

"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, Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross, 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, Steve Smith, and Caleb Joseph Lugo.

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs 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, John and Dolores Prokopchak, Gregory and Marsha Puhak, Sarah Puhak, Jennifer Puhak, Christopher and Andrea Pullella & family, David and Virginia Rapavi & family, Dennis and Marta Reuter & family, and from the Mission, Tonja Siemucha.

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 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 has revoked the dispensation regarding the Sunday precept or obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy on June 6th. watching the live stream no longer fulfills 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. 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>.

Prayerbook in church. The entire People's Molitvennik is available at the <https://mci.archpitt.org> web site under Publications tab to use on your smart phone when

participating in the Liturgy.

Blessing of Vehicles. July 20 is the feast of St. Elias who ascended to heaven in a fiery chariot. Vehicles were blessed on the holyday as well as the Divine Liturgies for Saturday, July 24th and today Sunday, July 25th.

Two Divine Liturgies. There are two Divine Liturgies, one a Vigil Liturgy Saturdays at 5:00 PM and one Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 9:00 AM. This to include the festival weekend.

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 Beginning this weekend, we have re-established two Divine Liturgies. Through the summer the Sunday observance will include a Saturday 5:00 pm evening Divine Liturgy for Sunday and a 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of Sunday. Jamie will begin to reschedule those Sunday requests not persolved in 2020 and through the first seven months of 2021.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Current Ushers: If you did not receive an email from Bob Wargo last week regarding scheduling that means either he doesn't have an email address for you, or the one he has is not valid. Therefore, please email him at bob.wargo56@gmail.com with your email address and indicate which liturgy you prefer to usher at, Saturday at 5:00 pm or Sunday at 9:00 am, based upon the new liturgy schedule effective July 24. Also let him know if you would be willing to usher at your "non-preferred" liturgy occasionally.

New Ushers: Anyone not already an Usher, but would like to be, please email Bob (see above) as well with the same information – email address, liturgy preference, and if willing to usher at the other liturgy from time-to-time.

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. 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 went 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.

Festival Baking. Saturday, August 7 will be our next nut roll baking day in preparation for the Slavic-American Festival. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks (rolling dough, dough prep/weighing, cooling/bagging rolls, dishwashing, cleanup) and at various times they can assist. We thank everyone in advance for their time and dedication to making sure we continue to celebrate and share our Slavic culinary traditions!

-Kyra Gerardi and Nancy Soyka.

Epiphany ECF-SOR. There are a few classes that still need catechists. If you would be willing to serve as catechist, please see Gayle Dietrich or email at gayledietrich@gmail.com.

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. Jack McLaurin and Father John have received the bid on work for the mission and will submit it for acceptance by the Bishop. Goshen Enterprises was at the mission estate for more lawn clean up and to discuss with Jack McLaurin prices for tree and stump removal to prepare for parking spaces. Jim Dillon, the wood craftsman, came to show the progress on the icon screen and had his questions answered. Father John spoke to Christine Uveyges Loya this week about the mission icons. We hope Eikona Studios, Jim Dillon, and the contractors for site work and building construction can complete work in time for the twenty-fifth anniversary in October.

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

Passaic ByzanTeen Rally. If you are a Byzanteen, there is still time to register, but don't wait too long! There will be two special guests. Stephanie Sonnicks, Campus Minister at Seton Hall University and Fr. Bogumil Misiuk, Campus Minister at Seton Hall Prep.

Wanted & Needed! The Eparchy of Passaic is looking for a female chaperone for the Rally July 30 – August 2nd, who is Safe Environment Certified. If you are an adult female interested in chaperoning for the Rally, please email Deacon Tom Shubeck at frdeacontom@gmail.com or call him at 201-738-8990.

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

\$22,325. 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.

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 those 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 her icon.

