



# ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

# FEBRUARY 14th, 2021 SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS & VEN. AUXENTIUS OF BITHYNIA

## Scripture Readings

**Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15**

Brethren, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

**Gospel: Luke 19:1-10**

At that time, the Lord entered and passed through Jericho and 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."

## FEB Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1st - Libbie Meier
- 3rd - Alicia Glover
- 3rd - Carly Carneal
- 6th - Robert Hertneky
- 8th - Paul Robinson
- 13th - Christopher Rozdilsky
- 14th - Nick & Natalie Norton
- 20th - Myrle Hlatki
- 20th - Bill Hendrix
- 20th - Ben Hendrix
- 25th - Josh Tunink
- 25th - Richard Molner
- 26th - Harold Eurich
- 29th - Rodger Mikita

## SERVICES

- PRAYERS FOR RAIN - 7:00 AM (17TH)
- GREAT VESPERS - 5:00 PM (20TH)
- ADULT EDUCATION - 9:00 AM (21ST)
- DIVINE LITURGY - 9:30 AM (21ST)

## WISDOM

"The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus. Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from... **\*Continued on the back\***

Confessions Every Saturday After Vespers or By Appointment

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Happy Valentine's Day...sorta..

Every year, on February 14, Orthodox Christians are face a sort of paradox. Today is Valentine's Day...in the West, but for Orthodox Christians, we do not commemorate this saint on this day; rather, we commemorate him on July 30th (Wives and girlfriends remind your husbands and boyfriends of this so they have to shower you with gifts then too.) so we find ourselves wondering, what do we do today? Well its simple. We take the Christian approach and use today as a way to recommit your love for Christ. God is love and the source of true love. He loves us so much that He died for us and so did St. Valentine who loved God enough to face a martyr's death. This day must make us strong enough to stand up for the Truth and proclaim God's Gospel of Love to the world. Sometimes it is dangerous to stand up to injustice, hatred, and prejudice and even more so it is difficult in today's world to proclaim the truth of God's love. But that is what St. Valentine did and this is a reminder to us that we must Die within ourselves for the sake of another but also do so with God's Love always in mind. So what better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than to commit or recommit our lives fully to Christ. Enjoy the day and husbands and boyfriends, don't mess it up.

## Photo Directory (Tentative Release - February)

We are still in the process of making a few more changes to the Directory. A PDF and printed version will hopefully be available later this month. This is not something we budgetted for so if you would like to donate above and beyond your normal tithing to the printing of the directory, please see Lori or Fr. Stephen. We would really appreciate it.

## St. Peter's Monastery Build Camp (June 27th - July 3th, 2021)

Every year youth groups in our diocese and jurisdiction organize and journey to Harrison, MT to help assist the monks in the construction of Montana's first Orthodox monastery. From their website: "It borders Harrison Lake for a mile and offers opportunities for swimming, bathing and canoeing, as well as for hiking and exploring. Campers can expect to learn some of the basic skills of the building trade, especially masonry and rough carpentry, and they will have a variety of interactions with our visiting monastics to learn not only about monasticism, its history and role in the Church, but also about our Faith and how it informs our choices, our habits, our lives." Fr. Stephen will be organizing a group to go this year. We have a few already expressing interest but we still need more. If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. Space is limited and registration must be done by early March. Check out their website too:

<https://stpetersmonastery.com>

## Parish Council Installation & First Meeting of the Year

Next Sunday, will be the first meeting of the new council. Parish Council members, please make every effort to be there or let Fr. Stephen know you are calling in.

## Story of St. Valentine Continued...

...practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned. During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength. "Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day. "Yes, my child, He hears each one." "Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!" "God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said. "Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand. They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!" "Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer. On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. Saint Valentine's Day embodies the very messages of affection, love, and devotion that are exchanged around the world." Glory to God!

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