

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 and families each week. Please remember this week: Sharon and Glenn Saup & family, Allan and Christine Kellmel & family, Jack and Mary Ellen Kepick, Kevin Kepick, Michael and Cindy Kernich, Robert Klapouchy, Stuart Kohl & family, and from the Mission, Richard Neimiller.

Public Liturgies. 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. The Protosyncellus had received the completed Eparchial Checklist from Epiphany and Epiphany Strategic Plan and approved it. Fairfax County and the counties of Northern Virginia have begun Phase 2. For churches, Phase Two requirements are the same as Phase One requirements. This means churches may open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. The requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia Health Department, the Eparchial Checklist and Epiphany Strategic Plan continue to guide our parish implementation in the resumption of public worship. 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

Second 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 these prayers 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>. On Sunday, in place of the Divine Liturgy, The Typica, arranged as a Reader Service, is available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute. Also available is the entire People's Molitvennik under Publications tab to use when participating in the live streaming Liturgy.

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 epiphanyoffourlord@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 in private on Sundays will be 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.

Resumption of Divine Services. At present, one Sunday Divine Liturgy is celebrated 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: 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, their schedule times must allow more time between Liturgies. Would seniors want a Saturday Vigil Liturgy at 5:00PM exclusively for them as the Commonwealth of Virginia suggests? Would a Saturday Vigil Liturgy be the only possible solution to have two Liturgies in order to cover Epiphany mission on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and one Epiphany Liturgy at 10:30AM?

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

Executive Order. Governor Ralph Northam issued a revision to Executive Order #65 on June 9th. This order lifts restrictions for Northern Virginia counties to enter Phase Two on June 12th in the Northern Virginia counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Phase Two requirements for churches are the same as Phase One. This means that churches are able to hold services with 50% of the church capacity attending in church at any time and safe distancing is in effect. Face masks are required. If you wish to read the requirements of the Commonwealth for churches to reopen under Phase Two (that is not a mistake; it sends you to Phase One) go to: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governor-virginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Virginia-Forward-Phase-One-Religious-Services-Guidelines.pdf>.

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. With funds from the Slavic American Festival raffle and raffle alternative donations and a private donation made to the specific cause for replacement of the chapel HVAC, Epiphany parish is ready to move forward with the installation of the new system. The private donation was so generous that we were able to reserve the donation from the ELG and reassign that gift toward repaving the parking lots. AMS has been contacted. AMS was one of the three bids presented for consideration and approved by the Councilors and by the bishop. The updated contract arrived with the proposal of \$27, 615, which is the same as their original bid. The updated contract has been signed and returned to AMS. There will be a three week lead time while the equipment and parts are ordered and become available. AMS intends to drain coolant before removal of existing equipment. If there are any perishables in the chapel hall kitchen or storage room that would be affected when the AC is shut off, please coordinate with the parish office to plan a strategy to enter the chapel kitchen and move the items. This way anyone entering the chapel basement area could be provided with non – latex gloves and remove items to the parish center. Having everyone who needs to remove items coming on the same day would be best because after everyone is finished, the cleaners can come only one time and clean and sanitize chapel and

parish center after our parishioners. This would avoid repeated visits by the cleaners with repeated charges.

Mission Update. Another tree came down on the Warfield Road property, causing minimal structural damage. Goshen Lawn Service will cut and remove the tree, and several other dead trees. VIKA submitted the Stormwater Management Plan 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.

EMC Spring Awards Club. Epiphany Men’s Club wishes to congratulate all the winners of the Spring Men’s Award Club Drawings. Each winner of the first nine weeks, receives \$50. The prize for the tenth and final drawing is \$1,000. The winners for Spring 2020 drawings are as follow: Week 1: Pete Kovalick, #030; Week 2: Mike Opachko, #274; Week 3: David Andrejcek, #089; Week 4: David Andrejcek, #089; Week 5: Mary McDonnell, #065; Week 6: Gwen Wallmark; Week 7: Marlene McCracken, #007; Week 8: Olga Osterburg, #280; Week 9: Tim Ryan, #080; Week 10: Marlene McCracken, #241.

Financial Report. The yearly financial report has been prepared and is available in the parish office if anyone would like a copy. In addition, it will be available when the churches are reopened.

