

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, Irene Markovich, Michael and Nancy Maskarinec & family, Michael and Valerie Matei, Karen Matlaga, Theresa and Daniel Palenski Maryanne Mattey, Betty Mattingly, and from the Mission, Richard Neimiller.

Public Liturgies. The Governor of Virginia has issued the seventh revised Executive Order Seventy-two and Executive Order Seventy-Nine. In these orders the governor has lifted most restrictions according to recent guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control. Bishop Kurt Burnette issued new directives May 26, 2021, effective May 28, 2021. The Bishop directs observing state laws. Bishop Kurt directs the following: Parishioners are not required to wear a mask as long as it is in compliance with state directives. People may continue to wear a mask for personal protection or as a courtesy to the vulnerable. No one should ask if someone has been vaccinated in order to be admitted. People are still encouraged to practice safe distancing in pews. Clergy and anyone assisting must wear a mask when distributing Holy Communion. Ushers when assisting people to receive Holy Communion must wear a mask. Individual spoons must continue to be used when distributing Holy Communion. Priest and deacon must continue to receive from separate chalices from the one used to distribute Holy Communion to the Faithful. The priest, and deacon, must continue to exercise caution in handing the offered and prepared Gifts before they are consecrated and handling, speaking, or singing near the Gifts or the metal ware (chalice, discos, asterisk, zeon) and continue to sanitize hands. The Bishop has not changed the directive on distributing the bulletins or replacing the People's Molitvennik or Bibles in the pew racks yet. The Bishop will revoke the dispensation regarding the Sunday precept or obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy on June 6th. From that date, watching the live stream does not fulfill the obligation to assist

at Divine Liturgy. However, the Bishop reminds everyone that "just as before the pandemic, anyone is relieved of the obligation for serious reason such as sickness, immobility, fear, caring for someone else, to protect your own health or the health of others."

Adjustments to Plan. As a response to the governor's amended executive order and Bishop Kurt Burnette's guidelines of May 26, 2021 Epiphany will have certain adjustments in public worship and assembly. Please continue to follow the directions of the ushers. The sanitizing stations will still be at the same places and all are asked to avail themselves of their use. The collection will continue to be taken by the basket in the narthex for the present. Please note that adjustments to pew seating are being made to accommodate the Faithful since the Bishop's dispensation will be revoked next Sunday. The Bishop has not made any changes to allow the distribution of bulletins or replacing the books in the pew racks. However, the ushers will have Divine Liturgy books available if you desire. If you ask for a book, please take it home with you and bring it back for use each time you come to church. The sacristans will continue to sanitize surfaces and doors in church after each Divine Liturgy. The chapel will remain closed at present. When the chapel will be opened the sacristans will have to sanitize it after each use and our sacristans have more work already without adding to their labors. Parishioners do not have to wear masks. Ushers are asked to continue to wear masks and gloves. Live stream Divine Liturgy will continue since some parishioners have medical issues that make them still unable to join us. Please observe the new marks on the carpet when in the Communion procession. Please maintain a sense of social distance.

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.

Thank You. We want to extend our gratitude to Jack and Carlotta Eyer, who graciously allowed our sacristans to take cuttings from their Linden tree for our Pentecost liturgical celebration. The Eyers are neighbors of Deacon Peter. Thank you!

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. Jamie has been 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 can be rescheduled on a weekday or Saturday or until Bishop Kurt is able to assign a second priest to be able to celebrate two Sunday liturgies. There is no pre-scheduled Divine Liturgy intention for the Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 6, 2021.

Apostles' Fast. The Apostles' Fast began and concludes June 28th, the eve of the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. In the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church in the United States the aspects of the fast are left to the conscience of the individual. The traditional fast has a strict fast on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with abstinence on Tuesday and Thursday. In the United States, Fridays resume as a Day of Penance since the celebration of Pentecost is completed.

Sacraments of Initiation. We welcome into the Mystical Body of Christ Mary Xxxx Xxxx Cassella, daughter of Elijah and Danielle Cassella, baptized, chrismated, and communicated First Holy Communion Sunday, May . May God grant her a pure Profession of the Faith all the days of her life. Mnohaja l'ita!

Prayers for Graduates. If you are a 2021 graduate of 8th grade, high school, college or graduate

school, or the parent of a graduate, please submit the graduate's name and school from which he/she is graduating to the parish office by phone, 703-573-3986 or email epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net. Because of covid19 requirements, we did not remember the graduates of 2020. We would like to remember last year's graduates as well. Please submit their names, the year of graduation, and the school from which they graduated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

On-line Giving. 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 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.

