

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, Juan Carlos and Theresa Orihuela, Warren and Olga Osterberg, Julia Paluch & family, Roe Panella, Richard and Daria Parrell, Nicholas Passero, Steve and Anne Pastorkovich, and from the Mission, Richard and Anita Rhinehart.

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 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 4, 2021.

Sacraments of Initiation. We welcome into the Mystical Body of Christ Mercedes Divina Vittotow, daughter of Noah David Vittitow and Rosemary Clark Vittitow, baptized, chrismated and received First Holy Communion, June 13th. May God grant Mercedes Divina a pure Profession of Faith. Mnohaja l'ita.

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.

Festival Meeting. Meeting of Activity Chairs for the Slavic American Festival will be Tuesday, July 13th at 7:00 PM at the parish center.

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.

Epiphany Men's Club. The next EMC meeting will be this Thursday, July 8, 2021. It will be an in person meeting. Dinner will begin at 7:00 PM. The meeting follows at 7:30 PM in the parish center. The menu is still undetermined.

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 met at the Mission Estate Friday, July 2nd, to review the Scope of Work to bid for contractors. We have to pay final fees to DPS although that is based on cost of construction and we do not have a contractor yet, so we do not have a cost of construction. We hope that Eikona Studios, the wood craftsman Jim Dillon and the contractors for site work and building construction 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

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.

Theosis in Action. Young adult ministry of the Eparchy of Passaic is sponsoring "King, Comforter, Truth: Discerning God's Plan for Us. Directed by Father Jack Custer at St. Michael's

Cathedral chapel, Woodland Park, NJ, July 10, 2021. Visit us on Facebook or Theosis in Action.

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: Pie and Ice Cream Social at Wakefield Park (July 10); visit to Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens (July 17); 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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- On Line Contributions
- Amended Safety Protocols
- Parish Financial Reports
- Mission Development
- Festival Meeting
- Bishop's Appeal
- Byzantine News
- Uniontown Pilgrimage
- Festival Baking
- SOR - Teachers Needed
- Prime Time Catholics

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

June 27, 2021

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$7,575.00
Building Fund	\$1,880.00
Holy Days	\$220.00
Candles	\$254.50
SOR	\$327.00
Holy Water Bottles	\$30.00
Peter's Pence	\$245.00
<u>St. Nicholas Fund</u>	<u>\$397.05</u>
	\$10,937.55

Tithing & Giving. . This report represents donations made in person during the weeks 6/20/21 and 6/27/21, it does not include online donations. Online donations will be reflected in our yearly parish financial report. The next report will reflect offertory for 07/04/21 and 07/11/21. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from our online giving account. Our online giving 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, 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, Steve Smith, and Caleb Joseph Lugo, child of extended Kotula family.

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for



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 4, 2021	Slava Isusu Christ!
Glory forever!		Slava na v'iki!

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTEOST

Sun. July 4 10:30 AM Intention of our Parishioners

Seventh Week after Pentecost

Tues. July 6 10:00 AM +Mary Ellen Kepick by Noyes Family

Anthony of the Caves - Venerable

Sat July 10 10:00 AM +Michael Terpak by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Swartz

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. July 11 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – July 11, 2021

Sun. July 11 One server and a sacristan will be assigned.

USHER SCHEDULE – July 11, 2021

Sun. July 11 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 to 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.

<p>Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA http://www.eolbcc.org Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct business on the website email.</p>
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PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy
for

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

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

GREEN p. 146 Resurrection Tone 5

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE:

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 5 p. 146 GREEN
Kontakion of Resurrection Tone 5 p. 147 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 5 p. 148 GREEN
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14
Alleluia: of Resurrection Tone 5 p.148 GREEN
Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8
5. Communion Hymn of Resurrection p. 78 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 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

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 iskušeniye, 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. Alliluia!

Meditation on Today's Readings



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

“When Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, “Courage, child, your sins are forgiven...He then said to the paralytic, Rise, pick up your stretcher and go home.’ He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings.”
Matthew 9:2-8

In the gospel appointed for this Sunday, Jesus returns to Capernaum where He forgives the sins of a paralyzed man and heals the man of his paralysis as substantiation that He has forgiven the man's sins. This passage follows chronologically after the exorcism of the two possessed men and the loss of the pigs that was read last Sunday. This account is read twice during the year, today on the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost and from Saint Mark's account of the same work of power on the Second Sunday of the Great Fast.

In the account in Mark the friends of the paralytic cannot get close to Jesus so they carry the man to the roof, open the roof and lower the man before Jesus. In this narrative those details have been omitted in order to concentrate the attention of the hearers on the virtue of faith as being both individual and collective and on resolving the issue as to who has authority to forgive sins.

The gospel passage, “Jesus, seeing *their* faith...”, indicates how pleased the Lord Jesus is by those who do charity for others - whether caring for their physical needs or their spiritual needs. Each person has to make an individual act of faith. However, this faith must also be expressed in a community of believers as a collective expression, like the Creed, since there is only *one true* God. Faith in God leads one to say both “I believe in one God”, and “I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.”

