

Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak
1926-2021



Holy Assumption Orthodox Church Rector
June, 1953- July, 1956
Obituary - Page 4

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector



Saturday, February 14, 2021

Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10

Tone 3

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

36th Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of Zacchaeus

Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia

February Bulletin Sponsor:

By Father Andrew, In memory of my Grandmother Justina

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, February 14

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy

Monday, February 15

4:00 pm: Respect Life Meeting

Wednesday, February 17

noon: Akathist to Jesus Christ

Saturday, February 20

3:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, February 21

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy /
Memorial Sunday

(NEW NOTE): You must let Fr. Andrew know if you want to attend any service. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the Divine Liturgy only. All other services will begin at time scheduled.

FEBRUARY CANDLE & BULLETIN SPONSORS

Bulletin: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew - In memory of his Grandmother, Justina

Chandelier: (\$50) From Basil for his parents Anthony & Martha / Fr. Andrew for Fr. James for his b-day (his spiritual Father)

Altar Candles: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew - In memory of First Carpatho-Russian Bishop, Metropolitan Orestes

Candles on the Tomb: (\$25) From Fr. Andrew In Memory of his relatives deceased in month of Feb.

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) From Athanasia - In memory of Kurtis, Bobbie, Margaret, Gori, Jeanette, DorothyAnn, Edward, and unborn infants Michael, George, & Alexander.

TENTATIVE READERS

Sunday, Feb 14	Tim
Sunday, Feb. 21	Terri
Sunday, Feb 28	Tim

Join Archbishop Paul in Upcoming Family Life Live stream

His Eminence, Archbishop Paul invites the faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest to join him for the first interactive live stream webinars of 2021 on Family Life at 7:00 p.m. Central Time on Sunday, February 14, 2021.

Archbishop Paul will explore the theme, "Who Is God," and he will field questions and answers from participants throughout the interactive webinar.

Register now to participate in the webinar and to receive weekly website updates.

The Orthodox Family Life site offers a detailed, ongoing account of Archbishop Paul's vision with regard to the centrality of the family in the life of the Church. The site features reflections by His Eminence on a variety of related themes, reader questions and comments, and a growing collection of writings by noted guest authors.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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JANUARY 2021: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,825

Sunday, Feb. 7: \$4,880

JANUARY, 202: OTHER INCOME

Goal for the month in this category: \$2,670

Sunday, February 7: \$115 candles; \$270 Vigils; \$525 in Holy Day donations; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier; \$25 Candles on the Tomb

Week Total: \$1,035

RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS RECEIVED

Sunday, February 7: \$750 Building Fund; \$150 Cemetery; \$100 Flower; \$175 in Food Pantry; \$10 Halupki Festival; \$250 Catastrophic Fund; \$150 St Herman's House Special Collection



LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Monday & Tuesday- Services cancelled

Saturday, Feb. 6: 7 attended Vespers

Sunday, Feb. 7: 12 attended Liturgy / 10 Communicants

Wednesday, 10: 4 attended Akathist

VIGILS - FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Tim Glovinsky (1) Special intentions

Susan Guzy (2) Memory eternal to Anna, Bill and Mitered Protoperbyter Daniel, Vishnaya Pamyat; Special intentions

Laura Kovach (4) In loving memory of my dad; For healing of Joe, Andrew, and JC; For health of Betty, Ben, Julia, Andrea, Wendy, Mark, Dana, Bodhi, Wayne, David, and Barb; In thanksgiving for all good things.

