

1926-2016

Христос Раждається! Славім Його!

Неділя Закхея—Sunday of Zacchaeus

14.2.2016

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

Our parish this week

Цього тижня в нашій парафії

НИНІ: панахида + Василь Луців

15.02.2016 (Monday) Стрітєння/Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple

10 a.m. Бож. Свята Літургія і благословення свічок/

Divine Liturgy and blessing of candles

17.02.2016 (Wednesday) 11 a.m. Молебень/Moleben

1:00 p.m. Клуб Зустріч/Seniors' club

У великі залі – in the UC Centre

6:30 p.m. Rozmaj dancing instruction

7-8 p.m. Bible Study/Дискусія св. Письма (в парафіяльні хаті/in parish house)

19.02.2016 (Friday) 10 a.m. Бож. Свята Літургія/ Divine Liturgy + за Небесну Сотню

7 p.m. Вервиця/Rosary

## На свято Стрітєння

Різдв'яний круг свят завершується празником Господнього Стрітєння, що його святкуємо сорокового дня по Христовому Різдві 15 лютого. Як і Різдво, Стрітєння належить до 12-ти найбільших (окрім свята над святами—Великодня) свят церковного року. В цей день згадується євангельська подія, коли на 40-й день після народження Христа, його земні батьки—Діва Марія та Йосип Обручник принесли Немовля Ісуса до Єрусалимського храму. Ці події яскраво описані в Євангелії від Луки.

Таку назву празник має тому, що у цей день відбулася стріча Божої Дитини—маленького Ісуса і його Пресвятої Матері з праведним Симеоном. Але Стрітєння в нашому народі - не лише церковне свято. У цей день, за народним повір'ям, зима зустрічається з весною, до цього свята приурочувалося чимало звичаєвостей як церковних, так і побутово-господарських. В церквах освячували свічки. Їх дбайливо берегли протягом року і часто використовували як лікувальний, протизлодушний чи заспокійливий засіб. Ці свічки звуть "стрітєнськими" або "громичними", бо їх ставиться перед образами під час грози, щоб захиститись від блискавок та погрозних вітрів.

Щире спасибі всім жертводавцям.

Feb. 7, 2016: Regular: \$ 640.

Andrews's pence: \$50.

Church donation: Mr. & Mrs. Slipec \$100.

Anonymous \$100.

Thank you to all our kind donors!

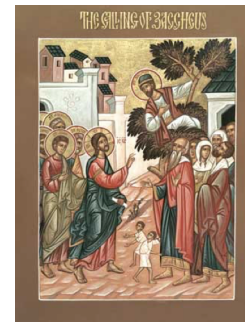
Happy Birthday!

Вітаємо парафіян котрі цього тижня відзначають день народження. Greetings and best wishes to all our parishioners who celebrate their birthday this week: Oliver Aniszyk (18<sup>th</sup>), Irene Pihura and Mary Didyk (19<sup>th</sup>).

Многая літа !

90 years together in K-W

## Sunday of Zacchaeus



In our Byzantine Tradition, we have a liturgical year—a calendar of liturgies formulated centuries ago in order to guide and support us, as Christians, in knowing Christ and living according to His example. Ukrainian folk culture has evolved in accordance with the liturgical year. If we look at the cycle of events in our liturgies, and the Ukrainian customs surrounding them, we'll recognize seasons that reflect a universal experience of being human—in the natural world, and in society.

In the Christmas cycle, we've encountered the mystery of birth, the wonder of God's incarnation, and the meaning that Divine embodiment can have on **my own** understanding of my humanity—what it means to be human. We are still in the Christmas season, singing carols, awaiting Jordan visitations, but as this sequence of Feasts wanes, the liturgies point towards the next wondrous phase of the church year. Having contemplated the divine nature of our humanness, having celebrated light in the dark of winter, we are led now through a period of reflection on **how to live our humanity** as Christians. For 5 Sundays we hear Gospel narratives that focus on our relationships with each other—to prepare us for the time of Lent when our attention turns from finding God in Others to finding God in ourselves.

**This Sunday of Zacchaeus marks a turn from our observance of mortal life—through Great Lent—to Pascha, when together we contemplate the miracle of immortal life.**

Each year we hear the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19: 1-10, the same story repeated, just as every other biblical reading returns every year, for over a thousand years. Why? Because the stories can speak to us as human beings in a fresh way each time we hear them. They apply to our individual context and personality (if we let them). They can give us the **courage to be as radical in our relationships as Christ was** with those He met.

Remember Zacchaeus? He was the despised tax collector: corrupt, traitorous, rich, unscrupulous, and (as if that weren't enough) short. No one was going to give Zacchaeus a front seat for the parade, so, he climbed a tree to get a glimpse of the miracle working rabbi that was coming to town. Jesus looks up, sees the man and invites himself over to Zacchaeus's house for supper. This we know is a lovely reminder to us all that **anyone can change their bad ways** and accept Christ into their lives. Zacchaeus, like Dickens's Scrooge, becomes a beacon to his community, better than he could ever have dreamed of being before his encounter with Jesus, with Love incarnate. We can also learn from the reaction of the crowd, who apparently considered themselves followers of Jesus: good, pious, honest, law-abiding people—definitely NOT tax-collectors. They might have rejoiced at Zacchaeus's good fortune and conversion. But they didn't. They resented the attention a sinner received. They were self-righteous. An obvious lesson on how **NOT** to be, but one that might resonate currently in a particular way when we hear grumbling about the services granted to Syrian refugees. I hate to admit it, but too often I catch myself being envious when someone gets what seems to me to be a "free ride" for something I've worked really hard at. Thanks to this Sunday's reminder, I can give my head a shake, as it were, and be happy. Thank God.

**TOGETHER WE HONOUR OUR PAST AND BUILD FOR THE FUTURE!**