

**Prayers for our Parishioners.** The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to offer the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holy days of obligation]" (canon 294). This liturgy intention for all parishioners is "For the Intention of Parishioners." The faithful who attend the Divine Liturgy for the parishioners who participate, according to their state, in praying for that intention. We can continue this prayer for one another during the week by remembering several parishioners and families each week. Please remember this week: Robert Hencken, Natalie and Daniel Hill & family, Kevin and Holly Hogan & family, Melody Homa, Edward and Sally Hospodar, Michelle and Chris House, Frances and Araceli Hughes & family, and from the Mission, Tonja Siemucha.

**Apostles Fast.** The Apostles Fast begins the day after All Saints Sunday and concludes June 28, the eve of the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, June 29<sup>th</sup>. The basis for the fast after the feast of Pentecost is the words of our Lord to the disciples of John the Baptist who asked Him why the Pharisees fasted and why they fasted but Jesus' apostles and disciples did not fast: "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast." (Matthew 9:15). Following Jesus' ascension to heaven when He is taken from the apostles, they do not fast until after the feast of Pentecost. The observance of this fast is therefore ancient. In the New Testament, the Acts of the Apostles record that the apostles fast before any missionary journey: "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the

Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul [Paul] for the work which I have called them.' Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off." (Acts 13:2-3). Missionary work—evangelization—is the work of the Church through God the Holy Spirit. All are called to this share of the apostolate. Whatever the state of life all of us should share the fasting and prayer to support the missionaries of our Church, sharing in the hardships--by our fast—the apostles accepted to carry the work to save the human race to as many people as possible.

**Apostles Fast Prescriptions.** The Apostles Fast is one of the four fast periods according to the Particular Law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh. In the United States the degree of observance of fasting is left to the conscience of the individual. Certainly, Fridays are days of fast from meat and meat products. The traditional fast prescription from the 11<sup>th</sup> century had a fast from meat and dairy during weekdays and on Wednesday and Fridays only bread and fruits while fish and wine were permitted on Saturday and Sunday. Later, the Synod of Zamosc (1720) permitted laborers and villagers dispensation because the harvest from the Spring planting had to be gathered. Finally, the Synod of L'viv (1891) allowed dairy products on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and meat on the other four days with the condition that one must pray Our Father five times and Hail, Mother of God five times before the noon and evening meals. In addition, the typicon stipulates certain days as aliturgical days during the Apostles Fast when the Divine Liturgy is not offered.

**Birth of St. John the Baptist.** The Church calendar contains the feasts of men and women commemorated on the day of their death—the day their soul entered heaven. Their earthly time of testing having been completed they could be declared among the holy saints in heaven and so the day of their death was a day of triumph. However, there are only three commemorations of the day of birth: Our Lord on December 25<sup>th</sup>, His Mother on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and St. John the Baptist on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The details of this wondrous birth are completely from sacred scripture, the gospel according to Luke 1:5-25. Since the Lord Jesus said there is "no man born of woman greater than John" we who are the disciples of the Lord imitate Him by honoring St. John the Baptist on the day of his birth. Additionally, since the conception and birth of St. John the Baptist is revealed by the Archangel Gabriel to be the proximate event of the coming of the Savior, we honor this birth to show that we welcome the coming of the Savior of our souls.

**Ss. Peter and Paul.** The feast of Ss. Peter and Paul is a holyday of obligation for all Eastern Catholics. The feast honors St. Peter, the head of the apostles, and St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, who suffered and labored more than the others to bring the gospel to the world. The next day, June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Byzantine Church has a synaxis to honor all the apostles. From the apostles we have received the body of the truths of the Faith that came from Jesus Christ, the God-made-man. The preaching Jesus gave to the apostles and the sacramental power He gave them to call down the Holy Spirit to effect the sacraments is given to their successors, the bishops they ordained by the laying on of hands and the descent of the Holy Spirit in an unbroken line to the

present bishops. In the Profession of Faith, we assert that the Church of Jesus Christ is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You.** I wish to thank all my friends and parishioners of Epiphany parish for hosting and planning such a wonderful birthday filled with beautiful memories. Thank you for praying for me and with me at the beautifully sung Divine Liturgy and for the delicious luncheon. The women's barbershop quartet, *The Sweet Adeline's*, was an inspired idea! I am still enjoying the events of the day and especially your company as I review them in my memories. Elizabeth Basarab

