

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: Sherry Lee & family, Wayne Lee, Carol Little, Kent and Michelle Logsdon & family, Patricia Loomis, Marilou and David MacDonnell, Christine Male & family, and from the Mission, Richard and Annamarie Kaczmarek.

**Blessed Method Dominic Trcka.** Dominic Trcka was born in what is today the Czech Republic and baptized as a Latin Catholic. He was ordained as a member of the Order of the Holy Redeemer, the Redemptorists. During World War I, he took care of Croatian, Slovene and Ruthenian refugees. He requested permission from Redemptorist superiors to work with the Eastern Catholic Church. He learned their language with the help of a confrere, Blessed Fr Nikolas Carneckyj. At that time, he took the name Methodius. In December 1921 he was sent to Stropkov, in Eastern Slovakia, where he founded the first mixed Latin and Byzantine rite Redemptorist community and served as superior. He was a zealous missionary in the Eparchies of Presov, Mukachevo and Krizevci (the Ruthenian eparchy in Croatia). As superior he oversaw the installation of Greek Catholic Redemptorists in Michalovce, Slovakia. In 1935, he returned to Michalovce where the Congregation for the

Eastern Churches appointed him Apostolic Visitor to the Basilian Sisters in Presov and Uzhorod. In Michalovce, he served a second term as superior from July 1936 to April 1942; he completed the church, helped found a convent, set up one retreat house and started another in the Eparchy of Mukachevo. He founded an association for women domestics, the most neglected group at the time. During the Second World War, the Slovak State suspected the Redemptorists of anti-State propaganda since they were helping Ruthenians in a Slovak nationalist situation. Since Fr Methodius was the chief suspect as superior of the house, to save the community he resigned his post as superior. In 1945, at the end of the war, the Redemptorists established the Vice-Province of Michalovce. Fr Methodius was appointed the first Vice-Provincial on 23 March 1946. In 1949 the Communists suppressed the Vice-Province; and on the 13 April 1950 all were taken to concentration camps, to be interrogated and tortured. Fellow prisoners said that to protect his confreres Methodius would take the blame and calmly endure torture. On 12 April 1952, he was accused of collaboration with Bishop Paul Gojdich, Bishop of Presov, because he spread the bishop's pastoral letters. He continued the regular reports to his superiors in Prague and through them to the ones in Rome. This was called espionage, high treason and brought him the sentence of 12 years in prison. He held out, despite ill health, trusting in God and doing His will. In April 1958 he was moved to Leopoldov prison. At Christmas he was caught singing a Ruthenian Christmas Carol and was sentenced to a "correction" cell where he contracted pneumonia. He died March 23, 1959. Pope John Paul II, preaching about Blessed Dominic Method, said, "With the

support of prayer he faced with courage and determination the suffering and humiliation he had to bear on account of the Gospel. His calvary ended in the prison of Leopoldov where he died worn out by suffering and sickness, forgiving his persecutors."

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Parish Office Schedule.** The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, August 19th. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, August 20th.

**Festival Rummage Sale.** Donations for the Festival rummage sale will be accepted from today, Sunday August 4th through Sunday September 1st. The schedule for donations will be Sundays from after the 8:00 divine liturgy until 12:30, Tuesdays from 7:45 PM to 8:30 PM, and Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM. Please no large appliances or clothes. For more information or to volunteer to help price, organize or sell items call Tony Fazio at 703-323-3650.

**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.**

**Fresh from the Garden.** The Festival's Farm Market booth will have fresh fruits, herbs and vegetables for sale. If you will have fresh home grown produce available the weekend of the festival and you would like to donate the produce to the farm market, please contact Terry Matlaga Bell, [tmatlaga@yahoo.com](mailto:tmatlaga@yahoo.com) or



text (703) 606-2937 The "Farm Market" booth will also sell pickles, pickled vegetables, jams, sauces, and relishes. If you would like to

contribute to the jam and jelly canned goods selection, contact Terry at [tmatlaga@yahoo.com](mailto:tmatlaga@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Festival Bake Sale:** Every year, your generous donations of baked goods make our Bake Sale a success! Every flavor & **calorie or gluten free offerings** are also welcomed! So please pull out your favorite recipes and let the baking begin! Label your donation being sure to include content details (nuts/no nuts, low fat, gluten free etc.) your name, and the words "Festival Bake Sale" on it. Place it in the Parish Center walk-in freezer, or the back kitchen refrigerator if delivered the festival weekend. Thank you in advance! Your donations are deeply appreciated.



