

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, Kenneth and Dolores Miller & family, James and Johanna Naccash & family, Jeffrey and Victoria Nashwinter & family, Anne and Charles Neary & family, Ronald and Susan Neff, Christina and Doug Nevitt & family, Carlton Noffsinger and from the Mission, Ronald Pytel.

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 from the Sunday obligation has been revoked. 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.

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 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 20, 2021.

Happy Father's Day. To our fathers, grandfathers, and godfathers. We pray for you today and ask God to bless, protect, and strengthen you. We also pray that God give eternal rest to our departed fathers.

Apostles' Fast. The Apostles' Fast began the Monday after All Saints 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 are Days of Penance, a fast from meat or an equivalent charity.

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. New legislation will go into effect July 1, 2021 that changes aspects of Bingo in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The new legislation has been forwarded to the eparchial attorney for review to determine how this will impact 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.

Mission Development. Christine Uvegyes Loya the principle of Eikona Studios visited the Mission last week to take measurements, and to discuss the plan for the proposed chapel space. She also visited Epiphany church to make some wood repairs. Father John met with Jim Dillon, the wood craftsman, this week to discuss the details of the Holy Table, Table of Preparation, Service Table, and icon screen. Christine Loya and Jim Dillon also had a meeting. Jack McLaurin submitted building permit applications and revised Scope of Work documents to Montgomery County. Montgomery County has fifteen days to respond. The financial update is as follows: The Mission has paid VIKA \$47,900. 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 \$55,445.45. 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 \$294,448.

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 Recent Update. The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Pledges and payments were 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 was 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

\$21,325. 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. As the church reached our goal, we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

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

An in-person watch party on Saturday July 3rd, and a Passaic Byzanteen in-person Rally at Carpathian Village-St. Nicholas Shrine in Cresco, PA **July 30-August 2nd.** Save these dates for in-person events: **Saturday, July 3, 2021:** Watch Party of the 2021 Virtual National Byzanteen 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 Byzanteen 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.

Uniontown Pilgrimage. The Sisters of St. Basil the Great have announced that the 87th Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA will be held Sunday, September 5th. After consulting with the CDC, the Sisters will have the in-person pilgrimage with certain limitations. They request those with compromised immune systems and unvaccinated to participate by live-stream. Since some people with illness and needs go to the Lady of Perpetual Help asking for a cure, possibly these petitioners could have someone go in their place to pray before the icon.

XXV Orientale Lumen Conference. Lector Jack Figel announces that OL Conference is Tuesday, June 22 on-line. The theme is: Liturgy and Scripture: Praying the Word of God. Speakers include Archbishop Job of Geneva, Father Dr. Andrew Summerson of the Eparchy of Parma, Sr. Dr. Vassa Laurin, Father Dr. Marco Benini, Catholic University, Dr. Daniel Stevens, Museum of the Bible,

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- On Line Contributions
- Amended Safety Protocols
- Parish Financial Reports
- Mission Development
- Bishop's Appeal
- Byzanteen News
- Uniontown
- Orientale Lumen Conference

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

June 20, 2021

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$5,149.00
Building Fund	\$3,380.00
Holy Days	\$250.00
Candles	\$367.25
Easter	\$20.00
SOR	\$251.00
Holy Water Bottles	\$30.00
Peter's Pence	\$20.00
<u>St. Nicholas Fund</u>	<u>\$109.45</u>
	\$9,576.70

Reconciliation. The collection reports shown above for the week of 06/06/21 and 06/13/21 have not been reconciled. The reconciled figures will appear in the bulletin next Sunday, June 27th.

Tithing & Giving. This report is the income of week 06/06/21 and 06/13/21. The next report will reflect offertory for 06/20/21 and 06/27/21. "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, 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



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Byzantine Catholic Church

3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003

Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344

Very Rev. John G. Basarab – Pastor

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Glory forever!

June 20, 2021

Slava Isusu Christ!
Slava na v'iki!

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. June 20 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Fifth Week of Pentecost

Tues. June 22 Aliturgical Day

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Thurs. June 24 10:00 AM Health & God's Blessings on John David Soyka by Marlene Soyka McCracken

7:30 PM Intention of Parishioners

Sat June 26 10:00 AM +Harry Dudley Scott by Hogan Family

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. June 27 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – June 27, 2021

Sun. June 27 One server and a sacristan will be assigned.