**Nut Roll Baking.** Our next Nut Roll Baking Day is coming up on July 20, 2019. We'll be making all three varieties again this session -- nut, poppy seed, and apricot rolls. Please plan to join us beginning at 7am at the parish hall. We will definitely need at least 6 rollers who can start early, but there are lots of jobs to be done throughout the day. Please arrive in the morning when convenient and stay as long as you are able -- at least 3 hours if possible! We will be serving lunch in two shifts, so that we have at least 6 rollers on task at all times. No experience necessary! We provide on the job training for the following positions:  
Roller (outside kitchen) Weigher  
Dough Prep Baggers  
Clean Up

Contact Nancy Soyka ([nsoyka@msn.com](mailto:nsoyka@msn.com)) or Kyra Gerardi ([gerardisix@gmail.com](mailto:gerardisix@gmail.com)) to let us know when you can volunteer as well as your preferred job. Thanks in advance for sharing you time and talent to ensure we continue this treasured ethnic culinary

tradition! Glory to Jesus Christ!

- Nancy and Kyra

**Commemorative Plaque.** Next Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, the plaque commemorating the consecration of Epiphany church and holy table will be blessed. The first Divine Liturgy offered at the Woodburn Road location was on the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, June 29, 1970, forty-nine years ago this year. The plaque bears the names of the members of the Parish Building Planning Committee who worked diligently and with much labor to plan and build our church. The blessing will take place at the conclusion of the 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

**Silent Auction Items Needed.** The Annual Epiphany Silent Auction will be held during the Slavic American Festival on Sunday, September 8, 2019. *Donations are now being accepted.* The more items we have in the silent auction the more successful the auction will be. Thinking what you can donate? Silent auction donations have a value of \$25 or more. Donations can be professional services, memorabilia, restaurant and store gift cards, dinners, overnight stays, collectibles, event or sporting tickets, theme baskets, handcrafted items, wine, household services, etc. **Have a donation? Contact Terry Matlaga Bell @ [tmatlaga@yahoo.com](mailto:tmatlaga@yahoo.com) or text (703) 606-2937.**

## EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Servers Camp.** Come, join altar servers from around the Eparchy for fun

activities and to learn about our Faith at Altar Server's Camp at Carpathian Village, Canadensis, PA, July 21-24. Forms are on the eparchial web site [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com). Epiphany Men's Club offers scholarships for the costs to any Epiphany altar server.

**Passaic ByzanTEEN Rally.** Eparchy of Passaic ByzanTEEN Rally 2019 July 28-31, 2019 Carpathian Village, Cresco, PA 18326. Every other year when there is no Metropolitan-wide Teen Rally the Eparchy of Passaic hosts a reunion of teens at Carpathian Village. Registration forms are available on-line at [www.eparchyofpassdaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassdaic.com). ByzanTEEN Rally 2019 participants must be age 13 by November 1, 2019 and not have reached the age of 18 by July 10, 2019.

**Eparchial Anniversaries.** Yesterday, the Eparchy of Parma observed the fiftieth anniversary of its canonical establishment with a Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Parma, OH. Presiding and preaching the homily was Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, the prefect of the Congregation of the Eastern Churches at the Vatican. A prefect of a Vatican curial office like a dicastery or congregation is like a secretary of the US president's cabinet. Today, the eve of the feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist, Cardinal Sandri is in Pittsburgh at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA for the fiftieth anniversary of the canonical establishment of the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh for the Ruthenians and the elevation of Pittsburgh from an eparchy to an archeparchy.

