

Ed Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, and Margaret Hospodar.

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays 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 families each week. Please remember this week: Kevin and Jennifer Koshute & family, Mark and Cindy Kost & family, Frank and Mary Sue Kotula & family, James Kotula, Joseph Kotula, Emil and Annie Koval, Carol Kovalick & family, and from the Mission, Ronald Pytel.

Public Liturgies. The Commonwealth of Virginia will begin Phase Three July 1st. In his episcopal letter of May 13th, Bishop Kurt Burnette announced that churches may reopen for public worship according to the directives of the public health authorities and with the bishop's permission. For churches, Phase Three requirements are the same as Phase One requirements. This means that the Parish Strategic Plan and the Eparchial Checklist is still applicable. This means churches may open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. It is important for public health not to slacken in observing the Strategic Plan and the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense from the obligation to assist at Sunday Divine Liturgy so those who are at risk or feel unsafe may remain at home. Please keep in mind that Divine Law still requires us to keep the Lord's Day holy by prayer and by refraining from unnecessary work. The bishop cannot dispense Divine Law. Further, the Bishop had encouraged all to make a good confession later in the year when it is safe.

Live Streaming. In response to the spiritual needs the Faithful of Epiphany, the Divine Liturgy of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost today will be live streamed at 10:30 AM, visit

<https://eolbcc.org/live/>. We offer thanks to Brian Jessee, the Epiphany website builder and webmaster as well as parishioner, for all his work for our parish.

Praying at Home Together. If you are remaining safe at home, you may consider praying the Divine Liturgy in your homes so that we can be united in praying the same prayers. These are available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, <https://mci.archpitt.org>. The entire People's Molitvennik is available under Publications tab to use when participating in the live streaming Liturgy. Also, God With Us Online, the catechetical outreach of the Eparchy of Passaic has a service for Sunday at home including the Sunday epistle, gospel, and scripture reflection. Go to: <https://godwithusonline.org/wp-content/uploads/Resources-for-the-Fourth-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf>.

Independence Day. This year we have much to petition of God. We are praying for the welfare of our nation, the protection of the health of citizens, and for peace in times of civil unrest. If you are staying safer at home, please refer to these epistle and gospel readings our Church holy fathers have assigned for these categories: For the Increase of Love and Destruction of Hatred: 1 John 3:11-24, John 13:31-35. In Times of Civil Strife: Ephesians 6:10-17, Matthew 24:6-10, 12, 21-22. In Times of Pestilence Hebrews 12:6-13, Luke 4:37-44.

Messages from the Pastor. Father John has been sending email messages to the parishioners whose email addresses we have on our roster. If you have not been receiving these email messages, it might be because we do not have your email address, or you have changed it and we do not have it. We would like to have your email address to keep contact with you during this time when the physical locations of churches are closed. Simply email the parish office epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net.

Liturgy Intentions to be Rescheduled. If you have offered a Divine Liturgy for an intention to be celebrated during the suspension, you will be contacted to reschedule when the suspension is lifted. The Liturgies that are celebrated on

Sundays are by canon law for the intention of parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs pastors to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays of obligation]" (canon 294).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Divine Services Schedule. At present, one Sunday Divine Liturgy is celebrated at church at 10:30AM. For Divine Services to resume at Epiphany Mission, the mission must complete the Eparchial Checklist and develop a Strategic Plan and submit both to the Protosyncellus for approval. Several issues regarding the Divine Liturgy schedule for Epiphany church and Epiphany mission will have to be determined. First, Msgr. Dobes is not available to provide assistance at the church, and Father Gross is not available to provide assistance at the mission. Father John will have to offer a Divine Liturgy at Epiphany church and also at Epiphany mission. Also, sacristans cannot clean and sanitize Epiphany church between 8:00 and 10:30 Liturgies because there will not be enough time. If two Sunday Liturgies are celebrated at the church, their schedule times must allow more time between Liturgies. However, Father John will have to go to both locations. Commonwealth of Virginia Best Practices states that there should be a separate service for seniors only. Would seniors want a Saturday Vigil Liturgy at 5:00PM exclusively for them? Several seniors responded that they would want Liturgy on Saturday at 4:00PM. Do Epiphany church parishioners prefer a Sunday Liturgy at 8:00AM and the mission at 10:30 AM? If this is selected, then baptisms would have to be on Saturday only. Do Epiphany church parishioners prefer a Liturgy at 10:30AM and Epiphany mission at 8:00AM? There is only one priest to provide coverage.