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

Ron & Bobbie Royhab (1) Health and healing of Christopher Ghareeb

Diane Tryon (3) In loving memory of Grandma Benya on her Anniversary; Birthday blessings to Ian; Birthday memory of Aunt Ann

Twarek (8) For God's grace and blessings on our country; In loving memory of Father Daniel Hubiak; In loving memory of Mary Zivich; Health and recovery of Ann Turinsky, Bob Snyder, JC Geisman; God's blessing to Cole; Health of Jewel, Natalie and Morgan and their unborn babies; God's blessings and good health to Ezra Bottoms; Health and recovery of Jim, Cheryl and Laura; Health of Matt, Wayne, Tom, Ron, Mary, Loren, Joe, Sonya, David, Julia, Tom, Jason, Margi & Joe, Betty, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Bohdi, Liz, Diane, Stella, Jake, Helen



PRAYER LIST Updated 2-3

HIERARCH'S: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

CLERGY: Mykola Bondarchuk; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Barry; Gregory Grivna; David Hanes; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Vladimir Lecko; Philip Maikkila; Peter Pawlack; Peter Tutko; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle

MATUSHKII: Olga Bondarchuk; Pani Patricia Duranko; Virginia Lecko; Maura McCarnthey; Snezana Ruzic; Sonya Tutko; Margaret Zabinko

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: Jonah Adamcio; John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen (Cassell Daughter); Maryann Cook (cousin to Twarek); John Richard Elchisco; Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Ben Grosik (Hritsko cousin); Judy Hritsko; Julia Guzy; Joseph Habegger (brother-in-law Kovach); Ellie Hritsko (Aunt); Charisee (Hileman); Betty Kovach (Jim's mother); Terri Lariccia (Fr's cousin); David LaValle (Fr's cousin); Helen Lis (fr David's mom); Child Stephanos (Loizos); Jim Mazur; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Katelyn Pipenur (Hileman niece); Earl Rindfleisch (Tina's dad); Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Patricia Schritzing (Christi's mom); Steven Schirtzinger (Christi's brother); Christy Schutt (Joe's sister); Dacia Snider (Hileman); Christi Soski; Doris Toth (Hritsko cousin); Peter Truta (Jean's cousin); Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; the child Bodhi (Grandson Cassell)

OTHER REQUESTS: Mark Britton (Hritsko); Joel Butcher (Son); Ernest Cornwell (Hritsko); James Crane (Hritsko); Baby Finn (Cassell); Child Ezra Bottoms; Bredan (Child from Norwalk); Marge Dziama Fr's Dziama's daughter (former pastor); Mary Dziak (Twarek); Ruthe Flewelling, (Former parishioner); Ben Franklin (Kovach); James Geisman (Twarek); Theodore Geletka (Choir director St. Michael's Broadview Heights); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Elliot Joy (Former Police chief's son); Andrea Joy (Kovach); Ann Marie Krynock (Timko); Melinda Kuzara (Archbishop's list); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Fr's friend); Karen Muzyka (Fr's friend); Charlie Nowak (Twarek); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Arby Shenesky (Pastor B. Daughter); Bob Snyder (Twarek); Gary Steyer (Twarek); Janice Timko; Philip Andy Timko; George Timko; Cheryl Wieber (Twarek); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Loren Welch (Fr's friend)

MILITARY: Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton

CAPTIVES: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo), Archbishop John Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world



BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund*.

For Your Prayers

Julia Guzy (97)
1601 Church Rd
Marblehead, OH 43440

Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804

Please remember our shut-ins, especially now during this National crisis.

Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak

On Friday evening, February 5, 2021, Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak, former Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America (1973 to 1988) and former OCA Representative to the Moscow Patriarchate (1992 to 2001) fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 94 in retirement.

Daniel Hubiak was born on December 29, 1926 in Akron, Ohio to Archpriest Afanasy and Susan (Wanchisen) Hubiak, where his father was the founding pastor of Saint Nicholas Church. After serving in the US Army, he graduated from Columbia University and Saint Vladimir's Seminary in New York City in 1951. On September 16, 1951, Daniel married Evdokia (Dunia) Martynuk of Brooklyn, NY. Metropolitan Leonty (Turkevich), Primate of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of North America (informally known as the Metropolia and precursor to the Orthodox Church in America) ordained Father Daniel to the Holy Diaconate on September 21, 1952 and to the Holy Priesthood on September 27, 1952. He was then assigned as assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Detroit, MI until June of the following year, when he was transferred to Holy Assumption Church in Marblehead, OH, where he would serve as pastor for over two years. On July 17, 1956, he was assigned as assistant pastor at Holy Transfiguration Church in Brooklyn, NY, where he would remain for two years. Subsequently, on June 1, 1958, he was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Church in East Meadow on Long Island, NY. There, during his more than a decade-long pastorate, he would lead the community in the construction of its new church building.