Maryanne Berezny Smith, Bake Sale Chair. Questions? Please call 703 283 2564 or email me at [mbreezyl@verizon.net](mailto:mbreezyl@verizon.net)

**Epiphany Ladies Guild.** The next meeting of the ELG is scheduled for Monday, September 9th. Light refreshments will be served at 7:00 PM with the meeting following at 7:30 PM.

**Attention all Halupki Makers.** It is time to make 2000 Halupki for the Festival!! Please come help with this very important activity. Date: August 23-24

Friday, Aug 23-10:00 am

Make filling. Mix rice, eggs, meat; make balls for centers of Halupki.

Core cabbages!!!!

Saturday, August 24

Early Birds- 6:30 am

Boil cabbages, spine them, make Sauce

9:00- Roll Halupki

We need many parishioners to help!! It takes many hands to do this. Men and women are needed. Thanks in advance for your help.

-Daria Parrell [-Dtparrell@gmail.com](mailto:Dtparrell@gmail.com)

Thom Soyka -Chairs

## EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Save the Date.** The 12th annual Susco 8K run and 2K Fun Walk will be held on Saturday, September 21st starting at 8:30 AM from South Lakes High School in Reston. Proceeds of the event to benefit the Brain Aneurysm Foundation and the Washington Regional Transplant Community. Come join your friends for one of the area's unique events. For more information to register, donate, or volunteer, go to their website, [www.Susco8K.com](http://www.Susco8K.com) or call Tom and Nancy Susco at 703-742-0582.



**Bishop's Appeal Reversion.** Epiphany Church and Epiphany Mission both exceeded their respective goals for 2018. As a result, 40% of the total is

returned to the parish and the mission from the Eparchy. The reversion checks from the Eparchial finance office were received this week. Epiphany church reversion check is \$8,596 and Epiphany Mission reversion check is \$2,472. The church reversion will be placed in the fund to replace the soon obsolete HVAC system in the chapel. The mission reversion is for the attorney fees, county fees, and for the work that will be required by Montgomery County on the former Gearhart Estate acquired by the Eparchy for the mission so the county can grant the assembly permit.

**Labor Day Weekend Pilgrimage.** The 85<sup>th</sup> annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA will be held on the Labor Day weekend, August 31 and September 1, 2019. The focus of the pilgrimage is an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help given in 1934 to the care of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great Uniontown Province by Pope Pius XI in response to a request by Mother Macrina. The Sisters of Saint Basil invite us to be pilgrims and not tourists and come to the Mount seeking God's blessings through the intercession of the Mother of God, and to discern God's will for our lives while spending time with the many other pilgrims. The Mother of God Cause of All Joy is waiting for you as the Sisters of Saint Basil pray for you and look forward to your participation the pilgrimage. Please be aware that there are religious events for children and for teens and the Sisters have Safe Environment Forms on the web site of the Sisters of Saint Basil at [www.sistersofstbasil.org](http://www.sistersofstbasil.org).

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

### COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Martyr for Greek Catholics
- Silent Auction
- Festival Rummage Sale
- Halupki Makers
- Festival Bake Sale
- Susco 8K
- Parish Office Schedule
- Bishop's Appeal Reversion
- Uniontown Pilgrimage

August 18, 2019

### TITHING & GIVING

Parish Donations – August 11, 2019

Adults	\$3,441.00
Children	\$1.00
Building Fund	\$1,430.00
School of Religion	\$21.00
Candles	\$177.20
Holy Days	\$270.00
BCY	\$5.00
Seminary	\$30.00
Bishop's Appeal Reversion	\$8,596.00
<u>St. Nicholas Fund</u>	<u>\$28.00</u>
TOTAL	\$13,999.20

*"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, Barbara Mohay, and James Lamb. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, 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!