Parish Bulletin. The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: www.eolbcc.org. It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.

Executive Order. Governor Ralph Northam announced that Phase Three will begin July 1st. Phase Three requirements for Religious Gatherings are almost the same as Phase One. Phase Three provides Commonwealth of Virginia requirements to use the parish center. EMC Bingo and Epiphany Bookstore will decide whether to reopen under Phase Three guidelines. If they decide to reopen EMC and Bookstore must develop a Strategic Plan which will be submitted for approval of the protosyncellus.

Parish Office Schedule and Safety Protocols. In accordance with Bishop Kurt Burnette's and Governor Northam's most recent Orders, the office hours for Epiphany of our Lord continue to be amended to the following: Monday through Friday - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Jamie, the administrative assistant, will cover the office during those hours from home. All office calls will be forwarded to her cell phone. She will be teleworking Tuesday - Thursday. She will be physically in the parish office Monday and Friday only. Lucie, the financial assistant, has elected to work from home Tuesday through Thursday and the parish office only on Monday and Friday. Given that response to this crisis is so fluid and schedules can change so quickly, please call the office phone number before venturing out. Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office, as well. If you have business at the office, please use the new doorbell. We will respond through the intercom after verifying your presence at the door. Jamie is able to respond to the door from home as well. No one will come into the office from outside. If your visit includes an exchange of goods, please leave them on the door step. We will attend to them. We ask this because there is not enough room in the office to observe the mandate to practice social distancing.

Chapel HVAC Replacement. We are so pleased to announce that the equipment needed to replace the Chapel HVAC system had arrived earlier than expected! AMS, our HVAC contractor was able to begin work Wednesday, June 24th. AMS began the work Wednesday morning by removing the exterior equipment before moving inside the chapel hall for the demolition of the interior equipment. Many thanks to all participants in the Slavic American raffle and raffle alternative and a very

generous private donation to the Chapel HVAC Replacement Fund!

Mission Update. VIKA submitted the Stormwater Management Plan exemption for under 5,000 sq. ft. disturbance but Montgomery County has determined that the structural changes to the house to convert to a chapel must require a Stormwater Management Plan. Father John signed the Addendum to the Contract with VIKA who will provide this to the County for an additional \$10,000.

Book Store. The parish book store is closed under Phase Two. Bookstore managers will review the Commonwealth of Virginia guidelines of Phase Three and determine if they can reopen by appointment only, or not reopen yet. If they decide to reopen, the managers must develop a Strategic Plan to be submitted to the eparchy for approval.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop’s Appeal. The 2019 Bishop’s Appeal goal for Epiphany church remained the same, \$19,800. Our parishioners have pledged \$20,415.18. Sixty-nine households bought Epiphany church to our goal and above. And Epiphany Ladies Guild has given a donation of \$3,000. The present total is \$20,415.18. There remain some payments on pledge outstanding. Montgomery County Mission parishioners have pledged \$6,800.08, exceeding their goal of \$6,000. Epiphany parish will receive a check for 40 % of our total. The 2019 Appeal concludes June 30, 2020. Contributions received after that date will be credited to the 2020 Appeal. These checks usually arrive sometime during the summer and are not mailed until all payment on pledges are satisfied. Epiphany of our Lord parish in Annandale has an outstanding balance of \$41 payment to be made on donor’s pledges.

Contributions On Line. The Eparchy of Passaic accepts offertory and donations made for the parishes of the eparchy. If you want to make a contribution to Epiphany of our Lord Contributions Online, Annandale or Epiphany Mission, Gaithersburg, MD, online, please go to [giving](#). You will then be at a secure site of VANCO, the donation service used by

the Eparchy of Passaic. You will be asked which parish you want the donation to be credited.

God With Us Online. A service of the Eparchy of Passaic Office of Eastern Catholic Formation provides online resources for the liturgical calendar for parents for Sundays and holydays. Summer series on the Psalms taught by Taras Tymo, a PhD candidate at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Go to: [:https://godwithusonline.org](https://godwithusonline.org).