With the creation of the positions of Chancellor, Secretary and Treasurer for the Metropolia at the 11th All-American Sobor in 1963, Father Daniel was invited to become the Treasurer for the Church, while continuing his pastoral work as rector of the East Meadow parish. This work required his frequent presence at the chancery offices, then located at Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral in Manhattan. Father Daniel exerted much effort to make the finances stable and to provide accountability to the Church. In May 1970, he was named to the seven-member delegation assigned to travel to Moscow to receive the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in America. In August of that year, he participated in the glorification services in Kodiak of Saint Herman of Alaska, North America's

first Orthodox saint. Finally, in October 1970, he was a delegate to the historic 1st All-American Council of the new autocephalous Church.

After the Council, Father Daniel was asked to take on additional responsibilities within the Church administration by serving as Secretary. At this point, after 12 years in East Meadow, he relinquished his parish responsibilities to devote his energies fully to labors in two of the three officer positions of the OCA. Effective December 1, 1970, he was assigned to Saint Sergius Chapel at the Metropolitan's Residence, located in Syosset, NY. When he was not traveling in fulfillment of his chancery responsibilities, Father Daniel would provide pastoral care for members of the chancery staff and other faithful attending services there for nearly two decades. He would continue as Secretary-Treasurer for the Church for three years, until he was named OCA Chancellor in November 1973 to succeed Protopresbyter Joseph Pishtey, who had reposed a year earlier. Father Daniel was the only person to hold at some point each of the three officer positions of the OCA since their establishment in 1963. In fact, during the late 1970s, Father Daniel managed the duties of all three officers simultaneously, as the positions of Secretary and Treasurer were vacant for several years. In his role as Chancellor, Father Daniel was the key assistant for Metropolitans Ireney (Bekish) and Theodosius (Lazor), especially in facilitating the smooth functioning of the Holy Synod, the All-American Councils, the Metropolitan Council as well as the growing number of various Church departments and commissions and the chancery offices. In 1974, he oversaw the transfer of the Chancery offices from Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral in New York City to Syosset, NY.

In 1988, Father Daniel and Matushka Dunia returned to parish ministry when he left his position as Chancellor and was assigned to succeed his late friend, Father John Skvir, who had reposed unexpectedly, as pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Jersey City, NJ.

At this time, perestroika and glasnost were rapidly changing the life of the Church in the Soviet Union and it became possible for the Orthodox Church in America to realize its long-held vision to establish a representation church in Moscow, alongside the representation of several other *Con't Page 6*

FEBRUARY Celebrations

Anniversary	Birthday	
2-10-1973: Retired Metropolitan Herman	4- Nathaniel Bremer	16- David Mazurik
2-14-2004: The Most Blessed Tikhon	5- Christi Soski	16- Silas Issler
14- Jim & Rita Mazur	5- Thomas Hileman	19- Jonah Adamcio
18- Joe & Sonya Rose	5- Zoland Zile	20- Julianna Kusinski
	6- Alex Zarynow	22- Wayne Golob
	8- Thomas Hileman	24- Sonya Rose
	10- Fr. Eli Bremer	25- Heidi Golob
	12- Fr. James Gleason	26- Basil Glovinsky
	12- Michael Sumner	26- Pani Bernadette Zarynow
	14- Sandy Martin	27- Andy Schlotterer
	14- Mat. Ann Lardas	

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

Archbishop Paul's Travel Schedule:

February 8 to March 15

Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Milwaukee, WI,
February 12th to 14th

St. Raphael Mission, Quincey, IL
February 19th to 21st

Holy Assumption, Canton, OH,
February 26th to 28th

Ss. Peter & Paul, Lorain, OH,
March 5th to March 7th

Fr. Basil Stoyka to be awarded the St. John of Chicago Cross

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Feb. 7: Methodist Pastor from TX / Archpriest Rodion / Police officers killed in Capitol riots / Rod Rodney

