

Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross and Greg puhak.. 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, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith, son-in-law of Elizabeth Markovchick.

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 pray for these parishioners: Paul Vrabel, Glenn and Annette Warden, Robert and Deborah Wargo & family, Mark Wasczak, Kalyna Watts & family, Peter and Helen Wegman, Bryant and Ruth Welch, and from the Mission, Henry and Roselyn Kretschmaier.

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.

There was no intention scheduled for the Divine Liturgy for Sunday, November 29th. 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 Twenty –sixth Sunday after Pentecost today will be live streamed. Please remember that because of the Lukan Jump, the readings from Luke will actually be those of the Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost. It is also the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra.

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.

Christmas Fast. The forty day Christmas Fast began Sunday, November 15th and continues to December 24th. Another name for the Christmas Fast is Philip's Fast because November 14th is the feast of Saint Philip and the fast begins according to liturgical time the evening of November 14th. The Christmas Fast offers several feasts: the Entrance of the Mother of God in the Temple, November 21st, Saint Nicholas, December 6th, Conception of Saint Ann (Immaculate Conception), December 8th, two special commemoration Sundays before Christmas and several aliturgical days when the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated, usually on the day of an Old Testament prophet and it can be recalled that the prophets and people of the Old Testament waited for the coming of the Messiah. Fridays remain as days of penance and in the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church in the United States the other fasting prescriptions of the Christmas Fast are left to the ability of the individual.

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.

EMC Awards Club. The Fall Epiphany Men's Club Awards Club Raffle has begun. The drawing takes place every Sunday for ten weeks. The holder of the winning ticket of each of the first nine drawings is awarded \$50. The winner of the tenth and final drawing takes home \$1000. The winner of the seventh drawing is Nancy Hencken, #151 Congratulations!

ELG Christmas Bread and Food. ELG continues their successful Freezer Sales today December 6th and next Sunday, December 13th. Pirohi, nut and apricot rolls, and chocolates will be for sale. Also, freshly baked Christmas Bread for Holy Supper will be available. Masks must be worn by customers. Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance. People in the parish center must be limited to 25 persons at any time. Please protect yourselves, conform to the requirements of the Commonwealth and the Eparchy and protect the members of the ELG.

Nativity Candles. If you would like to offer a candle for your family or a loved one, you may do so by calling the Parish Office beginning next Monday, December 7th between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. A copy of the candles available is posted on the website. The candles will be lit for the first Divine Liturgy of Christmas and remain lit through the Christmas Season.

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.

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.eolbcc.org. It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.



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. 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.

Mission Update. According to Jack McLaurin Montgomery County has informed him 11/10/20 that we could not use the "Right of Entry" agreement to inspect the dry wells due to change of use and are asking for easements for the dry wells. If this is the case, there will be a fee of \$2,000 for VIKA to prepare the easements and will have to be reviewed by eparchial counsel. That would mean the Forest Management Exemption would have to be amended to show the dry wells and the fee for VIAK would be \$2,500.

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.

Restroom Availability FYI. There are no campus restrooms open to the public, including our vendors. We have only two buildings being cleaned weekly, the church for our parishioners and the parish office for our office staff. The day care bathrooms are for the exclusive use of the day care children and staff and restricted for their safety.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop's Appeal. The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 1, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2020, must be attributed to the 2021 tax year. The goal for this year's campaign is the same as last year, \$19,800 for the church and \$6,000 for the mission. The parishioners at the church have pledged or given \$11,550. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$3,225. This is an incredible response in this difficult time. May God bless you for your sacrificial offerings to our eparchy and for our eparchy's donations to European eparchies. If we reach our goal, we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

Friary Closing. Father Jerome Wolbert, OFM, has made the following announcement. "Due mainly to the lack of available friars, the friary [Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA] will be closing. If you are on the friary mailing list, details will be in our Christmas letter to be mailed later this week. We will send the same letter to anyone who asks (570-788-1212 ext 407 or holydormition@gmail.com). On January 31, at 2pm, we will have a final prayer service to close the chapel, with a reception if conditions permit. Our chapel has been a prayerful blessing for many people and we want to make sure you have a chance to make a final visit before it closes. The friars are still able to honor all intentions and memorials; we will continue to pray for all our benefactors, and we appreciate your prayers for us at this difficult time." No mention was made about the friars who administrate two of our parishes in the eparchy. Also, this does not apply to the women's Carmelite monastery.