ByzanTEEN Night Out Tonight. Have the COVID-19 Pandemic and social unrest got you down, worried, or wondering if things will ever get better? Join other ByzanTEENS from around the eparchy in the comfort of your own home to connect and reconnect with one another and discuss what it means to put on “the armor of God” in 2020. When? Today Sunday evening June 28th 6-7:30PM. Where? In cyberspace. Do I need to register? Yes. How? Go to www.eparchyofpassaic.com and click on Register Now. Why do I need to register? Because registering will allow us to send you an email with the link of our virtual meeting room on the evening of the 28th. Is there a registration deadline? Yes. No later than Friday, June 26th. Is there any cost? No, However, you must bring your own refreshments.

College Scholarships. Ave Maria University, a Catholic University in Ave Maria, FL. is offering qualifying incoming freshmen who are Eastern Catholics a \$7,000 per year scholarship. The Scholarship is called the Brilliant Light Scholarship, taking its name from Pope Leo XIII who called the Eastern Catholic Churches a brilliant light. The scholarship is for four years of undergraduate study leading to the Bachelors degree and in addition to other financial aid.

Uniontown Pilgrimage Cancelled. Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM, provincial, announced that the sisters will not have the annual Labor Day Weekend Pilgrimage to Mt. St. Macrina. It is the intention of the Sisters of St. Basil to schedule services and Liturgies on that weekend that will be live streamed. Sister Ruth and the sisters invite all to participate and make this year a pilgrimage “of the Heart” rather than “of the feet.” The patients at the nursing home and Alzheimer’s disease facilities at the Mount have to be taken into account and be kept safe according to Pennsylvania requirements.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Schedule
- Rescheduling of Liturgy Intentions Begun
- Book store sales Suspended
- EMC Bingo - Suspended
- Bishop's Appeal – Over goal /\$41 pledge outstanding
- Chapel HVAC/Work Begun
- Uniontown Pilgrimage Cancelled

EMC BINGO

06/30/20	Team B – TBD
07/07/20	Team C TBD
07/14/20	Team D TBD
07/21/20	Team A TBD
http://EMCBINGO.com	

June 28, 2020

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$
Welcome	\$
Building Fund	\$
Holy Days	\$
Candles	\$
School of Religion	\$
St. Nicholas Fund	\$
COVID Recover	\$
<u>Online Donation</u>	<u>[\$2160]</u>

TOTAL \$

Titling & Giving. This posting for the weeks of 6/21/and 6/28 collections will appear in next Sunday's bulletin, July 5th. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from the chancery. The figure shown above was updated last Sunday. Thank you for sending your weekly envelope donations by mail or online.

"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, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, and Paul Vrabel. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Goula, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Fr. Lee Gross, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder,



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Byzantine Catholic Church The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

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

chhc

**Glory to Jesus Christ
Glory Forever!**

June 28, 2020

**Slava Isusu Christu!
Slava Na Viki!**

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28 Sun. 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Fourth Week after Pentecost

FEAST OF THE PRE-EMINENT APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

June 29 Mon. 10:00 AM Intention of Parishioners

July 4 Sat. 10:00 AM Protection of our Nation, Health of Citizens, and Peace

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5 Sun. 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – July 5, 2020

July 5 Sun. No servers assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan

USHER SCHEDULE – July 5, 2020

July 5 Sun. Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday, July 5th

All public services in church in Phase Two in Virginia can have 50% of capacity. People in attendance must wear masks and maintain social distancing.

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 FOCCUS, 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) at other scheduled times. 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 – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-threatening 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
Lucie Cantsilieris, 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.

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.

PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy
for

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN p. 135 Tone 3

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: C EXCEPT

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons
3. At the Troparia:
Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 3 p. 135-136 GREEN
Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 3 p.136 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
Prokeimenon of Resurrection Tone 3 p. 137 GREEN
Epistle: Romans 6:18-23
Alleluia of Resurrection Tone 3 p. 137 GREEN
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i 4n a4 Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravjy, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu i Svjatomu Duchu, spasi nas.

HOLY GOD – SVJATYJ BOŽE

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)
Slava Otcu, i Synu, i Svjatomu 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 životvorjasšče Trojc'i trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiň. 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, ispolň 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, 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 prijdet 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'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojeho 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



Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.”
Matthew 8:5-13

Last Sunday the holy fathers appointed part of the Sermon on the Mount as narrated in the gospel according to Matthew and this Sunday the gospel is one of the cures that Jesus does when He comes down from the mount. The holy fathers are chronologically following the gospel itself.

