

Marge Rusnak, Paul Vrabel, Richard Wytko, and Tim Ryan. 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, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar, John Ryaby III, and Guillermina Donalson.

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 Andrew and Caitlin Stafford, Peter and Elaine Starr, Nancy Stefan, Robert and Nancy Stegon, Joseph Stone, Timothy and Kathleen Stotish & family, Edward and Miriam Strickland & family, and from the Mission, Kevin and Elizabeth Keyes & family.

One Liturgy. Liturgy every Sunday and holyday of obligation must by canon law be for the intention of parishioners. If a second Sunday Liturgy is offered, an intention can be accepted. Since we have had only one Sunday Divine Liturgy for fourteen Sundays, the Liturgy was for the Intention of our Parishioners. As a result, the intentions requested for the second Liturgy on Sundays have not been offered. The celebrant can pray for additional intentions during the Liturgy, for example, the priest is required to pray for the bishop who ordained him at every Liturgy he offers. The celebrant will pray for the intention parishioners have offered. Please note that this does not persolve the Liturgy intention requested.

The liturgy intention for Sunday, October 18 is Joseph Wegman & Family by Helen & Peter Wegman. Any Sunday liturgy intention previously scheduled will be rescheduled when a priest is assigned which would make two liturgies a possibility again.

Public Liturgies. The Commonwealth of Virginia began 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. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense 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 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost today will be live streamed.

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.

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 some parishioners are remaining safe at home. Simply email the parish

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. Jamie has begun rescheduling weekday liturgy requests according to the date of the request. If you have scheduled a weekday liturgy, that liturgy will remain on the date requested. However, if you scheduled a liturgy on a Sunday, the intention will not be rescheduled until after the pandemic or until Bishop Kurt is able to assign a second priest to be able to celebrate two Sunday liturgies.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

On-line Giving Now Set Up. Bishop Kurt directed that all parishes have online giving service in place with www.tithe.ly.com by August 31, 2020. Both the parish and the mission now have online accounts with tithe.ly and these can be accessed at the church or mission web sites. To make an online contribution, go to the church web site. On the home page is a link that says Epiphany of our Lord online donation. Click on that and you will be directed to Epiphany's tithe.ly account. Please note that where you see Offertory, that is a drop-down menu that allows the donor to specify what the donation is for: Sunday offertory, Building Fund, St. Nicholas Fund, or eparchial collections. Please show care in the category Recurring Giving. If it is not a donation to be given each week or month, please make that adjustment that this is a one-time donation.

ernich; \$300 - Lana Ford; \$1,000

EMC Bingo. Due to the Pandemic, Bingo has been suspended indefinitely. Observance of local, state, Catholic Mutual, and eparchial requirements for safe distancing and sanitizing

does not make reopening Bingo economically feasible. We will continue to monitor health and scientific information as it becomes available to guide the determination of opening safely for our parishioners and Bingo patrons.

Parish Bulletin. The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: www.colbcc.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 began July 1st. The parish office was informed that as a result of a recent lawsuit filed by four pastors, the Commonwealth has agreed to not impose more restrictions upon church gatherings than over other businesses and gatherings. This decision has not yet been indicated in the Governor's Orders section in the Commonwealth of Virginia web site. It must be remembered than many of the practices followed in our church are mandated from the Bishop: every other pew closed, six foot markings, wooden spoons or metal spoons that are sanitized in an autoclave, Holy Communion procession, as well as restrictions on fellowship halls and gatherings.

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 two days of the week. She will be teleworking Tuesday afternoon and all day Thursday. She will be physically in the parish office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only. Lucie, the financial assistant, is working in the office only three days a week. She will be in the office Monday, Wednesday 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. Please **DO NOT** leave a message on the office telephone. 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. Please wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer station when you come into the office and observe social distancing. We are only able to accommodate three adults in the office including two staff members observing safe distancing.



Water Infiltration System. Fairfax County had inspected the condition of our water infiltration system installed when the church was built. Certain adjustments to match the construction documents as well as cleaning the infiltration field has to be done. Bill Fournier has been supervising the company selected to do the work. Bill has alerted them on certain details that have not been performed according to the contract. The company winning the contract to do the work, chose not to complete the work.