## Second Sunday after Pentecost

### COMING EVENTS

*(see inside for details)*

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Apostle's Fast
- Silent Auction
- Nut Roll Baking
- 2019 Epiphany Graduates Insert

June 23, 2019

### TITHING & GIVING

Parish Donations – June 16, 2019

Adults	\$3,217.00
Children	\$.80
Building Fund	\$1,025.00
School of Religion	\$50.00
Holy Days	\$680.00
Candles	\$198.00
BCY	\$5.00
Tetrapod	\$20.00
Peace Lilies	\$50.00
Retired Religious	\$10.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$1,340.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,595.80</b>

*"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)*

### LITURGY AND LIFE

**Prayer Intentions.** Please remember in prayer: Msgr. George Dobes, Michael Mikulak, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, Jeffrey Sesok, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, and Msgr. Dobes. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Tim O'Leary, Joanne Gaudino, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Goula, Fr. Conan Timoney, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Fr. Lee Gross, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Ed Livingston, Richard Doering, Julia Zdynak, Mary Catharine Bishop, Tim Berty, Joyce Rose, Ethan Augliera, Krista Brazzill, Jean Figel, Doris Stender, June Parrell, Richard Ryaby, Kelly Kunder, and Jeff Lowery.



# EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Byzantine Catholic Church

3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003

Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344

Very Rev. John G. Basarab - Pastor

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Glory Forever!

June 23, 2019

Slava Isusu Christu!  
Slava Na Viki!

## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 23 Sun. 8:00 AM +Joseph Koshuta by Monica Koshuta & Family  
10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

*Third Week After Pentecost*

### BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

June 24 Mon. 10:00 AM +Eleanor Piotrowski by Joseph Stone  
7:30 PM Intention of Parishioners

### VIGIL OF PETER AND PAUL

June 28 Fri. 7:30 PM Intention of Parishioners

### PETER AND PAUL - PREEMINENT APOSTLES

June 29 Sat. 10:00 AM Health & God's Blessings on Irene Markovich  
by Michael Hancher

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 30 Sun. 8:00 AM Intention of Parishioners  
10:30 AM Health & God's Blessings on Jean Figel by Lector Jack Figel

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – June 30, 2019

June 30 Sun. 8:00 AM J. Lampl (L), J. Cooke, T. Hughes  
10:30 AM G. Naccash (L), J. Cassella, A. Naccash, J. Naccash

### USHER SCHEDULE – June 30, 2019

June 30 Sun. 8:00 AM H. Katawczik (L), J. Susco, B. Wargo  
10:30 AM J. Kepick (L), M. Bell, R. Bass

## EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Byzantine Catholic Church

### The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation** - (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist). We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is imparted at the same time immediately following baptism

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants** – is scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays or Sundays during the year except certain fast periods. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and supply a sponsor card attesting to that from their parish. While two Catholics in good standing is usual, one baptized non-Catholic can function as a Christian Witness with the Catholic sponsor. Both must be at least sixteen years of age. Details are available at the parish office.

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults** – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see the priest or deacon.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage** – According to the Pastoral Policy and Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Catholic Church in New Jersey, couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor one year before the date of the wedding and be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples will meet with the priest and deacon in four sessions – to begin the pre-nuptial investigation, to take FOCUS, a communications, values and religious inventory approved for use in the Catholic dioceses/eparchies, to complete the pre-nuptial investigation and for a session on the theology of the mystery (sacrament). They are also required to attend Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance** – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available each Saturday 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. In addition, confessions are heard during the Christmas Fast (Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) on Sundays between the Divine Liturgies. Visiting confessors are also scheduled at special times during the Great Fast. Confessions are also heard on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Resurrection.

**Anointing of the Sick** – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of the sacrament of penance and anointing of the sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church before entering the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance of interruption for confession and anointing. If you are unable to come to church, please call the rectory. Families of parishioners who have a medical emergency should contact the rectory office so one of the priests can go the hospital.

**Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick** – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home by the deacon on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact the deacon or the rectory office by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

**Funeral Services** – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. The Epiphany Ladies Guild as part of their charity offers a Mercy Meal for families at the Parish Center following the interment. Epiphany of our Lord cemetery is a portion of Fairfax Memorial Park. Parishioners who are interested in purchasing cemetery plots should see the deacon.