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- Nativity Candles
- Friary Closing
- Mission details
- EMC Bingo – Suspended Indefinitely
- On Line Contributions
- Bishop's Appeal
- ELG Christmas Bread

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

December 6, 2020

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$5,425.00
Building Fund	\$3,538.00
Holy Days	\$490.00
Candles	\$208.50
Flowers	\$285.00
School of Religion	\$12.00
Catholic Charities	\$40.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$43.00
<u>Military Services</u>	<u>\$45.00</u>
	\$10,086.50

Tithing & Giving. Above accounting represents weeks 11/22 and 11/29. The next report will cover weeks 12/6 and 12/13. "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, Marge Rusnak, Paul Vrabel, Richard Wytko, and

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!

December 6, 2020

Slava Isusu Christu!
Slava Na Viki!

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA-ARCHBISHOP

Sun. Dec. 06 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Twenty-eighth Week after Pentecost

Mon. Dec. 07 Aliturgical Day

MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA

Tues. Dec. 08 10:00 AM +George and +Mary Nacik by Mary and Tony Fazio

Wed. Dec. 09 Aliturgical Day

Fri. Dec. 10 Aliturgical Day

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sat. Dec. 12 10:00 AM Health & God's Blessings on Msgr. George Dobes
by Epiphany Parishioners

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

Sun. Dec. 13 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – December 13, 2020

Sun. Dec. 13 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

USHER SCHEDULE – December 13, 2020

Sun. Dec. 13 Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday.

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 business on the website email.

PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost
and
St. Nicholas of Myra - Archbishop

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN p. 130 Resurrection Tone 2
RED p. 274 Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: B

EXCEPT:

Cherubic Hymn St. Nicholas p. 275
We praise You p. 276

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Typical Psalms and Beatitudes pp. 16-17, 23-24
3. At the Troparia:
 - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 2 p. 130 GREEN
 - Troparion of the Holy Father, Tone 4 p. 274 RED
 - Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 2 p. 131 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
 - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 2 p. 132 GREEN
 - Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 & Hebrews 3:17-21
 - Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 2 p. 132 GREEN
 - Gospel: Luke 17:12-19 & Luke 6:17-23

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

~~Slava Otču, i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin. Jedinorodnyj Syne~~

Meditation on Today's Readings

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.

SVJATYJ BOŽE – HOLY GOD

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. 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

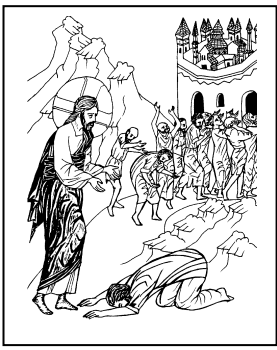
Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijdet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

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 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.



28th Sunday After Pentecost

And one of them, realizing that he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him...Jesus said in reply, Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” Luke 17:12-19

The gospel according to Luke narrates that “As He [Jesus] continued his journey to Jerusalem He traveled through Samaria and Galilee.” Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem to give Himself to be crucified. On the journey he is approached by ten lepers who stand at a distance -- as the Law of Moses directs that lepers maintain distance to prevent the spread of the dreaded Hansen’s Disease from which there is no cure even today -- and cry to Him to

have mercy on them.

The Law of Moses further prescribes that if a person is cured of leprosy, he or she must present themselves to a priest who will examine them like a doctor would. If they passed the exam, the priest would declare them cured and the cured person could return to their home and their family. This law was to ensure a cure and protect the population from a leper who would return to the people and spread the contagious disease.