Mission Update. According to Jack McLaurin Montgomery County has approved our Right-of-Way disturbance permit last week and the mission needs to post a \$1,000 bond. VIKA has informed Jack that the Storm Water Management concept they have prepared should receive approval in two months. Jack is preparing our Building Permit applications so that both can be approved around the same time. Goshen Enterprises has completed the cleaning of the planting beds, trimming shrubs and other lawn work. Obtaining service providers and the detail of work to be performed, restoring trash service pick up, as well as planning to set up the Verizon telephone service has begun at the Mission Estate. Icon copies for the icon screen have been received. The wood craftsman has submitted schematic drawings for the icon screen and holy table for approval.

MiTel Telephone System Deployment. The MiTel test and “Go Live” date has been postponed to October 21st. Before the old system is abandoned, and before we “Go Live” training on the operation and functions of the “Go Live” date approaches next week, we are cautiously optimistic.

Book Store. The Bookstore is open by appointment only. Please contact a Bookstore manager and be

prepared to wear a mask and not to use the rest rooms in the Social Hall.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop's Appeal. The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Parishioners should be receiving their Bishop's Appeal Pledge forms shortly. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 1, 2021. Any contributions received after December 21, 2020, must be attributed to the 2021 tax year. The goal for this year's campaign is the same as last year, \$19,800. If we reach goal we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

National Byzantine Catholic Convention. The convention is sponsored by the Archeparchy and Eparchies of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church for priests, deacons, monastics, and Christ's Faithful for the purpose of prayer, fellowship. Formation and mission. Because of the pandemic it cannot be held in Pittsburgh as planned so it will be an online conference, so even more people can participate. The guiding theme for the convention is “Growing a Vibrant Byzantine Church” which will focus on growing as missionary disciples creating parishes that are places where Christ is encountered and worshipped. The presentations will be Sunday, November 1st and the online live discussions will be Saturday, November 14th from 11:00 AM to 3:00PM on Zoom. For free registration please go to www.byzantineconvention.com. The theme sounds similar to the Growing a Vibrant Church program that Bishop Kurt had presented in parishes in the Eparchy of Passaic several years ago.

ByzanTEEN virtual Evening Out. Sunday, October 25th 6:00-7:30PM. Finding Gratitude in this Dumnych. Register at the home page of www.eparchyofpassaic.com. You must register to be sent a Zoom conference link. Bring your own snacks *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Schedule
- EMC Bingo – Suspended Indefinitely
- MiTel - Go Live – October 21st
- On Line Contributions
- ByzanTEEN Virtual Evening Out
- National Byzantine Convention

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$5,100.00
Building Fund	\$1,615.00
Holy Days	\$355.00
Candles	\$84.25
BCY	\$40.00
School of Religion	\$96.00
Seminary	\$80.00
Retired Nuns	\$35.00
Catholic Charities	\$75.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$242.75
<u>Tithely Online Sept.</u>	<u>[\$1,181]</u>
TOTAL - envelopes	\$7,723.00
TOTAL September Tithely	<u>\$1,181.00</u>
	\$8,904.00

Tithing & Giving. Above accounting represents weeks 9/27 and 10/4. The next report will cover weeks 10/11 and 10/18. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from our online giving account. Our online giving is operational and can be accessed through the parish or mission web sites. Thank you for continuing to use your giving envelopes.

"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,

October 18, 2020

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!

October 18, 2020

Slava Isusu Christu!
Slava Na Viki!

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. Oct. 18	10:30 AM	Intention of Parishioners
		<i>Twenty-first Week after Pentecost</i>
Tues. Oct. 20	10:00 AM	+Elaine Byrd by Dolores and Mike Opachko
Sat. Oct. 24	10:00 AM	+LaDonna Rodock by Rodock Family

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. Oct. 25	10:30 AM	Intention of Parishioners
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ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – October 25, 2020

Sun. Oct. 25	One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.
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USHER SCHEDULE – October 25, 2020

Sun. Oct. 25	Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday.
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All public services in church in Phase Three 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
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE	p. 11	Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN	p. 135	Resurrection Tone 3
YELLOW	p. 368	One Holy Apostle

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
 - Troparion of One Holy Apostle Tone 3 p. 368 YELLOW
 - Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 3 p.136 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
 - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 3 p. 137 GREEN
 - Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19
 - Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 3 p. 137
 - Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatому 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 Svjatому Duchu, spasi nas.

SVJATYJ BOŽE – HOLY GOD

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)
Slava Otču, i Synu, i Svjatому Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.
Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.
Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

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

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

SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadjy 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 preneporočnuju 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 ispolnatsja 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

“But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.”