USHER SCHEDULE – June 27, 2021

Sun. June 27 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

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

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

GREEN p. 135 Resurrection Tone 3

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE:

ALL C

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons pp. 14, 16 BLUE
3. At the Troparia
Troparion of Resurrection Tone 3 p. 135 GREEN
Kontakion of Resurrection Tone 3 p. 136 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 3 p. 137 GREEN
Epistle: Romans 6:18-23
Alleluia: of Resurrection Tone 3 p.137 GREEN
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13
5. Communion Hymn of Resurrection p. 79 BLUE

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' popravij, 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 životvorjasščej 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 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 prijedet 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 ispolňatsja 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

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed."
Matthew 8:5-13

Last Sunday the holy fathers appointed part of the Sermon on the Mount as narrated in the gospel according to Matthew, and this Sunday the gospel is one of the cures that Jesus does when He comes down from the mount. The holy fathers are chronologically following the gospel itself.

As presented by Matthew, Jesus begins His public ministry first by fasting and praying and contending with Satan in the desert of Judea after His baptism, then traveling north to Galilee to call Peter, Andrew, James and John and the rest of the Twelve, and finally going up the mountain and preaching the Sermon on the Mount. Now that He has set forth God's saving plan in the sermon, He comes from the mountain and begins healing and forgiving sins.

This passage presents two centers of action: God and human. First, let's us look at God. Jesus comes down from the mount as a model of God coming to earth when He became man. Matthew narrates these miracles to show that God brings into the world a divine holiness that overpowers the source of defilement, that is, evil, and its symptoms: sin, disease, demons and even death. The Old Testament recorded that these things cause a defilement of the person that has to be cleansed, but Jesus takes the offence against them. He is not only immune to uncleanness, but His superior holiness drives away defilement and purifies humans. So, Jesus is not even reluctant to converse with unbelievers, for unbelievers do not remain so in His presence.

Then there is the human reaction. The Centurion is a Roman army officer who commands a century of 100 men. By his request, he does not want to put Jesus in the position of going to the house of a Gentile which will cause discord since the Pharisees will say Jesus is going to be defiled by entering a non-believer's house. As a practical man he reasons that Jesus can command the healing at a distance, and Jesus gives him the cure as he asked. He then praises the belief of the unbeliever by an image of the Eucharistic Banquet. The Latin Church appropriately uses the words of the centurion as their prayer before Communion.

Jesus really and truly comes under our roof when He comes in Holy Communion. This contact forgives our sins and makes us more and more participants in God's holiness and eternal life. If unbelievers meet us, they will not necessarily come to belief, but if we take them to meet Jesus, great things can happen for them.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:18-23

The gospel appointed for today is the merciful Roman centurion who asks Jesus to cure his sick servant. The epistle appointed is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. The holy fathers have appointed the readings from the Word of God this day that are (1) a teaching about the behavior of humans who do not accept the redemption offered by Jesus in the epistle, and (2) in the gospel an exception to the rule given in the epistle since the centurion is not a believer.

The Apostolic reading appointed is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. The Christian community in Rome was composed of Jews and Gentiles, and St. Paul felt it was important to explain the effects of salvation given by Christ for both of these groups.

Unredeemed humanity is at the mercy of (1) sin and (2) sin's wage, death, (3) humanity's sinful inclination that comes from its mortal wound by Original Sin, and (4) God's Law in which good is immutable. Since God's justice and goodness are not negotiable, a human's only escape is through Jesus Christ taking the penalty of death on each person's behalf, but each person has to be willing to accept the salvation that Jesus offers.

In this passage, St. Paul uses the image of slavery and freedom in reverse. When a person is free from God and righteousness through not accepting God as Savior, this person's so-called freedom leads to being enslaved to sinful behaviors and ultimately to death, meaning eternal death that is separation from God forever.

Those believers who ask Jesus to take the penalty of their death on Himself by being baptized into His death become, yes, St. Paul admits, slaves of God because God purchased them by His Son's death. But it is better to be God's so-called slave because this brings freedom from sin and slavery to sinful inclinations and freedom from eternal death that is hell.

We will soon be observing Independence Day in our country. This epistle reading helps us remember true freedom comes from God.

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

Children's Corner

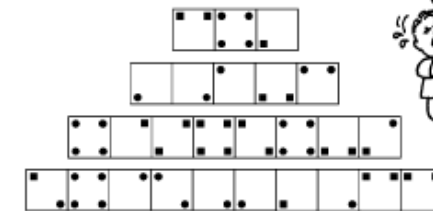
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We are slaves to the one
whom we choose to obey.

Find words to fill the 2 triangles by using the code.

A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L
M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y

Either ...



Or ...