So when Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to a priest, even though at that moment they still have the disease, the ten must have enough faith to not persist in begging or following Jesus but to set out to see a priest. Sure enough, on the way they are cured. Nine continue to find a priest to be declared cured so they can see their families again and resume their lives. One, a Samaritan, goes back to Jesus and performs an act of worship, he glorifies Jesus and then he does a prostration before Him.

In the cure on the road to Jerusalem Jesus announces His Gospel. Like the lepers we are subjects of decay because of Original Sin and our own sins. If we ask Jesus “Lord, have mercy” He will save us but we have to have the virtue of faith to continue on the journey of our life even if the cure is not fully apparent right away. Returning to Jesus and giving ourselves as a gift to Him in worship by our words and bodily actions are expected by Jesus. Why? Jesus married us by uniting His divinity to our humanity and being born of the Blessed Virgin in Bethlehem. Spouses continually give themselves to one another. Jesus has given us life by His cure and we, united in marriage to Him through baptism, continually give ourselves back to Him in worship.

...Draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power...In all circumstances hold faith as a shield, to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Ephesians 6:10-17

In the epistle to the Ephesians, Saint Paul explains that due to sin all human beings, and in fact all creatures, are disoriented and divided among themselves and against God. Now, through the redemption worked by Christ, they have been led back to unity with one another and with God. Christ has made the Church, His Body, the universal means of salvation. Saint Paul then writes about practical aspects of married life, children and servants.

The conclusion of the epistle read here is a reminder that the world is under the domination of the evil one and the angels who have rebelled against God as he writes that our struggle is, “with the principalities, the powers with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.” In this the apostle Paul is faithfully holding and teaching the apostolic teaching received from Christ who said on Holy Thursday that His coming passion is the hour of the ruler of this world but by His death He would drive him out.

Because the struggle is spiritual warfare Saint Paul writes that humans must not trust their own ability to resist but the spiritual grace from God and the virtues, described by Saint Paul as armor and shield and sword. Christ has conquered the evil one and the rebellious spirits by His death and resurrection. Joined with Christ in baptism and with His angels and the members of the Church in heaven and earth, we can find

protection in their camp through Christ the victorious Ruler. The virtue of faith is both a virtue infused by God in every human and it is also the response a human gives to God revealing God’s self. Therefore, it is both a divine gift of God and a human response.

From Fr. Jack Custer, *The Holy Gospel, A Byzantine Perspective, The Navarre Bible:Luke and The Navarre Bible.*

Children’s Corner



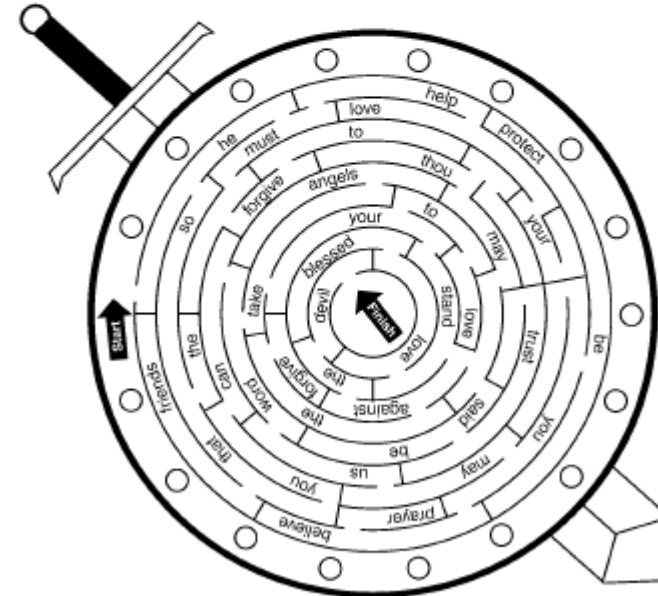
Ages 7+

December 6, 2020 • Ephesians 6:10-20

Put on the Armor of God

Christians need to take advantage of the power God provides for our defense against the evil one.

Find your way through the shield maze. Read the words in order to find why we need God's armor.



Enter your SECRET CODE to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com **SECRET CODE PVJV65**