Prime Time Catholics (PTSC) serves single Catholics 40 and over. Meet us for: Ghana Community Mass at Queen of Apostles Church (July 25); walk at Glade Pool Recreation Area in Reston (July 31). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom ptscnva@gmail.com

Seminary Symposium. Ss. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA will hold a symposium, *the Thomas de Aquino Byzantinus project*: The project explores the influence of Thomas Aquinas' (1225-74) writings on Byzantine intellectuals. It produces critical editions of Greek translations of, and commentaries on, Thomistic works by Byzantine scholars and theologians between the late 13th and 15th centuries. The editions shed light on the reception of Aquinas' works in late Byzantium, beyond traditional polemics and prejudice, thus contributing to a better understanding of the dialogue between the Greek East and the Latin West in this period. Presenters will be an international assembly of professors and students and broadcast in Pittsburgh and Athens. One of Epiphany's parish sons, Dominic Cassella, a Master of Arts in Theology student at the seminary will be a presenter. The symposium, July 31 and August 1 will be available on Zoom. If interested, go to the seminary web site www.bcs.edu for more information, including on the speakers' topics and how to register for the event.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- On Line Contributions
- Amended Safety Protocols
- Two Sunday Divine Liturgies
- Mission Development
- Festival Meeting
- Bishop's Appeal
- Ushers Needed
- Uniontown Pilgrimage
- Festival Baking
- SOR - Teachers Needed
- Prime Time Catholics
- ByzanTeen Rally

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$1,490.00
Building Fund	\$445.00
Holy Days	\$25.00
Candles	\$140.00
SOR	\$1.00
<u>St. Nicholas Fund</u>	<u>\$342.00</u>
	\$2,443.00

Tithing & Giving. This report represents donations made in person during the week 07/18/21. It does not include online donations. This report reflects offertory for 07/18/21 only as counting has returned to pre-Covid 19 practices .

On-line Giving. Bishop Kurt directed that all parishes have online giving service in place with www.tithe.ly 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.

Summation of the online giving from 1/1/21 through 6/30/21.

General Offertory	\$15,976.94
Building Fund	\$3,208.29
Holy Days	\$184.31
Candles/Flowers	\$78.91
Eparchial Collections	\$96.68
Eastern Catholic Life	<u>\$42.70</u>
Total	\$19,587.83



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!	July 25, 2021	Slava Isusu Christ!
Glory forever!		Slava na v'iki!

VIGIL OF THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat. July 24 5:00 PM Intention of Parishioners

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. July 25 9:00 AM +Anthony and +Adeline Fazio by Anthony and Mary Fazio

Tenth Week after Pentecost

Tues. July 27 10:00 AM +Anna and +Michael Koshuta by Monica Koshuta

Fri July 30 10:00 AM +Sherri Lee by Epiphany Ladies Guild

VIGIL OF TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat. July 31 5:00 PM Intention of Parishioners

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. Aug.01 9:00 AM +George and +Mary Nacik by Mary & Anthony Fazio

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – July 31 & August 1, 2021

Sat. July 31 5:00 PM One server and a sacristan will be assigned.

Sun. Aug. 01 9:00 AM One server and a sacristan will be assigned.

USHER SCHEDULE – July 31 & August 1, 2021

Sat. July 31 5:00 PM Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Saturday and Sunday.

Sun. Aug. 01 9:00 AM

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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Dormition of Holy Anna, Mother of the Mother of God

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE	p. 11	Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN	p. 161	Resurrection Tone 8
RED	p. 279	Maternity of the Holy Anna

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE:

ALL D
Except:

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons pp. 14, 16 BLUE
3. At the Troparia
Troparion of Resurrection Tone 8 p. 161 GREEN
Troparion of Dormition of Holy Anna Tone 4 MCI Web site
Kontakion of Resurrection Tone 8 p. 162 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 8 p. 162 GREEN
Epistle: 1Corinthians 3:9-17
Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 8 p. 163 GREEN
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34
5. Instead of "It is truly proper...", Exaltation of the Feast of the Maternity of the Holy Anna p. 279
7. Communion Hymn of Resurrection and Feast of Holy Woman
pp.79 & 395

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' 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. 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. Allilua. Allilua. Allilua.

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 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

Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. 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'ilňij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklaňajemsja, Ta bo nas spasla jest'.

DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

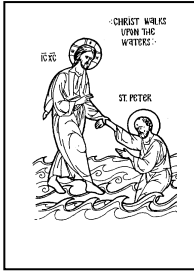
Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojeho Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'aščim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni poučatisja pravd'i Tvojej. Allilua!

Meditation on Today's Readings

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Dormition of Holy Anna – Mother of the Mother of God

“Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid” Matthew 14:22-33



The gospel passage the holy fathers have appointed for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost is the account of Jesus walking on the water and calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. As such, it follows the miraculous feeding of the multitude in the deserted place that was appointed to be read on the Eighth Sunday. In appointing gospel readings for the Sundays after Pentecost from the gospel according to

Matthew, the holy fathers are following the chronology that gospel presents.