August 18, 2019

Slava Isusu Christu!  
Slava Na Viki!

## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Aug. 18 Sun. 8:00 AM +Katherine Czernowski by Sherri Lee  
10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

*Eleventh Week After Pentecost*  
*St. Stephen King of Hungary*

Aug. 20 Tues. 10:00 AM +Suzanne Wyndar by Koltas Family

Aug. 23 Fri. 10:00 AM +Rev. Richard Rohrer by Marlene McCracken  
*Blessed Priest-martyr Method Dominic Trcka*

Aug. 24 Sat. 10:00 AM +Mary Hayes by Hogan Family

### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Aug. 25 Sun. 8:00 AM Intention of Parishioners  
10:30 AM +George and +Mary Nacik by Mary & Tony Fazio

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – August 25, 2019

Aug. 25 Sun. 8:00 AM J. Cooke (L), T. Hughes  
10:30 AM J. Cassella (L), A. Naccash, G. Naccash, J. Naccash

### USHER SCHEDULE – August 25, 2019

Aug. 25 Sun. 8:00 AM H. Katawczik (L), J. Nashwinter, J. Susco  
10:30 AM K. Hogan (L), R. Bass, M. Kernich

## 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 Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Resurrection.

**Anointing of the Sick** – 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.

In the epistle appointed for this Sunday Saint Paul speaks in an ironical tone about the conceitedness of the Christians of Corinth. He contrasts their pride with an honest listing of his weaknesses and the lack of respect and sufferings that are the reality of being an apostle and which he and the Twelve endure by the grace of God. In this way they are imitating Christ and His sufferings and Saint Paul asks His spiritual children to imitate him.

His concern in all this is that the Christians of Corinth stay loyal to Jesus their loving Lord and abound in the grace of God, that is, the share of God's divine life that He gives in the sacraments, even when Jesus' apostles, bishops, presbyters and deacons are not held in the highest esteem.

Saint Paul writes that he admonishes them not to embarrass them but because they are his spiritual children. This Scripture passage shows why priests are called "father" by the Faithful. Some Protestants will not call a priest "father" or do not call their fathers "father" because of the command of the Lord in Matthew 23:19 "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven." The apostle Paul shows that the apostles did not understand the Lord's command in that way since Saint Paul has written that he is the father of the Corinthians because his preaching and baptizing that make them part of Christ's Body makes them children of God the Father therefore fulfilling what Jesus taught. In the same way natural fatherhood comes from God for conception is the cooperation of a father and a mother and God who infuses the soul.

From the *Navaree Bible, Ignatius Bible Series: Matthew, and, The Holy Gospel, A Byzantine Perspective* by Fr. Jack Custer.

## PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
for  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
and  
Post-festive of Dormition

### Children's Corner

2019 CRI • PO Box 6360, Beaufort, SC 29903 • 800 992-2144 • www.ChildrensBulletins.com

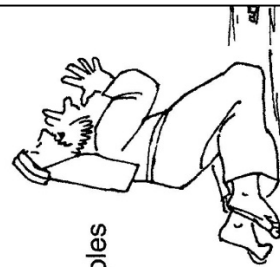
When they came down from the mountain a large crowd met Jesus. A man called out to Jesus. What did the man say?

In the text, find 11 words that don't make sense. Write the words from the list that have only 1 letter missing.

child    teacher    seizes  
mouth    screams    son  
drive    look    leaves



"Teaches, I big You to book at my sun, for a chile. A spirit sizes him and he sudden it throws him into convulsions so that he roams at the south. It scarcely



ever eaves him... I begged Your disciples to drove it out, but they could not."

### PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy  
GREEN p.125 Resurrection Tone 1  
YELLOW p. 352 Dormition of the Mother of God

### ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: A

**EXCEPT:** Cherubic Hymn  
We Praise You  
Communion Hymn of Sunday & Dormition F

1. Sunday Antiphons
2. At the Troparia:
  - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 125-126 GREEN
  - Troparion of the Dormition Tone 1 p. 352 YELLOW
  - Kontakion of the Dormition Tone 2 p. 352-353 YELLOW
5. Scripture readings:
  - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 127 GREEN
  - Epistle: I Corinthians 4:9-16
  - Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 127 GREEN
  - Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23
6. *Instead of* "It is truly proper..." Magnification and Irmos p. 353-354 YELLOW

## DA ISPOLŃATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolŃatsja 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 Tvojeje. Alliluja.

### JEDINORODNYJ SYNE - ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyŃi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. AmiŃ. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i Slove Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi vplotitisja ot svjatija Bohorodicy i prisno-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravj, jedin syj Svjatija Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu I Svjatomu Duchu, spasi nas.

### SVJATYJ BOŽE—HOLY GOD

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

Slava Otču, i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyŃi 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'isŃ prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyŃi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

AmiŃ. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Alliluia. Alliluia. Alliluia.

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

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolŃ nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadyj 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, prisnoblaženuju i preneporočuju i Mater' Boha našeho. ČešŃijšuju Cheruvim i slavŃišuju bez sravnenija Serafim, bez istl'inija Boha Slova roždšuju, suščuju Bohorodicu, t'a veličajem.

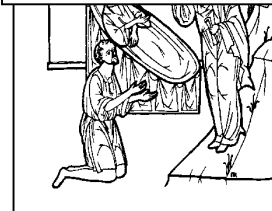
### OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

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. Čl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože I my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušenije, 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 istinuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

### Meditation on Today's Readings



after His transfiguration. Peter, James and John have just witnessed the divinity of Jesus shining through His humanity and Moses and Elijah speaking to Him about His coming crucifixion. Coming down the mountain Jesus with these three apostles is met by a disappointed father, the man's possessed son, the other nine apostles and a hostile town. The holy fathers have also appointed this account on the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast from the gospel according to Mark. The fathers have applied this account to these two Sundays because it occurs in connection with the transfiguration, which took place forty days before the crucifixion. The Byzantine Church observes Good Friday and Pascha after the Spring Equinox and also a secondary "Good Friday and Pascha" in connection with Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14<sup>th</sup>. That is why the feast of Transfiguration is celebrated August 6<sup>th</sup>, forty days before Exaltation.

The gospel of the last two Sundays were two parts of the same event, the feeding of the multitude in the deserted place for the Eighth Sunday and Jesus walking on the water that night for the Ninth Sunday. These events are the fulfillment by Jesus of earlier miracles—God feeding the Hebrews manna in the desert through Moses and the miraculous passage through the Red Sea. The gospel passage appointed today also refers to an earlier event. When Moses spoke with God and received the Law on Mount Sinai the people intimidated Moses' brother Aaron to make an idol of God in the form of a golden calf. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai he found a scene of chaos that he had to remedy. Centuries later, Jesus comes down from the mountain where He was in communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit and in the presence of Moses and Elijah and finds a chaotic scene where there is also a lack of faith in God and God's disciples.

This passage is timely here for two reasons. First, it is close to August 6<sup>th</sup> and the feast of the Transfiguration and secondly, because the gospel falls either before or after the Dormition Fast, a time of prayer and fasting. Jesus teaches the apostles about the need and value of prayer and fasting when He explains, "This kind [of evil spirit] can only be cast out by prayer and fasting."

Because Moses was on Mount Sinai, Aaron was separated from his brother. He lost courage and lost faith when intimidated by the people who had lost faith in God who delivered them from slavery. Because Jesus was on Mount Tabor, the nine apostles allowed themselves to be separated from communion with Jesus. They lost faith when confronted by the boy's father and the town's populace, who wanted a miracle but had no faith. The Word of God in the gospel encourages us that when surrounded by a culture that does not have faith in God, we must not lose faith but must hold ever closer to union with God by prayer, fasting, reception of Holy Communion and the other sacraments, and the reading of the Bible, the Word of God.

*Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you, be imitators of me.* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16