asked to be at the Church Hall at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 3.

THE COMBINED DINNER for members of the St. Nicholas Society and FOCA will be held at Hoss's Restaurant (Belle Vernon) on February 18 at 1 p.m.

VIGIL OFFERINGS – Sunday, January 21, 2018

ANN O'BRIEN and MARY BEHANNA (Virgin Mary Kiot) – In memory of parents, Andy and Petrina Gernat (2)

HEATHER MOLINA – For health of father, Paul Zolak / For special intentions (2)

SANDY KLIZAS – In memory of Stephen and Helen Drake / In memory of Frank and June Drake / For health of Kyra Zewe (3)

SANDY CARROLL – For health of Fr. Stephen Shuga / Special intentions (2)

LARRY and STEFFIE SMITH – For health of family / For recovery of Pauline Petro / For health of Fr. Igor / In memory of mom (4)

OLGA BOGAN – For health of family / In memory of departed members of family

DEACON RODION, MATUSHKA SANDY and FAMILY – For health of son, Nicholas and daughter, Christina / For health of Francis Ricci and Dottie Priatko / In loving memory of parents, Harold and Lillian Sethman and Joseph and Irene Motichak (3)

BILL PRIATKO – God's healing hand be with all of the afflicted in our parish / God's watchful hand be with all of our troops who are in harm's way / God's healing hand be upon daughter-in-law, Dottie / Blessed Memory Eternal to my beloved Katrinka (4)

VLAD KASH (3)

TOM and ELAINE BACKSTROM – In memory of mom and dad / Special intentions / God's healing hand upon sister, Michele / God's healing hand upon brother-in-law, Paul / God's blessings on our grandchildren, Sydney, Luke, Freddy and Madison / God's blessings on Aaron and Cara (6)

DR. DIMITRI and PAULINE PETRO – In memory of newly departed, Diane Stewart / In memory of Andy Kaluponov / For health of granddaughter, Alexandra / For health of daughter, Kyra / For health of grandson, Luke / For health of Lorraine Mullen (6)

DR. DIMITRI PETRO – For health of wife, Pauline

NICK and CHRISTINE MILCHOVICH – God's healing hand be upon daughter, Alexandra / For health of mom, Pauline Petro / God's protection for sister, Kyra and baby during last month of pregnancy (3)

MARK SOROKA – For health of father, Fr. Igor / In memory of mother, Matushka Irene (2)

FR. IGOR SOROKA – In loving and blessed memory of departed Matushka Irene

Jesus was known to be on the side of the poor—the very poor that Zacchaeus had been cheating and oppressing for years. “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God! Woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation in full! Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger! Woe to you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep!” (Luke 6:20, 24-25) What would He say to him? His guilty conscience prepared itself for a terrible tongue-lashing. But the justified tongue-lashing never came. Instead, Jesus said something even more shocking: “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house” (Luke 19:5).

We must leave our own culture for a bit to enter into that of Zacchaeus. Jesus addressed him by name, a sign of tenderness and love. And He asked for hospitality, a sign of acceptance. Given that Zacchaeus was easily the worst and most hated man in town, such love was staggeringly unexpected. Luke records that when the crowd saw it, “they all grumbled, ‘He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner’” (Luke 19:7). Such is the love of God: it outrages decency and justice, and calls all to repentance—even a grasping, oppressing person like Zacchaeus.

The sprinting and tree-climbing of Zacchaeus challenges us as we head into Great Lent. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly that he left all his pride and dignity in a spattered heap at the bottom of the tree. What are we willing to leave behind? Our pride and refusal to forgive those who have hurt us? Our laziness and failure to say our daily prayers? Our greed and love of possessions? We don't have to leave any of these things behind if we don't want to. We can go through Lent more or less unchanged, and keep all of our habits intact. We can remain as we are, content and leisurely, and stroll through life in dignified serenity. But then we won't see Jesus, and He will pass through our town without stopping. Better to run and climb, better to divest ourselves of our pride and whatever else stands between us and a saving encounter with the Lord.

The little tax-collector of Jericho badly wanted to see Jesus. How badly do we want to see Him?