Parish Financial Report. The financial reports for the year ended December 31, 2020 are available upon request in the church office. The events of 2020 had a significant effect on the church community and certainly our church finances. Even with the uncertainty, we were able to maintain a strong financial situation by being prudent with the expenses we needed to incur. We were able to eliminate some regular outdoor seasonal grounds upkeep expenses, and defer on some repairs to a future period, but we will be unable to continue this strategy going forward. If we do not resume some of our regular events such as bingo, the festival, Lenten dinners, we will need

to look to other means to maintain our church campus. We thank you as we have seen an increase in online giving, however, we would like to suggest another option also. For those of you currently taking required minimum distributions from your IRA, consider making Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) to Epiphany Church directly from your IRA. This will not only benefit our church, but it reduces your taxable income even if you do not itemize. Contact the parish office for more information.

EMC Bingo. We will continue to monitor and assess health and scientific information as it is released 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. Parish Office hours remain: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM The hand sanitizer station remains for your use and safety. You may practice the courtesy of social distancing for safety. The office rest room is closed during renovation.

Mission Development. Christine Uvegyes Loya the principle of Eikona Studios plans to visit the Mission this week when she visits Epiphany church. The Mission is making progress with the engineering company, VIKA and the steady expert supervision as well as on-site labor of Jack McLaurin. The financial update is as follows: The Mission has paid VIKA \$43,750.75 to date. The Mission has paid Montgomery County \$6,832.88 in fees to date and \$712.57 in property taxes (because we have not celebrated religious services there until we obtain a permit, we cannot apply for property tax relief for religious exemptions). The total for expenditures is \$51,306.63. As a result of what Jack McLaurin has done the Mission has saved architect fees and hiring a project manager. The total monetary amount transferred from Epiphany Mission Savings to Epiphany Mission checking is \$51,814.10. The balance remaining in savings is \$294,345.

Book Store. The Bookstore is open Sunday by appointment. Please contact a Bookstore manager.

Restroom Availability FYI. Please note that the church restrooms are open for the use of our parishioners on Sundays and weekday Divine Liturgies. Rest rooms will continue to be sanitized.

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 \$20,635. 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.

Byzantine News. With the blessing of Bishop Kurt, we are pleased to announce the following events for Byzantines (ages 13-17):

An in-person watch party on Saturday July 3rd, and a Passaic Byzantine in-person Rally at Carpathian Village-St. Nicholas Shrine in Cresco, PA **July 30-August 2nd. Sunday, June 13** – Byzantine Virtual Evening Out: *Saints for All Time and in All Time - Soaring Like Eagles*, 6:00-7:30 PM (Registration will open in late May. [Save these dates for in-person events](#): **Saturday, July 3, 2021**: Watch Party of the 2021 Virtual National Byzantine Rally. **Where:** St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Nesquehoning, PA. **Time and other details** to be announced pending finalization of plans by Intereparchial Youth Commission. (Registration opens soon.) **Friday, July 30 to Monday, August 2** – Passaic Eparchial Byzantine Rally 2021: *Be Not Afraid: Christ Not Covid*. **Where:** Carpathian Village/St. Nicholas Shrine. Details to follow. Covid regulations will be followed. Registration limited to 20 girls and 20 boys, ages 13-17. (Registration opens soon.) Questions/Information, contact me at frdeacontom@gmail.com.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- On Line Contributions
- Amended Safety Protocols
- Parish Financial Reports
- Mission Development
- Bishop's Appeal
- Byzantine News

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

June 6, 2021

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$9,068.00
Building Fund	\$1,530
Holy Days	\$930.00
Candles	\$205.25
SOR	\$22.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$25.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$25.00
	<hr/>
	\$11,805.25

Tithing & Giving. This report is the income of week 5/23/21 and 5/30/21. The next report will reflect offertory for 6/6/21 and 6/13/21. "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, Rand Bass, and Greta Koehl. Please pray for these relatives and friends of our parishioners: Eileen Gray, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith.

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



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 Christ!**
Glory forever! **June 6, 2021** **Slava na v'iki!**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTEOST

Sun. June 6 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Third Week of Pentecost
Mon. June 07 10:00 AM +Elizabeth Basarab by Father John Basarab
Thur. June 10 Aliturgical Day
Fri. June 11 Aliturgical Day
Sat June 12 10:00 AM +Frank and +Helen Polink by EMC

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. June 13 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – June 13, 2021

Sun. June 13 One server and a sacristan will be assigned.

USHER SCHEDULE – June 13, 2021

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

People in attendance can wear masks but do not have to do so if vaccinated. No one will be asked to provide proof. People are requested to 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
for
Second Sunday after Pentecost

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN p. 125 Second Sunday after Pentecost

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE:

Cherubic Hymn
We Praise You
Communion Hymn **ALL A**

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons pp. 14, 16 BLUE
3. At the Troparia:
 - Troparion of Resurrection Tone 1 p. 125 GREEN
 - Kontakion of Resurrection Tone 1 p. 126 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
 - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 1 p. 127 GREEN
 - Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
 - Alleluia: of Resurrection Tone 1 p.127 GREEN
 - Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23
5. Communion Hymn of Resurrection p. 127 GREEN

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i Slove Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i prisno-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.

