

**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: Sally Green, Edward and Carol Gubanich, Danielle Hakun & family, Scott and Debbie Hald & family, Deborah Halsey, Paul and Christine Hancher & family, and from the Mission, Sheri and Edward Fogle & family. There is no liturgy intention for March 21st. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. In his episcopal letter of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 are 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 the Faithful to make a good Confession when the pandemic is over. The

Divine Liturgy of the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast 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 office.

**Lenten Fast.** Wednesdays and Fridays during the Great Fast are days of abstinence, no meat is consumed.

**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.

**All Souls Saturdays.** Each year there are five All Souls Saturdays when our deceased relatives are remembered by name. This list, the Hramoty or Dyptychs, is read during a Panachida which follows the Divine Liturgy for the repose of our departed family members. Please use the envelopes in your envelope sets to list your

departed names. The Fifth All Souls Saturday will be May 22.

**Guarding the Tomb.** Plans are being made to resume guarding the tomb from Great Friday night to Great Saturday afternoon. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Anti-viral solution and sanitizing wipes will be available from the sacristans so that each person who keeps vigil would wipe their space before leaving and wipe the handles on the doors. If you have any observations, please email the rectory office call or email Ed Gubanich.

**Blessing of Easter Baskets.** Easter Baskets will be blessed this Easter. We will use either the old Epiphany custom to have the blessing on the Green (the Square) or as a drive through. If you have any preferences for one or the other, please email the rectory office.

## 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](http://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.

**Spring 2021 Awards Club.** The winner of the second drawing is Andy Haba, 272. The next drawing will take place today, March 21st.

**Lenten Dinners!!!** Due to COVID 19 restrictions Epiphany Ladies Guild is not able to provide the full eat in and take out dinners for the six weeks of the Great Fast. However, the volunteers are offering take out only Lenten Dinners for Friday March 26 from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM with the full complement of everyone's favorites to include, pirohi (cooked or frozen), halushki, a soup, desserts, chocolates, kielbasi rings and kielbasi sticks.

**Pussy Willows.** If you have pussy willows growing in your yard, please consider donating cuttings to the church for the Palm Sunday celebration of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. This is the time to take a look at the growth on your pussy willows. Once you have cut your supply, please bring your cuttings to the basement of the chapel and place them in the box at the foot of the stairs marked for the occasion by this Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Resurrection Candles.** If you would like to offer Easter candles in remembrance of departed loved ones, please call the parish office this week, no later than Monday, March 29th before 2:00 PM. The candles will be lit for every liturgy during the Easter season.

**Parish Bulletin.** The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: [www.colbcc.org](http://www.colbcc.org). It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the bulletin has not been published the past two weeks. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused for our parishioners.

**Office Schedule for our Administrative Assistant.** Our Administrative Assistant, Jamie, will be working at the office the usual days, Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. Jamie has the

office phone system app available at home so can be contacted by calling the office number and by the parish office email on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**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, Wednesday, Friday- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office. If you have business at the office, please follow these protocols: 1. use the **RING doorbell**; Jamie is able to respond to the door from home as well. 3. wear a **mask** 4. **sanitizer station** when you come and leave; 5. observe **social distancing**. We are only able to accommodate three adults in the office at one time, including two staff members observing safe distancing.

**Mission Update.** Jack McLaurin reported good news last week. The final site development plan, the Soil and Erosion Plan has been approved. Now we have to post the Bond. We also have to pay a fee of \$750 because, according to Montgomery County Tree Canopy Law, we are not planting any trees. We have to post bond for the Right-of-Way permit. The Building Permits Zoning has approved. We are waiting for the responses from other agencies. The contract with civil engineering and site plan firm, VIKA was for \$46,500. Montgomery County required additional tests and reports. As a result, there was an overrun in costs. Presently, Epiphany Mission account has paid VIKA \$47,789.78. This amount does not include the remainder of the amount that will be billed by VIKA for stormwater management easements.