Book Store. The parish book store will be closed throughout the suspension of all but certain essential businesses in Virginia.

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 the link on our church web site www.eolbcc.org On the home page click on [Epiphany of our Lord online 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. Join Father Dr. Sebastian Carnazzo (PhD the Catholic University of America) for “The Third Heaven” They Key to the Epistles of St. Paul, this Wednesday, June 17 at 8:00-9:00PM. Visit <https://godwithusonline.org>.

Uniontown Pilgrimage Cancelled. Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM, provincial, announced that the sisters were not going to 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.” Since the Sisters have nursing home and Alzheimer’s disease facilities the patients have to be taken into account and be in conformity with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorities for those health care units.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Schedule
- Rescheduling of Liturgy Intentions to Begin
- Financial Report
- Book store sales Suspended
- EMC Bingo - Suspended
- Bishop's Appeal – Over goal /\$41 pledge outstanding
- EMC Awards Club Winners
- Chapel HVAC//Contract Signed
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EMC BINGO

06/16/20 - Team D - TBD
 06/23/20 - Team A – TBD
 06/30/20 Team B – TBD
 07/07/20 Team C TBD
<http://EMCBINGO.com>

June 14, 2020

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$
Building Fund	\$
Holy Days	\$
Candles	
St. Nicholas Fund	\$
<u>Online Donation</u>	<u>[\$885.00]</u>
TOTAL	\$

Tithing & Giving. This past week and this week contributions will be counted and posted next week. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from the chancery. The Contributions sent to Epiphany for the past two weeks are posted today. 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, Ed Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, and Margaret Hospodar.



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

<small>chhc</small> Glory to Jesus Christ Glory Forever!	June 14 2020	Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
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DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 14 Sun. 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Third Week after Pentecost

June 16 Tues. 10:00 AM +Hachun Yazzi Bitsa by Lawrence Goodall

June 20 Sat. 10:00 AM +Helen Uhrin by Monica Koshuta

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 21 Sun. 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – June 21, 2020

June 21 Sun. No servers assigned under Phase Two Reopening Plan

USHER SCHEDULE – June 21, 2020

June 21 Sun. Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday, June 21

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.

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 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

Second Sunday after Pentecost

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy

GREEN p. 125 Tone 1

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: A EXCEPT

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

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 voplotisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravj, 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'ih 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. Česňišuju 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

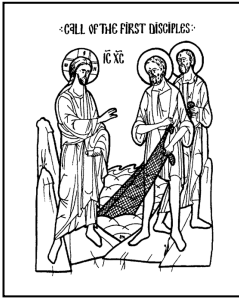
Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

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

Second Sunday After Pentecost



"He called them and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him."
Matthew 4:18-23

The holy fathers who established the Byzantine lectionary in the fourth century for Saturdays and Sundays appointed the gospel according to Matthew from after 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.

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.

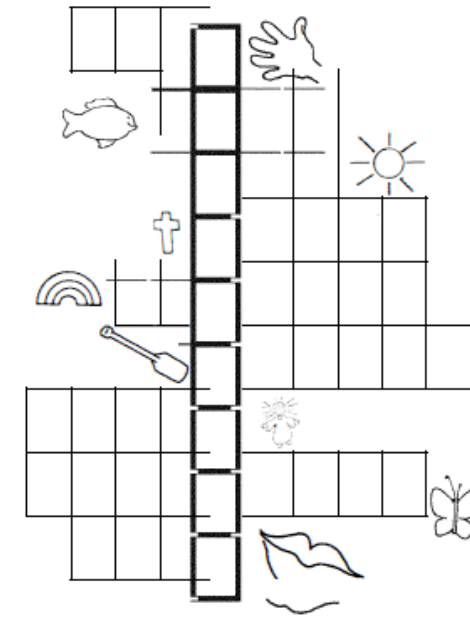
First, we must follow the law of God in our lives for "it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified." The apostles in the gospel appointed did not just hear Jesus calling them. They responded by doing what He wanted. They followed 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*:
Navarre Bible: Mathew, and Custer, The Holy Gospel: A Perspective.

Matthew, The Father John S. Byzantine

They left their nets and followed Him!

Write the name of each picture.
The letters in the darker boxes spell the answer.



They were Jesus' first