SVJATYJ BOŽE – HOLY GOD

Svjatyj Bože, svjatyj kr'ipkij, svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. Slava Otcu i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amin.

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 4n a4i zempl'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 Bororodicu, prisnoblaženuju i preneporočnuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Čestnišuju Cheruvim i slavnišuju 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 zeml'i. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'aje dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušenje, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

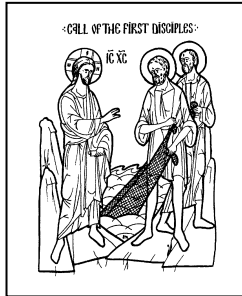
VID'ICHOM SV'IT ISTINNYJ – WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT

Vid'ichom sv'it istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itocom v'iru istinnuju nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklaňajemsja, Ta bo nas spasla jest'.

DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolnjatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojeho Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'aščim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni poučatisja pravd'i Tvojej. Alliluia!

Meditation on Today's Readings



Second Sunday After Pentecost

"He called them and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him."

Matthew 4:10-16

The holy fathers who established the Byzantine lectionary in the fourth century for Saturdays and Sundays appointed the gospel according to Matthew to be read from after Pentecost Sunday until the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost which occurs at Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and then from after Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the gospel according to Luke from the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost until Meat-

Fare Sunday. The selection of the readings is made in a continuous way from the beginning of Jesus' ministry until His entrance into Jerusalem, termed *lectio continua*, careful to respect the way each evangelist presents the gospel.

The gospel according to John reveals that John with his brother James, and Peter and his brother Andrew met Jesus after Jesus was baptized by Saint John the Baptist since the two pairs of brothers were there to listen to John. So, when Jesus returns to Galilee after the forty days in the desert, the other gospel writers say He calls the brothers, and they follow Jesus since according to John's account they have already met Him. Then Matthew writes about what Jesus does: teach, announce the Gospel, and heal. These are the topics the rest of the Sunday gospels will present.

It is important to note that of the men and women Jesus calls, He selects twelve men as a reflection of the twelve sons of Israel. These He calls the Twelve until after the resurrection when they are called the Apostles, that is, Ambassadors. The word that emerges in the account here is the word "immediately". These men follow Jesus when He calls immediately. God doesn't wait to be with us when we are not at work, or school or home and only on Sundays. This account has a special meaning for men who are bishops, priests and deacons, men who are seminarians and in diaconate formation and men who are discerning their call.

However, the gospel has meaning for all Christians. The call of God does not obliterate human nature, for grace builds on nature. This is why Jesus says He will make fishermen into fishers of men. There is no excuse that a person is not an expert in theology or in the spiritual life. Grace builds on nature and then elevates and transforms it. First, building on our nature, the grace we receive in baptism made us brothers and sisters of Jesus and of each other, sons and daughters of God the Father. Second, because of this grace, God gave us the duty to become His servants to take care of humanity and to preach the Gospel by deeds and by words.

For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather those who observe the law will be justified.

Romans 2:10-16

The gospel appointed for today is the account of the call of the first apostles, called by the Lord Jesus from their jobs to follow Him.

The Apostolic reading appointed is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. The first level of his teaching is directed to Jewish Christians about Gentile non-believers. On this level, Saint Paul, or really the Holy Spirit who is the true author and who writes through Saint Paul, instructs that God shows no favoritism. He judges those who have accepted Divine Revelation through the very precepts He reveals to them. He judges those who have not received the truths of Divine Revelation through no fault of their own by the use of the Natural Law, the principles of the natural moral order that are imprinted upon all human beings. Human beings are endowed by God with reason and thereby know that certain things are right and good and certain things wrong and evil.

The United States was established using this norm. On the one hand, the founders acknowledged that the rights

of humans come from God and not from any state and this norm protects freedoms. On the other hand, they wished to avoid choosing a state religion. The way to achieve it was to recognize the Natural Law as written in the right ordered conscience of every human being is from God. In other words, humans when they are being true and honest know right and wrong.

On another level, we know that our intellect has been darkened by Original Sin. Also, the world has come under the domination of sin. To truly know good and evil God has spoken and then actually became Man to enlighten our intellects. It is the duty of the men and women disciples Jesus called and who said yes to His call, every one of us, to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to live and speak in order to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ about salvation from eternal death.

First, we must follow the law of God in our lives for "it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified." The apostles in the gospel appointed did not just hear Jesus calling them. They responded by doing what He wanted. They followed Him. We must also follow the will of God. Second, when we follow God we must do what God does, call others to follow Him.

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

Jesus Begins to Preach and to Call Disciples

Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. He saw 2 brothers, Peter and Andrew. They were casting a net for they were fishermen. What did Jesus say to them?

Find the underlined letters in the picture below.

Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