**Book Store.** The Bookstore has limited supplies of pysanky kits and dyes, and egg-wrap. Also, Lamb molds for butter are available. The Bookstore is open this Sunday and by appointment. 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 \$16,950. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$4,225. 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.

**ByzanTEENS Virtual Night Out.** If you haven't registered for the next **Byzanteen Virtual Evening Out tonight, Sunday, March 21st**, the 5th Sunday of the Great Fast, Saint Mary of Egypt, today is a good time as any! The theme will be: **No matter what you have done, with a repentant heart and through the Grace of God you can be transformed.** Plan to join, and register now at [www.eparchyofpassaic.com/byzanteenyouthministry](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com/byzanteenyouthministry). If you have a friend who might be interested in attending but who is not on our email list, please invite your friend.

**Journey to the Cross.** ByzanTeens are also encouraged to join Subdeacon Tim Fariss every Sunday in March at 6:00 PM for a livestream of vespers.

## Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

### COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- All Souls Saturdays
- On Line Contributions
- Eater Basket Blessing
- Resurrection Candles
- Guarding the Tomb
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- Temporary Office Hours
- ByzanTEEN Night Out
- Mission Development
- Bishop's Appeal

#### EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

March 21, 2021

## TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$6,690.00
Initial Offering	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$4,635.00
Holy Days	\$155.00
Candles	\$299.75
Flowers	\$140.00
SOR	\$2.00
Water Bottles	\$24.00
ECL	\$36.00
Mission Church	\$215.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$729.00
	<hr/>
	\$12,935.95

**Tithing & Giving.** This report is the income of weeks 3/7/21 and 3/14/21. "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, Richard Wytko, Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross, and Rand Bass. 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, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith.



# 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!** **Slava Isusu Christu!**  
**Glory forever!** **March 21, 2021** **Slava na v'iki!**

## ***DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE*** ***FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST*** ***ST. MARY OF EGYPT***

Sun. Mar. 21 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### ***Sixth Week of the Great Fast***

Wed. Mar. 24 7:30 AM Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts

### ***ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS***

Thurs. Mar. 25 7:30 PM Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
+Elizabeth Basarab by Her Girlfriends

Fri. Mar. 26 7:30 PM Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts

### ***Lazarus Saturday***

Sat. Mar. 27 10:00 AM Bertha Walak by Her Angels and Butterflies

### ***PALM SUNDAY***

Sun. Mar. 28 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### ***ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – March 28, 2021***

Sun. Mar. 28 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

### ***USHER SCHEDULE – March 28, 2021***

Sun. Mar. 28 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](mailto: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  
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast  
Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt

### PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE	p. 11	Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN	p. 125	Resurrection Tone 1
RED	p. 230	Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

### ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: D

#### EXCEPT:

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Typica and Beatitudes p. 16-16, 23-24
3. At the Troparia:
  - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 125 GREEN
  - Troparion of the Venerable Mother Tone 8 p. 230 RED
  - Kontakion of the Venerable Mother Tone 3 p. 230-231 RED
4. Scripture readings:
  - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 127 GREEN
  - Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14
  - Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 127 GREEN
  - Gospel: Mark 10:32-45
6. Anaphora of St. Basil the Great pp. 96-99

### JEDINORODNYJ SYNE – ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

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' popravj, 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 Otcu, 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 životvorjassčej 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, prisnoblaženuju i preneporočnuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Česňišuju Cheruvim i slavňišuju bez sravnenija Serafim, bez ist'inja 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

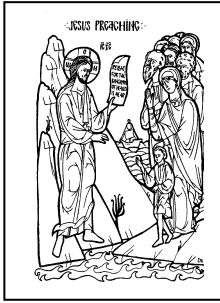
Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

### DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojego 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 Tvojeje. Alliluia.