After Saint John the Baptist was beheaded, Jesus, hearing that Herod thinks that John has returned in Jesus, departs for a deserted place to pray to God the Father, but the people follow Him. There Jesus heals the sick and preaches. Because they are in an uninhabited place and there is no food available Jesus multiplies the offering of five loaves and two fish and feeds the five thousand men as well as the women and children through the agency of the Twelve apostles. Following this Jesus dismisses the crowd, orders the Twelve back into the boat, and the apostles cross the Sea of Galilee. According to John's account Jesus does this because the people want to make Him king. Then, Jesus goes up the mountain to pray which was why He came here. During the ensuing storm on the lake, Jesus comes to the Twelve, walking on water. These two events, the feeding of the multitude in the desert and the dry passage through the sea had been prefigured by Moses and the Hebrews who pass through the Red Sea and then are fed Manna -- Bread from heaven -- and quail.

The holy fathers understood this passage to refer to the Church of Jesus Christ which, they felt, always lives between the Lord feeding His Body, the Church, through the apostles and their successors at each miraculous Meal, the Mass or Divine Liturgy, and the storms of life that is the state of life here on earth. To be a true disciple of Jesus one has to be “in Peter's boat,” that is, Christ's Church. It seems that after Divine Liturgies or the Mass, Jesus is far away in communion with His Father, but He really is very close when we pray for help. Prayer is a main feature of this gospel lesson, for Jesus, even after teaching and healing and feeding, does not “forget” the reason He came to this place or consider that His time was taken more profitably by works of charity. Rather, He makes time to pray. Also, the Twelve, when they need God, call out in prayer. Peter, as he is sinking, prays, “Lord, save me.” All the prayers are answered because Jesus reveals that He is God when, in order to correct them since they think He is a ghost, says, “It is I.” Really, in the Greek original Jesus says, “*Ego eimi*” “I AM” that is, He pronounces the name of God, the name God revealed to Moses. This is why after they come to land, the answer to what Jesus has said is that they worship Him as God, and worship is another form of prayer. After the dismissal of each Divine Liturgy or Mass, Jesus' Body, the Church, is to pray to ensure and prolong both unions (between God and human and human and human) which occurs through the Bread of Heaven (the Holy Eucharist) until the next Divine Liturgy. The Divine Office, the Liturgy of the Hours, is the official prayer of the Church that maintains both unions between Divine Liturgies.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy
1 Cor 3:16-17

The Christian community in Corinth was a Greek European Christian community, one of the largest churches established by Saint Paul, and was composed of Jews and Gentiles, some wealthy and educated, but most ordinary people. The epistles to the Corinthians indicate there were a large number of women Christians. Corinth was a cosmopolitan city with many religions and a great variety in living practice. It was known for accepting a loose living code. This ethical and cultural climate had an effect on the Christians. Saint Paul allows the Holy Spirit to speak through him to answer their questions.

The Christians are being influenced by the human philosophies in Corinth and they are applying human standards to judge God's Gospel and the abilities of the preachers of Christ's Gospel. The Christians of Corinth are still in spiritual infancy and are judging the preachers of the Gospel by human standards. Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians and us that the role of ministry in the church is not for the clergy. They are not working for themselves, but to build up the Body of Christ. Each Christian does not belong to him-self or her-self or to the clergy but only to Christ our God. The root and source of all apostolic work is the one who gives the growth, God. Saint John Chrysostom preached that Christ is the foundation and we are built on Him, so a Christian must “not only be linked to Jesus Christ, they must, as it were, be glued to him”. Saint Paul extends his metaphor of a building, reminding all, Christians and the clergy who are building Christ in them, that there is a Day of Judgment, and everyone must act in a responsible way. While Saint Paul can envision a strict account required of all on that Day of Judgment, he also is optimistic about the divine corrective means God uses to bring us to Him.

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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Jesus is the most important part of the church and of each individual life within the church.

Fill in letters to complete the names of building parts. Unscramble the letters to spell the answer to the question.

What part of the building should Jesus be? The _____

RAF__ER
W__LL

ROO__
INS__LATION

CEILI__G
__OOR

WIND__W
STA__RWAY

CHIM__EY
FL__OR