Feb. 21: James Doyle

Feb. 28: Rosie Foster / Police officer from Toledo / Archpriest Joseph Gibson / Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar

March 7: Archimandrite Alexander [Cutler] / Jane / William Alber / Anna Schofield

March 14: Two FBI agents killed in FL / Mitred Protopresbyter Daniel Hiubiak

FEBRUARY Reposed

2- Nancy Pipenur (2018)	20- Dc. Mike Cinalli (2020)
3- Ann Sature (2012)	21- Mary Tomka Matso (1956)
5- Peter Kowal (2004)	21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020)
6- Steve Michael Mazur (1970);	22- Metro Mazur (1973)
6- Elizabeth Kravetz Mc Mahon (1984)	22- Fr. Andrew Hutnyan (2004)
12- Glenn Schoonaker (2002)	23- George Elchisco Sr. (1961)
12- Lawrence Beck (2018)	25- William "Bill" Alber (2021)
13- Bishop Varlaam (2020)	26- Elizabeth Millie (1998)
14- Rose Polosky (1953)	27- Steve Basala (1985)
15- Justina Popodich (grandmother)	29- Mary Uka Kosteary (1996)
16- Albert Bartek (1952)	30- Anna Schofield (2021)
17- Metropolitan Orestes (1977)	Helen Hritsko (1908)
17- Stanley Guzy (1986)	Alexandra Brendza (1909)
20- Linda Sue Alber & infant (1969)	Steve Danchisen (1909)

Fr. Daniel Con't

autocephalous churches. The idea of establishing a representation church of the North American Diocese in Russia was first conceived in the early 20th century. With his vast experience in church administration, understanding of the Russian Church through his contacts with its leaders and travels there, along with his pastoral and language skills, Father Daniel possessed the requisite qualities to become the representative, a kind of ecclesiastical ambassador, for the OCA in Moscow. Therefore, effective January 1, 1992, Father Daniel and Matushka Dunia were assigned to serve in Moscow. Initially, Father Daniel conducted services at a chapel within the Danilov Monastery, gathering a flock of Americans and other English-speaking Orthodox stationed in Moscow, along with locals who also joined the community. As this community grew, it became apparent that the American representation could indeed become a permanent fixture in Moscow. Patriarch Aleksy II of Moscow and All Rus offered the OCA a choice of several churches in central Moscow to house its representation. The Church of Saint Catherine in the Fields on Bolshaya Ordynka Street was chosen. On December 7, 1994, the feast of Saint Catherine, Patriarch Aleksy and OCA Primate Metropolitan Theodosius, concelebrated a festive prayer service at the church to officially inaugurate its functioning as the OCA Representation Church. Father Daniel worked tirelessly to restore the church buildings that had been used for secular purposes during Soviet times. He built up the parish community and made the OCA a visible presence in Moscow in both ecclesiastical and secular circles. Through the labors of Father Daniel, the altar of Saint Catherine's Church was readied for its solemn consecration by Patriarch Aleksy and Metropolitan Theodosius on June 11, 1999. Many hierarchs and clergy concelebrated and numerous pilgrims from the United States attended the festive occasion.

After nearly a decade of ministry in Moscow, Father Daniel and Matushka Dunia returned to the United States in 1999 and settled permanently in their home in coastal Maryland. He started a new mission community, Christ the Savior, which has now progressed to parish status in Berlin, MD. After the assignment of Father John Parsells as parish

rector in 2006, Father Daniel was able, at the age of 80, to relinquish his pastoral responsibilities, although he and Matushka remained an active presence in the parish until the end of his life. In his later years, he was also active in the management of Saints Cosmas and Damian Adult Home in Staten Island, NY and spoke at various events reflecting on the historical events he had witnessed in church life. Father Daniel and Matushka Dunia were also able to visit Russia again several times in the two decades since they left. They were always warmly welcomed back, especially at Saint Catherine's Church where they had labored so energetically. Most recently, Father Daniel participated in the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of Saint Catherine's Church as the OCA Representation that took place in Moscow in December 2019 where he was acknowledged by Patriarch Kirill of Moscow.

