

**January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Sunday of Zachaeus**

**SUNDAY, 1/18**     **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners  
                          **10:30 am** Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

**MONDAY, 1/19**     **7:30 am** Divine Liturgy + for souls in Purgatory

**TUESDAY, 1/20**     **No service**

**WEDNESDAY, 1/21** **6:15 pm** Divine Liturgy for special intention

**THURSDAY, 1/22**     **No service**

**FRIDAY, 1/23**      **7:30 am** Divine Liturgy for special intention

**SATURDAY, 1/24**     **4:00 pm** Typic Service

**SUNDAY, 1/18**     **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners  
                          **10:30 am** Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

**Announcements**

**1-FASTING REMINDER**

According to the tradition and rules of our Church, there is no fasting on Friday during the week between the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

The Church intentionally sets aside fasting during this week to remind us that repentance begins with humility, not with outward practices alone. Just as the Publican was justified by his humble heart, we are first called to interior conversion before taking on the discipline of fasting as we prepare for Great Lent.

**2-SERVICE OF FORGIVENESS**

According to the tradition of our church, on Sunday before the Great Lent we usually have the special service of “Forgiveness”. Therefore, **On Feb 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy we will have this service of “Forgiveness”.

**Sunday of Zacchaeus – The First Step Toward Repentance**

The Sunday of Zacchaeus marks the beginning of our spiritual preparation for Great Lent. In the Gospel, we encounter Zacchaeus, a tax collector who was wealthy, powerful, and deeply disliked, yet inwardly restless and searching. Though small in stature, he shows great determination by climbing a tree simply to catch a glimpse of Jesus.

Zacchaeus’ action reveals the first step of repentance: the desire to see Christ. He is willing to overcome embarrassment and social judgment in order to draw closer to the Lord. When Jesus sees him, He calls Zacchaeus by name and chooses to stay in his home. This personal encounter transforms Zacchaeus’ heart.

True repentance is always more than words. Zacchaeus responds with concrete change—he gives half of his possessions to the poor and restores fourfold what he has taken unjustly. Christ then proclaims that salvation has come to his house, reminding us that God’s mercy is offered to those who are willing to change their lives.

*Upcoming Events  
in Parish & Eparchy*  
**Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Encounter  
**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** – Great Lent begins

The Sunday of Zacchaeus invites each of us to reflect on our own spiritual condition as we approach Great Lent. What crowds, habits, or fears prevent us from seeing Christ clearly? Like Zacchaeus, we are called to take the first humble step, to welcome Christ into our lives, and to allow His mercy to lead us toward repentance and renewal.

**Reflection: Our Holy Fathers Athanasius (†373) and Cyril (†444), Archbishops of Alexandria**

The Church commemorates Saint Athanasius (†373) and Saint Cyril (†444)—two great Archbishops of Alexandria who defended the truth of the Christian faith at decisive moments in Church history. Their lives remind us that what the Church believes about Jesus Christ is not an abstract debate, but the foundation of our salvation.

*St. Athanasius: the defender of Christ’s divinity*

St. Athanasius is especially remembered for his steadfast witness to the faith confessed at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (325). In a time when many denied the full divinity of Christ, Athanasius held firmly that the Son is truly God. He endured intense opposition and repeated exile because he would not compromise the truth that only the fully divine Savior can truly redeem and restore humanity.

*St. Cyril: guardian of the mystery of the Incarnation*

St. Cyril is best known for his leadership in defending the true teaching about Christ at the Council of Ephesus (431). He upheld the Church’s confession of the Virgin Mary as Theotokos—“God-bearer”—not as a mere title, but as a protection of the Gospel itself: the One born of Mary is truly God the Word made flesh. By defending this, Cyril safeguarded the Church’s faith in the one Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human.

*What their witness teaches us today*

Athanasius and Cyril show us that truth and love must remain united. They defended doctrine not for arguments’ sake, but so that the faithful might know and worship Christ rightly—and be saved. Their courage calls us to live with the same clarity of faith, especially in times when the world pressures us to treat truth as negotiable.

As we honor these holy fathers, we are invited to renew our trust in Christ and to hold firmly to the faith handed down to us—faith that brings light, healing, and unity.

*Prayer*

O Lord Jesus Christ, through the prayers of Your holy fathers Athanasius and Cyril, strengthen us to confess You with courage, to live with humility, and to remain faithful to Your Church in every trial. Amen.

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**Sunday collections for the weekend of 1/11/26, including envelope offerings - \$641,  
donations -\$218, candles -\$38  
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$897**

Support Mother of God  
Ukrainian Catholic Church



**Protection of the Mother of God  
Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Byzantine Rite**  
2880 Highway 138 NE  
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya  
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci

Parish office phone 770-760-1111  
Emergency phone 224-400-0558  
**Email:** parish@mogchurch.com  
**Website:** www.mogchurch.com

**Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.**

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

***THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;  
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN  
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.***