

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: Brian Jurkowski, Gene and Melissa Kakalec & family, Dave and Nicole Kalinock & family, Gregory and Jennifer Kalinyak & family, Jayme and Emile Karam & family, Kathy Karonis & family, Carol and Harry Katawczik and from the Mission, Jack and Lisabeth McLaurin & family.

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 bishop has sent a four-page check list that must be completed by every pastor which covers all needed preparations (usher training, purchase of masks, gloves, sanitizer stations, removal of books from racks, and cleaning procedures) before public assembly is allowed in each church of the Eparchy. The pastors are to submit the completed checklists to the syncelli. Syncelli are to submit their parish list to the Protosyncellus. In his episcopal letter the bishop reminds those at danger or with health conditions or those who feel unwell to stay home. Bishop Kurt has continued the dispensation from the obligation to assist at the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and holydays of obligation. In those states or counties where the stay at home orders remain. Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, and the District of Columbia have opened in varying stages of Phase 1. In Fairfax County churches may

open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. The requirements of Bishop Kurt Burnette, Catholic Mutual, the Commonwealth of Virginia Health Department and Fairfax County were represented in the plan submitted by Fr. John in the plan

submitted to the Protosyncellus for the approval needed to reopen the church. Epiphany has received the approval of that plan. Unfortunately, there has been an unexpected delay of one of the services needed to move forward with that plan. 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 Pentecost Sunday 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. Although we are unable to pray together in church, we might consider praying these prayers in our 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. Bishop Kurt Burnette allows the resumption of the public celebration of liturgical services in conformity with the dictates of the local and state health authorities and after the eparchial check list and each parish's strategic plan for reopening has been submitted to the syncelli and approved. In Fairfax County and adjoining counties, restrictions regarding churches have been lifted to enable proceeding to Phase 1, as the rest of the Commonwealth to 50% of the church capacity is allowed. Before Epiphany and other Byzantine Ruthenian churches in the Commonwealth can move forward guidelines provided by Bishop Kurt, Catholic Mutual, and the mandatory requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia have to be met. When the Strategic Plan for Reopening Epiphany Church and the Eparchial Check list, which has been completed and sent to the protosyncellus, is approved by the protosyncellus, the church will be open at 50% capacity. The strategic plan has been approved for Epiphany of our Lord opening the way for Epiphany to open according to that plan. However, there has been an unexpected delay in the delivery of a service level required in the implementation of the plan. Epiphany will not be able to open until that service is put in place. We continue to ask that you stay home and stay safe if you are not feeling well, if you have an underlying health issue that compromises your health, or if you provide care for another person who has a compromised immune system. Live Streaming of the Sunday Divine Liturgies will continue. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense from the obligation to assist at the Divine Liturgy for Sundays and holydays of obligation. His most recent communication is found at the Eparchial web site. www.eparchyofpassaic.com. The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: www.eolbcc.org.

Executive Order. Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order #63 effective May 29th. This order lifts restrictions for Northern Virginia counties to enter Phase One that began May 15th in the other counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This means that churches are able hold services with 50% of the church capacity attending in church at any time and safe distancing is in effect. Face masks are required. All non-essential businesses and all social gatherings except family gatherings and public entertainments are prohibited. If you wish to read the requirements of the Commonwealth for churches to reopen under 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, an ELG donation dedicated to the HVAC replacement 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. AMS has been contacted. AMS was one of the three bids presented for consideration and approved by the Councilors and by the bishop. AMS has inspected the current equipment and their approved proposal submitted last year and determined that cost remains the same. There is no increase to the original estimate of \$XXXXXX. We are expecting to receive an updated contract to be reviewed and signed by Fr. John in the coming weeks.

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 remains 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.

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. These checks usually arrive sometime during the summer and are not mailed until all pledges are satisfied. Epiphany of our Lord parish in Annandale has an outstanding pledge total of \$133.

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. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit found the apostles and disciples together in one place, the Upper Room, in prayer. From this final feast of Pascha, the public reading of the epistles of S.t Paul resume with his epistle to the Romans. Join Father Dr. Sebastian Carnazzo (PhD the Catholic University of America) for “The Third Heaven” They Key to the Epistles of St. Paul, Wednesdays, June 3, 10, and 17 at 8:00-9:00PM.

Please feel free to use them and to share with family and friends. Visit <https://godwithusonline.org>.

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Schedule
- Scheduled Liturgy Intentions
- Financial Report
- Book store sales Suspended
- EMC Bingo - Suspended
- Bishop's Appeal – Over goal!
- EMC Awards Club Winners
- Chapel HVAC
-

EMC BINGO

06/09/20 - Team C - TBD
 06/16/20 - Team D - TBD
 06/23/20 - Team A – TBD
 06/30/20 Team B - TBD
<http://EMCBINGO.com>

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$5,645.00
Building Fund	\$665.00
Holy Days	\$1,710.00
Candles	\$92.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$15.00
Online Donation	[\$885.00]
TOTAL	\$8,127.00

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

Glory to Jesus Christ Glory Forever!	June 7, 2020	Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
---	--------------	--

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Second Week after Pentecost

June 07 Sun.	10:30 AM	Intention of Parishioners
June 09 Tues.	10:00 AM	+Raymond McCracken by Marlene, Victoria, Justine & family
June 13 Sat.	10:00 AM	Health & God's Blessings on Joseph and Roseann Wegman & Family by Helen & Peter Wegman

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 14 Sun.	10:30 AM	Intention of Parishioners
--------------	----------	---------------------------

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – June 14, 2020

June 14 Sun.	No servers assigned under Phase One Reopening Plan
--------------	--

USHER SCHEDULE – June 14, 2020

June 14 Sun.	Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday, June 14
--------------	--

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.