While at first one might think it is easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, - since there is no way to verify it yet it would be immediately evident whether the paralysis was healed - it is really harder to say “your sins are forgiven” because it costs the Son of God His voluntary death on the Cross.

The scribes are correct. Only God can forgive sins. The gospel account concludes that the witnesses of this physical and spiritual miracle rejoice that God has given the power to forgive sins to humans. In this the evangelist anticipates that the risen Lord Jesus gives the apostles, and through them, the bishops and priests, the power to forgive sins in His name in the Sacrament of Penance. We must remember to rejoice that this is so by availing ourselves of the Sacrament of Penance.

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let us exercise them...love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor... Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them.
Romans 12:6-14

The gospel appointed for today is the healing by the Lord Jesus of the paralyzed man. 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) in the epistle a teaching how each of us is to live in the one Body of Christ to Whom we were joined, and (2) in the gospel an example of the concern the members of the one Body of Christ should have for each other and how the Lord Jesus will reward such behavior.

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.

Saint Paul uses the image of one body. Every person who is baptized becomes incorporated in Christ's Body. At the same time through baptism every person becomes a priest of his or her own life “to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1Peter 2:15). Every good we do in our lives as single, or married, as parents, and children, at work and home is offered to God at the offering of the gifts of bread and wine at each Divine Liturgy we attend.

On the other hand, Saint Paul uses the idea of a single body made up of hands, feet, limbs, skin and internal organs. There is diversity in function but every part needs the other. So also, he writes, is it in the Body of Christ. Each person who is a part of Christ's Body is to help the whole body by exercising the gift or gifts given to him or her under Christ who is the Head of His Body, the Church. At the same time, all the members of Christ's Body share one gift in common, the gift of charity. True charity takes different forms depending on the needs and capacity of each person. Christ shows the example when He rewards the charitable effort of the stretcher bearers who carry the paralyzed man by curing the man.

It was dangerous in the first century, when this epistle was composed, to be a Christian and to profess that Jesus is God. Today it is difficult in our country to be a Christian practicing the virtue of charity outside of one's household and parish. True charity to the other members of our Body, the Body of Christ, requires us to stay strong in our faith and steadfast in doing good deeds for one another. Being a Christian also requires us to show charity towards our persecutors, “Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse” (Romans 12:14).

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

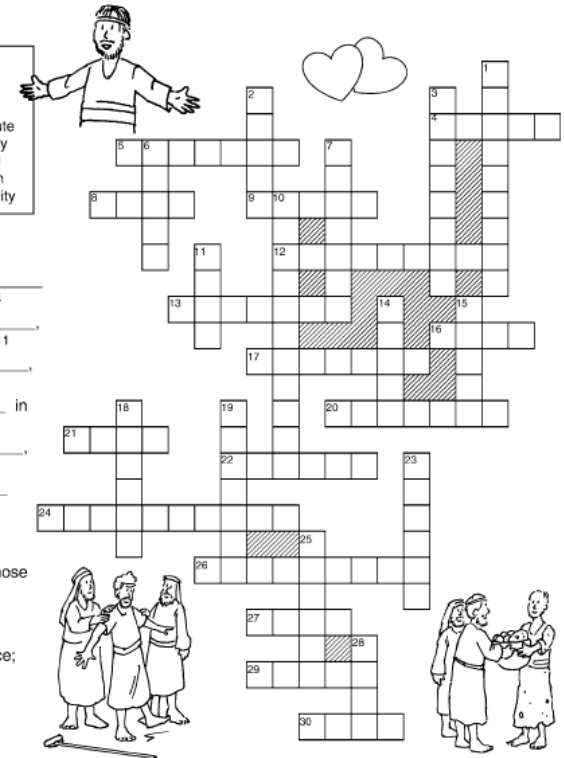
Children's Corner

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What did Paul say?

Fit the words below into the crossword,
then fill in the blanks to read Romans 12:10-16.

love	zeal	curse	another	faithful
live	bless	never	patient	persecute
need	above	joyful	servicing	brotherly
keep	share	fervor	lacking	spiritual
Lord	honor	people	harmony	affliction
hope	mourn	prayer	rejoice	hospitality



Be devoted to one another in _____ 1

_____ 8 _____ 14 one _____ 5 _____ 4

yourselves. _____ 6 be _____ 13 in _____ 11

but _____ 28 your _____ 12 _____ 25

_____ 7 the _____ 16. Be _____ 22 in

_____ 30 _____ 17 in _____ 24

_____ 3 in _____ 23 _____ 9

with God's _____ 18 who are in _____ 21

Practice _____ 10 _____ 2 those

who _____ 26 you; bless and do not

_____ 29 _____ 19 with those who rejoice;

_____ 15 with those who mourn. _____ 27 in

_____ 20 _____ with one another.