

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Dimitrie	John
Priest James	Vivian
Priest John	Jung Sook
Reader Aleksei	Thomas
Reader Sergei	Cheyenne
Monk Philaret	Nancy
Matushka Mary	Randall
Matushka Mary Sara	Rose
Marie • Kyra	Don
John • Euphrosynos	Norma
Virginia • Thomas	James
John • Luke • Katherine	
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Bishop Mark (January 8)
Mikhail (January 1)
John (January 10)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

Contact Father to schedule your house blessing this month

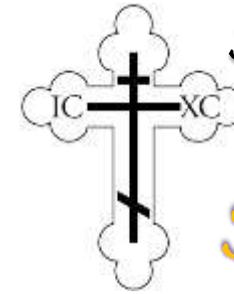
This Saturday, January 27, 4:00 PM – Choir practice

This Saturday, January 27, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers

Next Sunday, January 28 – Annual Parish Meeting

**Thursday, Feb. 1, 6:30 PM – Great Vespers & Liturgy
for the Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Sunday of Zacchaeus



A young Fr James Worth (left) with Fr George Benigsen with and Freddie LaGuardia (April 1962)

**Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day
Other services as announced**

Rev. Alexander Vallens, Rector

priest@sttikhonparker.org

(303) 305-8443

19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134

www.sttikhonparker.org

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation. Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Exodus 22:3-12). The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions. We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature; therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Maximus the Confessor

Maximus was a Constantinopolitan by birth and, at first, a high-ranking courtier at the court of Emperor Heraclius and, after that, a monk and abbot of a monastery not too far from the capital. He was the greatest defender of Orthodoxy against the so-called Monothelite heresy which proceeded from the heresy of Eutyches. As Eutyches claimed that there is only one nature in Christ [Monophysitism], so the Monothelites claimed that there is only one will in Christ. Maximus opposed that claim and found himself as an opponent of the emperor and the patriarch, but endured to the end in proving that there were two wills as well as two natures in Christ. Because of his efforts, councils held in Carthage and Rome anathematized the teachings of the Monothelites. The suffering of Maximus for Orthodoxy cannot be described: he was tortured by princes, deceived by prelates, spat upon by the masses of the people, beaten by soldiers, exiled, imprisoned, until finally, with a severed tongue and hand, he was condemned to exile for life in the land of Skhemaris [near Batum on the Black Sea] where he spent three years in prison and gave up his soul to God in the year 666 A.D.

The Holy Priest-Martyr Neophytus

Neophytus was born in Nicaea. While he was still a child and with God’s Grace, he worked great miracles. Neophytus brought forth water from a rock and raised his dead mother. He was led by a white dove to Mount Olympus where he drove a lion from its cave and there, took up residence. At age 15, during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, he was tortured but by no means would he deny Christ. After beatings and imprisonment, Neophytus was thrown into the fire, but God preserved his life. Then, they placed him before a hungry lion, but the saint, recognizing this lion as the same one in whose cave he practiced asceticism, began to pet him and ordered him to return to the cave. Then Neophytus was pierced with a lance and gave up his soul to the Lord.

Also this week: *Apostle Timothy of the Seventy (January 22); Hieromartyr Clement, Bp of Ancyra, and Martyr Agathangel; Comm. of the Sixth Ecumenical Council (January 23); Ven Xenia of Rome and her two slaves; Bl Xenia of St Petersburg (January 24); ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, ABP OF CONSTANTINOPLE (January 25); Ven Xenophon, his wife Mary, and their sons Arcadius and John, of Constantinople (January 26); TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (January 27).*

** Regular fasting this week **

Epistle: I Timothy 4:9-15 (Sunday)

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10 (Sunday)

Troparion – Tone 8 (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on *high*, O Merciful One! /
Thou didst accept the *three*-day burial to free us from our sufferings! ///
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 8 (St. Maximus)

As an instructor of *Orthodoxy*, a teacher of piety and purity, /
A lamp of the universe, and divinely-inspired enrichment of hierarchs, /
O most-wise Maximus, *by* thy teachings thou didst enlighten all ///
O spirit-filled voice, beseech *Christ* God to save our souls.

Troparion – Tone 4 (Martyr)

Thy martyr Neophytus, O Lord, /
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. /
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 8 (Resurrection)

By rising from the *tomb*, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. /
Eve exults in *Thy* Resurrection, ///
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Saint)

Let us, the faithful, *honor* with worthy hymns the great Maximus, /
Who was most zealous for the *Trinity*, and courageously taught faith in God, /
And glorified Christ in His two *natures*, two wills and action as both God and man. ///
Therefore, let us cry aloud: *Rejoice*, O proclaimer of the Orthodox Faith!

Kontakion – Tone 6 (Saint)

The thrice-radiant light abiding in thy soul, /
Revealed *thee* as an elect vessel, O father Maximus,
And thou didst attain a divine repose, O all-blessed one, /
For, speaking eloquently of things beyond our meager understanding /
Thou didst clearly proclaim the Truth /// Of Him who hath no beginning, the pre-eternal One.