



St. Catherine's Newsletter

HELLO!!!

A lot happens during the month of February and March. School gets cancelled because of snow. Valentine's Day reminds us to express our love and care for others. And on the Orthodox calendar, God starts working with our heart in another way: preparing us for Lent with some really good Bible readings. We hear these for a bunch of Sundays in a row, called "Pre-Lenten Sundays."

One of those lessons is about Zacchaeus, the short tax collector guy that Jesus visited by surprise one day. That visit changed his life and some pretty big ways. We all learned a song about it at camp and Church School. It goes like this: *Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he. He climbed up in a sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see. And as the Savior passed him by, He looked up in the tree, And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down from there; For I'm going to your house today, for I'm going to your house today" Zacchaeus came down from that tree, as happy as he could be, He gave his money to the poor, and said: "What a better man I'll be."*

Zacchaeus thought he could do whatever he wanted before he met Jesus and not worry about it. But Yiayia says, "The eye of the Lord is everywhere, watching the wicked and the good" (Proverbs 15.3), so we know that God is always watching us and expects us to do the right thing. Zacchaeus, like a lot of tax collectors in those days, used to cheat people out of their money by collecting more than he was sup-



posed to and keeping the extra for himself. What this really meant was that Zacchaeus looked at the citizens he was supposed to be serving like slimy bugs at the bottom of a pit, and there was nobody to stop him. He was like the neighborhood bully who takes anything he wants from you.

One day, however, he heard that Jesus was

coming to Jericho and wanted to see him, but he was very short and had to climb up into a sycamore tree. As Jesus passed by, he looked up at Zacchaeus told him he was going to visit him at his house today. The people didn't understand why Jesus would keep company with such a bad man, but Jesus did it to show us He came for everyone, including us. It was hard for Zacchaeus to understand at first, but then he heard in his heart what Jesus was saying and changed his life. He became a respected and honest man with a whole new life.

So, remember that a sign of real love is when others want what is best for us. That's what Jesus came to show us: what is best for us, how to love our neighbor and how to love our Heavenly Father. It's best for us because it shows God where our true heart is.



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Lesson of Zacchaeus
- ☺ Special Contribution from Eleni Caprio
- ☺ Ask Father!
- ☺ Apokreatiko Glendi!!!
- ☺ Kid's Corner
- ☺ Coloring, Jokes, Trivia!

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Singing in the Choir By: Eleni Caprio

Girls may not get to be altar girls but we can sing in the choir. If girls are little they can sing during the service or, if they're bigger they should follow along in the service book. When you sing in the choir you feel good. When you play in the pew YOU may feel good but God doesn't like it and neither does Father. You should always listen

and sing during church (which should already be happening). You may not think listening is important but it is. Also, don't take communion if you are sick or have not fasted. Father will not be mad if you don't take it, it's

okay. Singing the communion song is fun it may look hard but it's easy. And remember you can sing it's what us girls do for church. Boys may get to be with father but we get to sing and they have to be quiet! So next time you "forget" a book go to the choir section and get a book and start singing!



Ask Father!

Dear Father Timothy, What do the different colors of the priest vestments mean/symbolize?

- Sophia, 13

A: When we walk into an Orthodox Church, we are immediately overwhelmed with the beauty of the Church structure, complete with the many colors and visual splendor that our Churches possess. Iconography is prominent throughout, and fills our Churches with its portrayals of events, persons, and depictions of the Almighty. In addition, we also see the priests wearing many colorful vestments, which give us an indication of the liturgical calendar season, type of religious service, and mood of the Church.

Vestments of deacons, priests, and bishops are similar to Icons. They are like "windows" through which we look to see Jesus Christ. Saint John Chrysostom writes, *"When we see a priest in the Divine Liturgy, we do not see a human being who causes the sacrificial gifts to become the body and blood of Christ, but rather Christ Himself. The priest is but a physical form for the layman to envision as Christ. The priest stands at the Holy Altar and speaks the words --- but the power and grace are from God. When you see a priest offering the sacrifice of Holy Communion, do not think of it as if it were he that is doing this; it is the hand of Jesus Christ."* In other words, vestments serve to hide and submerge the personality of the priest so that worshippers, seeing Christ through these vestments, may know that is Jesus Who teaches and sanctifies through the priest. In fact, each garment that the priest wears as part of his vestments, reminds us of an event in the life of Jesus Christ.

WE
NEED
YOU

TO WRITE FOR THE
ST. CATHERINE'S
NEWSLETTER

If you are interested please
contact Maria at
marialake16@yahoo.com



(thank you)

To everyone
who made the
Apokreatiko
Glendi
possible!

Ask Father continued...

Continued from page 2...

The question posed to me to respond to was about the "different colored" vestments a priest wears. The following is a list, although incomplete, of the various colors that priests might wear for a specific Feastday/Holiday/Season. Obviously, not all priests have vestments in every color as they are quite expensive, but the list below will give you an idea of the colors worn for a specific feastday. This is only meant as a guide to assist as you visually participate in the Worship Services.