**Byzantine Catholic Mission of Montgomery County** - Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM; Religious Education & Social Hour 11:15-12:15: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD; (301) 482-0282.

### Parish Administration

*"The Church is not an organization with sacraments but a sacrament with organization."*

#### Parish Clergy

Very Rev. John G. Basarab, Pastor  
Deacon Elmer Pekarik, Deacon Peter Turko

#### Parish Office Staff

Jamie Bacigalupi, Administrative Assistant  
Diane Dougherty, Financial Assistant

**Parish Council of Administration**  
Emil Koval, Greg Puhak, Sally Green

**Parish Office Hours:** 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday- Friday  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday

**School of Religion** - School of Religion classes meet on Sundays between Liturgies (9:20 AM - 10:20 AM) throughout the school year (September - June). Classes are offered for children grades Preschool & Kindergarten - High School

Announcements may be dropped off in the Parish Office, faxed to the office (703-573-1088) or email to [epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net](mailto:epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net).

**Registration** - Individuals who wish to register in the Parish should stop by the Parish Office and complete a census form.

Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Annandale, VA

<http://www.eolbcc.org>

Epiphany of Our Lord does not conduct pastoral business on the website email.

On another level, we know that our intellect has been darkened by Original Sin. Also, the world has come under the domination of sin. To truly know good and evil God has spoken and then actually become a Man to enlighten our intellects. It is the duty of the men and women disciples Jesus called and who said yes to His call, every one of us, to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to live and speak in order to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ about salvation from eternal death.

First, we must follow the law of God in our lives for “it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified.” The apostles in the gospel appointed did not just hear Jesus calling them. They responded by doing what He wanted. They followed Him. We must also follow the will of God. Second, when we follow God we must do what God does, call others to follow Him.

From *Ignatius Study Bible: Matthew*, *The Navarre Bible: Mathew*, and Father John S. Custer, *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective*.

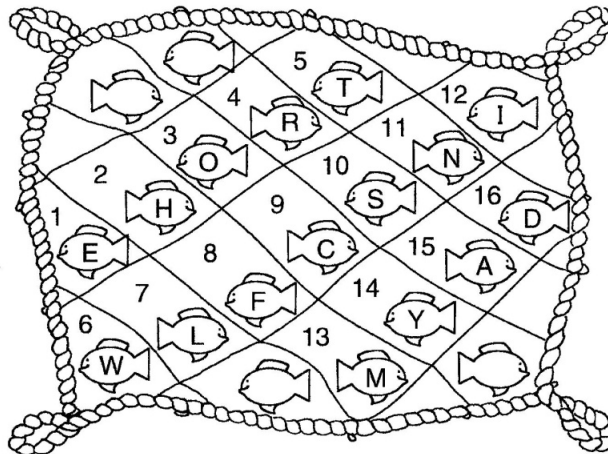
### Children’s Corner

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What happened next?

Solve the math problems and fill in the blanks.



- |        |       |        |       |        |        |        |        |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| $9+6$  | $2+3$ | $2+1$  | $9+2$ | $6+3$  | $9-8$  |        |        |
| $8-3$  | $1+1$ | $0+1$  | $9+5$ | $4+3$  | $4-3$  | $6+2$  | $6-1$  |
| $4+1$  | $5-3$ | $7-6$  | $8+4$ | $8-4$  |        |        |        |
| $15-4$ | $3-2$ | $11-6$ | $7+3$ | $19-4$ | $6+5$  | $12+4$ |        |
| $12-4$ | $5-2$ | $12-5$ | $2+5$ | $9-6$  | $11-5$ | $7-6$  | $19-3$ |

## PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
For  
Second Sunday after Pentecost

### PLACE RIBBONS AT:

- BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy  
GREEN p. 125 Resurrection Tone 1

### ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: A

- The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
- Sunday Antiphons
- At the Troparia:
  - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 125-126 GREEN
  - Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 126-127 GREEN
- Scripture readings:
  - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 127 GREEN
  - Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
  - Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 127 GREEN
  - Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

## JEDINORODNYJ SYNE - ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatому Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i Slove Božij, bezsmertnyj syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i prisno-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravyy, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu I Svjatому Duchu, spasi nas.