Father Daniel was honored with many awards throughout his long ministry. Most notably, he was elevated in 1997 to the rank of Protopresbyter, a rare honor for clergy who serve with great distinction. He was also awarded the St. Innocent Award (gold class) and the right to wear the mitre.

Survivors include Matushka Dunia, his beloved spouse of 69 years; daughters, Larice Nescott and her husband Gregg, an attorney and prominent Orthodox layman, who was a longtime member of the Metropolitan Council, and Matushka Annice, wife of Archpriest Joseph Oleynik, recently retired pastor of Saint John the Baptist Church of Canonsburg, PA along with several grandchildren and their families.

His passing truly marks the end of an era. From Father Daniel's connection through his father to the Church in North America in the early 20th century to the multitude of major historical events he personally experienced and significant church figures he knew through most of the 20th century and into the 21st century. He will be missed by many who were touched by his multifaceted priestly ministry in both America and Russia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Christ the Savior Church, Berlin, MD; Wounded Warriors; or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Homily at St. Vladimir’s Seminary on the Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord with the Ordination of Anthony Machnee to the Holy Diaconate February 7, 2021

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen!

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15).

We receive this word from the Apostle Paul in his First Epistle to Timothy as we gather together on this day of the resurrection which falls during the Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

The present feast, as we know, is closely connected with that which we celebrated forty days ago, the feast of the Nativity of Christ. That glorious day marked the birth, not of a simple man or an unknown deity, but rather the birth of our King, the birth of the One who “came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

Our King was given the name of Jesus and, like Joshua before him, he will lead God’s people into a new land.

Our King bears the title of Christ, the anointed one of Israel and, like David before him, he will reign as the divinely-ordained Sovereign of God’s people.

In his birth, our King is attended by the hosts of angels, angels who are often thought of as a choir, but are also revealed to be an army, a “host” of heavenly powers.

All of these names, events, and people surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ point to what the Zealots desired and what Herod feared: the arrival of a military, powerful, earthly leader who would overturn the present earthly order of things.

But in none of the glorious feasts of the Lord—neither in his Nativity nor in his Theophany, neither in his death nor in his resurrection—do we behold the earthly glory of a mighty earthly king making a proud conquest or a triumphal march.

Rather, as we witness in the present feast, the One “who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” is brought as a little child into the temple by a humble countryman accompanied by his young wife.

They come with the intention of fulfilling what is commanded in the Law of Moses, to offer a pair of turtledoves for the sacrifice for the purification according to the Law. But those with spiritual eyes, the elder Simeon, and the prophetess Anna, observe the situation quite differently, and they recognize their King in the manner of ones who have prepared for long years.

Simeon, we are told, was often in the temple, “looking for the consolation of Israel” (Lk 2:25), and therefore recognized his King, because he had prepared himself through purification and ascetic efforts, thereby obtaining a measure of the Holy Spirit. Anna, the ancient prophetess, had also prepared herself by dedicating her life to the Most High, and had been blessed with spiritual vision.

Seeing the babe, Simeon and Anna saw and proclaimed, not the arrival of a small child with his parents, but that redemption and salvation had come for Israel.

In our world, in our days, we too seek redemption. We are in need of consolation. We are seeking answers, solutions, and salvation—from death, from sin, from our own passions, from suffering, from the agony and despair which so often fill our lives.

We too, like the woman in today’s Gospel, often feel like crying out: “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed” (Mt 15:22), not because we share the same life circumstances as her and her daughter, but because we share the same suffering of heart and anxiety of mind.

Perhaps this cry which erupts from the heart of an anguished and anxious mother reflects our own anxiety, fear, and uncertainty—especially over the past year of pandemic, a year which has brought forth increased cries of despair, of exhaustion, of sorrow, of loneliness, and of mourning.