## Meditation on Today's Readings

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast



*“Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized? ...For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*  
Mark 10:32-45

The gospels appointed for the Third Sunday, the Fourth Sunday, and the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast are the first, second and third predictions of the crucifixion respectively the Lord Jesus spoke in order to prepare the apostles and the disciples for the testing of their faith that the institution of the Holy Eucharist, the Passion and the Crucifixion will impose on them and on us. During the Great Fast we participate in the journey of the Lord Jesus from Mount Tabor to Jerusalem that took forty days. His words prepare us

for this great work of God for us and for our salvation. The gospel according to Mark is used for these Sundays.

We must recall that the Great Fast is also the time that the catechumens are being prepared to be baptized on Great and Holy Saturday. When Jesus makes the third prediction of the Passion and crucifixion, the apostles' question leads Jesus to speak about the effect of baptism. As such we can see how the Church from seventeen hundred years ago prepared people to be made into Christians by following the pattern of Jesus Himself for the preparation of the apostles and disciples. Not only does the Church prepare those to be baptized on Great Saturday during the Great Fast but those of us who are baptized are able to reflect each day this week on our Christian lives and examine ourselves if we are being more or less Christ like.

The request of James and John to be first and second in the kingdom of God is met by an unexpected question of Jesus: who is willing to be first and second in suffering and death that is the necessary result to baptism? In other words, if a person accepts baptism in order to save themselves from hell, he or she is right to do so. But, baptism makes the old person die by drowning in the death of Jesus. Then, we have to participate in this death by spending the remainder of our lives putting our old self, the self attached to sin, our desires, and our way of thinking, to death. That hurts. That is painful.

Jesus continues by saying that this is the only way a person can follow Jesus who came to serve His human beings by ransoming them by His own death. The word Jesus uses for ransom is used in the Old Testament for the duty a person had to free another member of one's own family if they became a slave to someone.

Jesus has now explained what His death is going to do for you and me. Our sins have enslaved us to the Evil One. Jesus paid the ransom. Now we must put the sinful person to death for that is what happened at our baptism and we must make of our lives a Christ-like sacrifice for the love of God and others.

*How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.* Hebrews 9:11-14

The Epistle to the Hebrews is used during the Sundays of the Great Fast to instruct catechumens about the principle elements of the Faith they are about to accept and to remind those already baptized about what Jesus has done for us. The Epistle to the Hebrews was originally written to Jewish Christians explaining that the Christian Faith they have accepted is the true fulfillment of the Old Testament which the Jewish people were the guardians. The formal tone of the epistle shows it is a composition between a formal letter and a sermon.

This passage appointed for today explains that Jesus has entered not the Temple sanctuary in Jerusalem but the true Sanctuary of heaven of which the Temple on earth points to. As the High Priest entered on Yom Kippur with the blood of a lamb that is killed instead of the Jewish people dying for the sins of the year past, Jesus the Lamb of God has offered His life once and for all for the sins of the many and then taken His human nature into heaven and in so doing opened heaven for the human race.

Saint John Chrysostom, when he was teaching catechumens, became ecstatic about this and told them, “The soldier pierced His side, the wall of the holy temple was breached, and I find the hidden treasure and rejoice over the richness I have found” (Baptismal Catecheses).

If my love of Jesus and the practice of this love has grown cool over the year, as I reflect on the loving sacrifice the Son of God made for me I can renew my love for God.

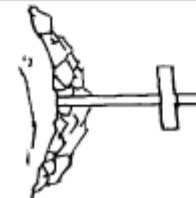
From Ignatius Study Bible: Mark, The Navarre Bible: Mark, and Fr. John S. Custer The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective.

## Children's Corner

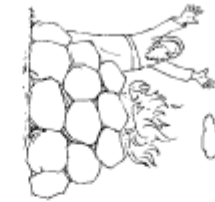
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... from acts that lead to death.



... but the blood of Christ will cleanse our ...



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K	I	B	O	M	E
L	N	E	N	G	E

Animal sacrifices made people clean ...

Supply the words to complete the sentence. In each column, write a letter which completes the name of a body part.



Christ helps us to serve  
the living God.