## SVJATYJ BOŽE—HOLY GOD

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)

Slava Otcu, i Synu, i Svjatому Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.

Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

## IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjasšcej Trojc'i trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiň. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Allilua. Allilua. Allilua.

## SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadyy vo imja Hospodne, osanna vo vyšnich.

## TEBE POJEM – WE PRAISE YOU

Tebe pojem, Tebe blahoslovim, Teb'i blahodarim, Hospodi, i molimtisja Bože naš.

## DOSTOJNO JEST' – IT IS TRULY PROPER

Dostojno jest' jako voistinnu blažiti t'a bohorodicu, prisenoblaženuju i preneporočuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Česňijšuju Cheruvim i slavňišuju bez sravnenija Serafim, bez istl'inija Boha Slova roždšuju, suščuju Bohorodicu, t'a veličajem.

## OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože I my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

## VID'ICHOM SVIT ISTINNYJ – WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT

Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnyj Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

## DA ISPOLŃATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojego Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'ascim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni poučatisja pravd'i Tvojej. Alliluja.

## Meditation on Today's Readings



Pentecost Sunday until the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost which occurs at Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and then from after Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the gospel according to Luke from the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost until Meat-

Fare Sunday. The selection of the readings is made in a continuous way from the beginning of Jesus' ministry until His entrance into Jerusalem, termed *lectio continua*, careful to respect the way each evangelist presents the gospel.

The gospel according to John reveals that John with his brother James, and Peter and his brother Andrew met Jesus after Jesus was baptized by Saint John the Baptist since the two pairs of brothers were there to listen to John. So, when Jesus returns to Galilee after the forty days in the desert, the other gospel writers say He calls the brothers and they follow Jesus since according to John's account they have already met Him. Then Matthew writes about what Jesus does: teach, announce and heal. These are the topics the rest of the Sunday gospels will present.

It is important to note that of the men and women Jesus calls, He selects twelve men as a reflection of the twelve sons of Israel. These He calls the Twelve until after the resurrection when they are called the Apostles, that is, Ambassadors. The word that emerges in the account here is the word "immediately". These men follow Jesus when He calls immediately. God doesn't wait to be with us when we are not at work, or school or home and only on Sundays. This account has a special meaning for men who are bishops, priests and deacons, men who are seminarians and in diaconate formation and men who are discerning their call.

However, the gospel has meaning for all Christians. The call of God does not obliterate human nature, for grace builds on nature. This is why Jesus says He will make fishermen into fishers of men. There is no excuse that a person is not an expert in theology or in the spiritual life. Grace builds on nature and then elevates and transforms it. First, building on our nature, the grace we receive in baptism made us brothers and sisters of Jesus and of each other, sons and daughters of God the Father. Second, because of this grace, God gave us the duty to become His servants to take care of humanity and to preach the Gospel by deeds and by words.

*For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather those who observe the law will be justified.*

Romans 2:10-16

The gospel appointed for today is the account of the call of the first apostles, called by the Lord Jesus from their jobs to follow Him.

The Apostolic reading appointed is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. The first level of his teaching is directed to Jewish Christians about Gentile non-believers. On this level, Saint Paul, or really the Holy Spirit who is the true author and who writes through Saint Paul, instructs that God shows no favoritism. He judges those who have accepted Divine Revelation through the very precepts He reveals to them. He judges those who have not

received the truths of Divine Revelation through no fault of their own by the use of the Natural Law, the principles of the natural moral order that are imprinted upon all human beings. Human beings are endowed by God with reason and thereby know that certain things are right and good and certain things wrong and evil.

The United States was established using this norm. On the one hand, the founders acknowledged that the rights of humans come from God and not from any state and this norm protects freedoms. On the other hand, they wished to avoid choosing a state religion. The way to achieve it was to recognize the Natural Law as written in the right conscience of every human being is from God. In other words, humans when they are being true and honest know right and wrong.