<p>Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA http://www.eolbcc.org Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct pastoral business on the website email.</p>
--

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

PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy
for

Sunday of All Saints

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

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

GREEN p. 211 Sunday of All Saints

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: Festal Tones

EXCEPT: Cherubic Hymn

We Praise You

Communion Hymn p. 177 **ALL D**

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons
3. At the Troparia:
 - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 8 p. 211 GREEN
 - Troparion of All Saints Tone 4 p. 211-212 GREEN
 - Kontakion of All Saints Tone 8 p.212 GREEN
4. Instead of "*Holy God...*", "*All who have been baptized...*" p. 32 BLUE
5. Scripture readings:
 - Prokeimenon of All Saints Tone 4 p. 212 GREEN
 - Epistle: Hebrewa 11:32-12:2a
 - Alleluia of All Saints Tone 4 p.213 GREEN
 - Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, & 19:27-30

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 vplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravyj, 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 Otču, 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 iskušenje, 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.

Sunday of All Saints



Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves judge the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life."
Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

The gospel appointed for the Sunday of All Saints is a selection of verses: (1) the Lord Jesus inviting people to discipleship and the rigors of this "marriage" with God being the quality of exclusivity, that is, one must love the Lord God with one's whole heart, mind and soul, even more than one's self; (2) the question of Peter as to what the reward would be for this discipleship, taken from another context and chapter. The holy fathers did this to have the Word of God speak to us about the faith of the saints and about the reward that comes from faith.

Faith, as defined by Jesus, the Son of God, is not an emotion. It is a both a gift God gives to each human being since it is one of the three theological virtues with hope and love, and it is infused at conception. Every person has faith. The question is what or who is the object of each person's faith: is it someone as great as God, or something fragile, small and finite, one's own self, others, or society?

Faith in God requires the person who is in this "marriage" with God to be faithful, to acknowledge God, and to defend this bond of love before those who would question or deny it.

The saints we commemorate today are examples of heroic sanctity, faithful to death. The Son of God, who is the only one who can know about what happens in heaven and in eternity, says the saints enjoy indescribable happiness in heaven. Entering this union or "marriage" with God, even though it is exclusive does not provoke jealousy or exclusivity on the part of the saints. Saints enjoy union with God and communion with each other.

Yet all these [saints], though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.
Hebrews 11:32-12:2

Substantial parts of this chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews are read on other days: the Sunday before Christmas and the First Sunday of the Great Fast. Here it is appointed by the holy fathers to call forth another effect in us.

Like the gospel appointed for today, the epistle explains faith and encourages us to put faith not in ourselves or another person or group but in God. Only God is infinite and eternal, only God is enough to satisfy the reason we were created.

Since the Church is observing the memory of the saints, and the martyrs in the first place among them, this listing of the sufferings they endured shows, first, the great love they have for God because they perceived God's great love for them, second, that the sufferings and death testify that God's revelation is true, and finally, encourages us to enter the work to become saints and especially to testify, no matter the price, about God.

Notice that in this world oppressed by sin the saints do not get something out of faith in God such as being protected from suffering or persecution, or having great wealth and privilege. However, the reward in eternity is heaven. A life without God for eternity is frightening to contemplate.

The Holy Spirit, the Author of all Scripture, concludes that the saints encourage us to continue the race by first ridding ourselves of sin and by keeping our eyes on Jesus who perfects us and inspires -- which literally means breathes in -- us by the Holy Spirit to make us God's children worthy of spending eternity with Him.

From the Navarre Bible, Ignatius Study Bible:Matthew, and Navarre Bible: Matthew



How do we run the race?

Find words on the grid to fill in the blanks. The location of the first letter is given. All words follow in order either across or down.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
a	L	E	T	H	E	U	S	E	Y	E	S	J
b	P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E
c	M	F	A	I	T	H	R	O	W	T	A	S
d	A	I	C	N	H	F	W	F	T	A	U	U
e	R	X	E	S	I	A	I	F	H	N	T	S
f	K	O	U	R	N	I	T	R	A	G	H	A
g	E	F	O	R	G	T	H	U	T	L	O	N
h	D	O	U	T	S	H	I	N	D	E	R	D

1a 6a 5c 8c 5c

9d 6h 6a 12f

4b 9d 10a 6a

8f 7d 1b

3a 3b 1c 2h

2g 6a 12f 2c 2f

8a 11g 12a