As presented by Matthew, Jesus begins His public ministry first by fasting and praying and contending with Satan in the desert of Judea after His baptism, then traveling north to Galilee to call Peter, Andrew, James and John and the rest of the

Twelve, and finally going up the mountain and preaching the Sermon on the Mount. Now that He has set forth God's saving plan in the sermon, He comes from the mountain and begins healing and forgiving sins.

This passage presents two centers of action: God and human. First, let's us look at God. Jesus comes down from the mount as a model of God coming to earth when He became a man. Matthew narrates these miracles to show that God brings into the world a divine holiness that overpowers the source of defilement, that is, evil, and its symptoms: sin, disease, demons and even death. The Old Testament recorded that these things cause a defilement of the person that has to be cleansed but Jesus takes the offense against them. He is not only immune to uncleanness, but His holiness is stronger than evil and drives away defilement and purifies humans. So, Jesus is not even reluctant to converse with unbelievers, for unbelievers do not remain so in His presence.

Then there is the human reaction. The Centurion is a Roman army officer who commands a century of 100 men. By his request, he does not want to put Jesus in the position of going to the house of a Gentile which will cause discord since the Pharisees will say Jesus is going to be defiled by entering a non-believer's house. As a practical man he reasons that Jesus can command the healing at a distance and Jesus gives him the cure as he asked. Jesus praises the belief of the unbeliever by an image of the Eucharistic Banquet. The Latin Church appropriately uses the words of the centurion as their prayer before Communion.

Jesus really and truly comes under our roof when He comes in Holy Communion. This contact forgives our sins and makes us more and more participants in God's holiness and eternal life. If unbelievers meet us they will not necessarily come to belief but if we take them to meet Jesus, great things can happen for them.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:18-23

The gospel appointed for today is the merciful Roman centurion who asks Jesus to cure his sick servant. The epistle appointed is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. The holy fathers have appointed the readings from the Word of God this day that are (1) a teaching about the behavior of humans who do not accept the redemption offered by Jesus in the epistle, and (2) in the gospel an exception to the rule given in the epistle since the centurion is not a believer.

The Apostolic reading appointed is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. The Christian community in Rome was composed of Jews and Gentiles, and St. Paul felt it was important to explain the effects of salvation given by Christ for both of these groups.

Unredeemed humanity is at the mercy of (1) sin and (2) sin's wage, death, (3) humanity's sinful inclination that comes from its mortal wound by Original Sin, and (4) God's Law in which good is immutable. Since God's justice and goodness are not negotiable, a human's only escape is through Jesus Christ taking the penalty of death on each person's behalf, if they are willing.

In this passage, St. Paul uses the image of slavery and freedom in reverse. When a person is free from God and righteousness through not accepting God as Savior, this person's so-called freedom leads to being enslaved to sinful behaviors and ultimately to death, meaning eternal death that is separation from God forever.

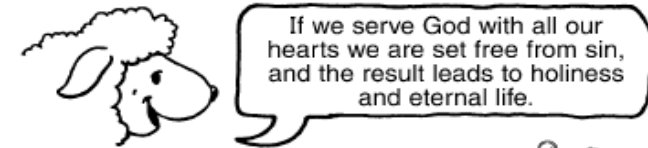
Those believers who ask Jesus to take the penalty of their death on Himself by being baptized into His death become, yes, St. Paul admits, slaves of God because God purchased them by His Son's death. But it is better to be God's so-called slave because this brings freedom from sin and slavery to sinful inclinations and freedom from eternal death that is hell.

We are about to observe Independence Day in our country. This epistle reading helps us remember true freedom comes from God.

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

Children's Corner

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Write words that match the clues.
Then use the letters to find a mystery message.

1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	

opposite of north

crust covering a wound

"_____ bells, _____ bells"

one of Snow White's friends

		20	2	19		4	5	15			
17	18	13	15	1		2	20	1	11	12	
11	6	16	15	8	4	5		9	3	4	
	4	5	15	13	11	20	4		2	20	
			13	2	16		11	1			
15	4	15	19	12	18	14		14	11	20	15
	11	12		7	5	19	11	1	4		
	10	15	1	3	1		2	3	19		
			14	2	19	16					