The cry of the mother in today’s Gospel, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed,” echoes in the cries of mothers today.

In a recent news report about the effects that the pandemic is having especially on mothers, *Con’t Next Page*

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the following words are recorded from one mother:

“I wish I had the energy to scream. All my energy just goes into getting through every day, until I can go to sleep. I have three kids, all in virtual school since March, and work full time. And it just feels like failing, every day, at everything I do. And I just want to change, want to be by myself for one minute. I don't know how to keep doing this. But there really isn't another option”

Or these words from another:

“I cannot remember the last time I did not worry, I did not spend my day worrying about so much stuff. Every day is something different. I just want to wake up and go through my day and not worry, and not wonder, and not know what the future holds. Because this right here sucks. And I'm sick of it. I'm so sick of it.”

What is common to these mothers in the year 2021 and to the mother in the Gospel account from two thousand years ago is the very real suffering of those who are the chief of sinners, of those who may feel like they are dogs waiting for crumbs to fall from the master's table, of those who are longing for healing and for relief—for themselves or for their children, or parents, or brothers, or friends.

The reality is that we all share in this suffering, we are all the chief among sinners, and we all long for relief from that suffering, whether our suffering is of our soul, our mind, or our body.

Suffering offers us the opportunity to approach God and to be united with Him.

It reveals to us the vanity and powerlessness of human help, or at least its limited and relative character.

By turning towards God we can, even in suffering, find the most powerful help, the most important aid, and the greatest consolation. In suffering, we understand the limits of our fallen nature in the most intense and tragic manner.

We lose the illusion of strength and self-sufficiency which we often have when we are healthy, and instead we discover our weakness and fragility. We behold our own poverty and nakedness (cf. Gen 3:7), and recognize that we are dust (Gen 3:19).

Through suffering, the circumstances force us to abandon

many of our attachments to this world; we are stripped down, we are simplified. We are brought to concentrate on the essential or brought to seek it out.

And what is essential?

To be as the woman in today's Gospel, to be as Simeon, and as Anna, that is, to turn towards God and to attach ourselves to Him alone, to put our trust in Him alone, to constantly seek His help, to await everything from His grace.

To see God's salvation, to see the redemption of the world, we must make efforts, and ask God for the gift of the Spirit. We must labor to obtain the Spirit and to be prepared to meet the Lord.

But these efforts and these labors are not the herculean exertions of a professional athlete or a trained soldier, although these are often the images that are presented by the saints for our consideration.

What is intended by those images is for us to be pointed towards faith, the faith which is reflected not in great and mighty deeds, but in daily small and consistent effort—the effort to read a verse of Holy Scripture, to treat others with kindness, and to offer a heartfelt prayer, even if it is inelegant.

It is the faith which our Lord identifies in today's Gospel when he says to her: “‘O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.’ And her daughter was healed from that very hour” (Mt 15:28).

It is the faith which is revealed in humility, in the willing acceptance of the cross of suffering, and not just of suffering, but of longsuffering, as the Apostle reminds us: “For this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life” (1 Tim 1:16).

Much of our suffering on this earth is longsuffering.

Simeon and Anna were elders when they beheld their redemption and their salvation. The mother in today's Gospel, as many *Con't Next Page*

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others in the Scriptures, bore her suffering for many years. All of these righteous people were awaiting the Lord's consolation. They were hoping for redemption. They were seeking salvation.

And they received it, as we receive it, through the King who brings us victory; though the One who makes us one with God, and removes the curse of separation; through Him who makes us sons and daughters of His Father, and fellow heirs with Him in His Kingdom.

On this day, let us rejoice in Him, together with Simeon, seeing our salvation! Let us proclaim to the world, together with Anna, that we have been redeemed! Let us, in turn, work to obtain the spiritual vision to recognize Him and respond to the King who comes in humility by putting on His humility.

To Him be the Glory, together with His Father and Holy Spirit, Amen!

Luke 19:1-10 (Gospel)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Sunday of Zacchaeus Commemorated on February 14

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 (Ex. 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). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

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 (Rom. 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 Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