The group of feasts and days commemorating *Our Lord Jesus Christ, the prophets, the apostles and the holy hierarchs*. Vestment color: gold (yellow) of all shades.

The group of feasts and days commemorating the *most holy Mother of God, the bodiless powers, and virgins*. Vestment color: light blue or white.

The group of feasts and days commemorating the *Cross of our Lord*. Vestment color: burgandy, or dark red. [On Great and Holy Thursday, purple vestments are worn.]

The group of feasts and days commemorating *martyrs*. Vestment color: Red.

The group of feasts and days commemorating *monastic saints, ascetics, and fools for Christ*. Vestment color: green.

The Feastdays commemorating *The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), Holy Trinity Day (Pentecost), and Holy Spirit Day (Monday after Pentecost)*. Vestment color:

green vestments of all shades.

During the *Lenten periods*, the vestment colors are: black, purple, and dark red. On Sundays and feast days of this period, the vestments may be of a lighter color with gold or colored ornaments.

Funerals, as a rule, are done in white vestments because we always look at the person who has *fallen asleep* in the state of resurrection, therefore white is worn

In addition, in some of our Orthodox traditions, **white/gold** is worn for the Feastdays of *Epiphany, Transfiguration, and Pascha*.

Green is worn for *Pentecost* and the Feastdays of *prophets* and *angels*. **Green** is also worn for the *Elevation of the Cross on September 14th*.

Gold is worn from *Christmas to Epiphany*. **Gold** is also normally also worn when no other color is specified.

Red, especially dark red or 'blood red', is worn for the *Saints Peter and Paul fast, the Nativity fast*.

Purple/black is worn on weekends of *Great Lent*. **Black** is also worn for most of Holy Week as well.

As you can easily see, the colors of vestments can be as wide as the rainbow, but each color has a specific and assigned intent and purpose and is meant to be worn for a certain Feastday. The next time you attend a Worship Service, look at the priest's vestments and I'm sure it will take on a whole new meaning in your overall experience of our Orthodox Faith.

New Ionian Village Director Appointed

NEW YORK - Archbishop Demetrios has appointed the Rev. Deacon Jason C. Roll as the new camp director for Ionian Village. Deacon Roll will join the team of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and oversee the Ionian Village program. Deacon Roll replaces the Rev. Constantine Lazarakis, who served in this position since 2002. Deacon Roll is originally from Portland, Ore., and lived in Sacramento, Calif., prior to attending Holy Cross. He has extensive experience in the field of youth and camping ministries, as well as numerous years of business and professional experience. He has participated in Ionian Village both as a staff member and as an assistant director, has directed various camps throughout the Archdiocese and has served in many areas of youth, young adult and campus ministry. He holds a degree in business administration from Oregon State University and will receive a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross School of Theology in May. He was ordained to the holy Diaconate in September 2007. Prior to attending Holy Cross, Deacon Jason spent five years working for Eli Lilly and Company. He is married with three children. He is the brother of Fr. John Roll, pastor of Assumption Church in Long Beach, Calif.



Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church

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DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE
Orthos: 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM
Sunday School Liturgy: 9:30 AM

Spiritual Advisor: Very Rev.
Timothy Bakakos

Editor: Maria Lakerdas

Contributor: Marika Maggos



MAIL TO:

Do **YOU** want to write for the
St. Catherine's Newsletter?

Send in an article, poem, or short story to have it featured in the newsletter! Email it to Maria Lakerdas at marialake16@yahoo.com

Want to join the Newsletter Team?

We're looking for good writers, organized and fun people to help out with the church's children's newsletter! If you are interested and would like more information contact Maria Lakerdas (email above).

KID'S CORNER

TRIVIA (answers on bottom)

1. How many days are there in Lent?
2. What color vestments do the priests wear during Lent?

Why did the child study on the airplane?

Words To Find:

ADVENT
BIBLE
CHARITY
CHRIST
EASTER
EXPULSION
FAST
FORGIVENESS
GIFT
GIVING
HELP
JUDGE
LENT
LOVE
MEDITATION
PALM
PEACE
PLEDGE
PRAYER
PRODIGAL
REST
STEWARDSHIP
SUNRISE
WORSHIP

T O F C G X N H Q J A E Z J R
E R P T P N O H R Y T E B G U
V J E E N A I A G T S A F T U
A S Y Y G E S V C F E O K P C
D J C S A D L V I I R M L I A
V B F E R R U B Q G P L E H G
E Z E S E G P J I I O Y H S S
N M X I T P X V V B I I Q R O
T D N R S M E D I T A T I O N
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N S K U E L D Z T Q H L J W K
S I Y S T E W A R D B S A U J
Z R S E V O L A G I D O R P G
B H B A E G D E L P E A C E Z
E C H A R I T Y I O I X P Z R

Dear Lord, we thank You for all the nice things You give us to enjoy. We thank You for our parents and our brothers and sisters, for our homes, for our daily food, for Your loving care every moment of our life. Amen.