

St. Cyril Orthodox Church

+ For the Week of February 7 to 13, 2021 +



The Calling of Zaccheus

MARRIAGE BLESSING: Sunday at 3 pm, for Michael and Lauren Powell, daughter of Mike and Cathy Rape.

CLASS FOR INQUIRERS on Tuesday at 7 pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. This week we will be talking about how we know God, and divine revelation. Each class lasts about an hour and a half. Contact Fr. Benedict by going to [*Contact Us*](#) on our website.

CHURCH WORK DAY: We need at least six volunteers to assist with work in the flower beds and church yard on Saturday, February 20. We will be spreading topsoil and mulch. We will need folks to bring wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes. The work should take about 3 to 4 hours. Please speak with Ken Nickolas if you have questions.

A REQUEST: When receiving Holy Communion, please do not try to kiss the priest's left hand (holding the chalice).

TREASURER UPDATE: For February thus far, we have received \$2,193 in offerings. Our projected expenses are \$10,038.

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Good to hear in our time of “cancel culture”

Do not be irritated either with those who sin or those who offend; do not have a passion for noticing every sin in your neighbor, and for judging him, as we are in the habit of doing. Everyone shall give an answer to God for himself. Everyone has a conscience; everyone hears God's Word, and knows God's Will either from books or from conversation with other people. Especially do not look with evil intention upon the sins of your elders, which do not regard you; "to his own master he standeth or falleth." Correct your own sins, amend your own life.

- *Saint John of Kronstadt*

When reading the Holy Scriptures, he who is humble and engaged in spiritual work will apply everything to himself and not to someone else . . . Understand the words of Holy Scripture by putting them into practice, and do not fill yourself with conceit by lecturing on theoretical ideas.

- *St. Mark the Ascetic (5th century)*

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Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

The weeping about which the second beatitude speaks is first of all true tribulation of heart, and repentant tears for our sins, weeping over our guilt before the merciful God (for example, the tears of the Apostle Peter after his denial of Christ).

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death, said the Apostle Paul (2 Cor. 7:10).

Tribulation and tears coming from misfortunes which befall us can be spiritually beneficial. For example, the death of one of our close ones can result in

beneficial tears, if the sorrow is permeated by faith and hope, patience and devotion to the will of God. Jesus Christ Himself wept over the death of Lazarus. Even more so can tears and tribulation lead to blessedness when they are shed over the suffering of our unfortunate neighbor, if these sincere tears are accompanied by Christian deeds of love and mercy.

Worldly grief is grief without hope in God. It proceeds not from acknowledgment of one's sins before God, but rather from disappointment in ambition, aspiration to power, desire for gain. Such sadness, characterized by despondency and despair, leads to spiritual death, which can also result in physical death, by suicide or simply weakness due to lack of will to live. An example of such grief is that of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Christ the Savior.

As a reward for mourning the Lord promises that those who mourn will be comforted. They will receive forgiveness of sins, and through this, internal peace. The mourners will receive eternal joy, eternal blessedness.

- Fr. Seraphim Slobodskoy (+1971)

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