Luke 8:5-15

The parable of the Sower is recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke. The holy fathers have appointed it to be proclaimed in the Byzantine lectionary from the gospel according to Luke. Even though three of the four soils do not produce a yield, the fourth, the good or receptive soil, bears fruit totally out of all proportion to the sowing. In addition to Jesus' explanation of the parable, Gospel commentators supply several other insights.

First, the Sower is the person who is speaking the parable, namely, Jesus.

Second, the Sower “goes out”, that is, the Son of God goes out from heaven to earth and furthermore while on earth Jesus goes from town and village sowing the Word of God. The Body of Christ, the Church, is composed of Christ the Head of His Body, and we the members of His Body. What the Head does, the rest of the Body must follow. The Church evangelizes always. The Church does not speak the Word of God, evangelize, only inside the church building. The Church, like Jesus, goes out.

Third, the seed “falls”. Jesus chooses precise language to describe how He transmits the divine Word. The seed falls everywhere. The Sower does not place the seed carefully here, but not there. God does not speak only to some and not to others.

Fourth, the seed is sown into the soil. The receptor is not dirt; it is soil. Jesus has the attitude of respect to all. His Church must have the same respect for all people in order to speak to them all.

Fifth, the method of planting in first century Roman Palestine is opposite what it is in 21st century America. Jesus' hearers knew that a sower would first sow the seed and then plow the seed under. Today farmers plow the soil and then sow the seed. In the parable, all the soils, except the first, stand a chance if the seed can survive until the plow can make furrows. Catechesis, mystagogical catechesis after baptism, and spiritual direction all plow the furrow and make it possible for the seed to grow and produce a crop. The Sacraments of Initiation and the other Sacraments are the water and what makes the seed mature and grow. We can recall the 1st Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

Jesus finished by saying that the soil which had received the seed produced fruit “with patience” meaning a life-long effort. Not only does Jesus speak the parable, He explains it as well. The seed is the Word of God, the types of soil that the seed falls upon are the types of receptivity to God's Word that the members of the human race exhibit.

“...the gospel preached by me is not of human invention...it came by revelation of Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:11-12

The epistle appointed for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost is the beginning of the epistle of Saint Paul to the Church in Galatia, an area in central Asia Minor, modern Turkey. This epistle is also read on the Sunday after Christmas because of the reference to the apostle, James, who is commemorated along with the other human

relatives of Jesus on that Sunday. Here it is part of the *lectio continua* or continuous reading of the epistles that began after Pentecost with the reading of the epistle to the Romans and continued through 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

Certain Judaizing legalists had come to Galatia teaching that Christians had to observe the Old Testament Law and spoke against Saint Paul, denying that he was an apostle, not equal to the Twelve Apostles. In the epistle,

Saint Paul explains that the Lord Jesus has fulfilled the Old Testament. The Old Testament functioned the way a guardian does for a minor until the minor comes to adulthood. To go back to observing the diet and purity laws of the Old Testament is like denying that Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection had any effect for the human race.

In the part of the epistle proclaimed today, Saint Paul is writing to the Galatians to reassure them that he did not invent the gospel nor did he hear it from someone who invented it. The gospel he preaches is the same gospel that the Twelve Apostles preach and it comes from the same source, God, who revealed the content of the gospel to them and to him. He then tells them that he couldn't have invented the gospel since he had tried to destroy Christ's Church. Only really seeing and hearing the risen Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus as he was going to arrest Christians converted him to be a disciple of Christ who gave Paul the vocation as apostle. He writes that he did not get the gospel from any other apostle because he never met or spoke with them. This is Paul's testimony that the way he learned the gospel was from Christ. This is why he can be an apostle. The complete content of the gospel as it has been transmitted to our time is either from God or from humans, supernatural or man-made, true or false. A person either believes Saint Paul is truthful or not. We believe he is telling the truth. Having him speak to us strengthens our faith and recommits us to putting all of it into

Use the code to fill in the blanks.

⊕ = A	⊖ = E	⊙ = I	⊗ = M	⊚ = Q	⊘ = U	⊛ = X
⊕ = B	⊖ = F	⊙ = J	⊗ = N	⊚ = R	⊘ = V	⊛ = Y
⊕ = C	⊖ = G	⊙ = K	⊗ = O	⊚ = S	⊘ = W	⊛ = Z
⊕ = D	⊖ = H	⊙ = L	⊗ = P	⊚ = T		

Paul wanted all to know that he was called by God.

practice.

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