

Liturgy for parishioners 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, Mark Wasczak, Kalyna Watts & family, Kevin Wegman, Peter and Helen Wegman, Roseann and Amelia Wegman, Bryant and Ruth Welch, Robert Wiesner, and from the Mission, Steven Kremasky.

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. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Emergency expired July 1, 2021, and all executive orders are expired or terminated.

Episcopal Guidelines. Bishop Kurt issued directives for his parishes effective May 28, 2021. 1) The Bishop directs that state and local health directives should be observed. 2) Parishioners do not have to wear a mask except for personal choice. 3) Priests, deacons and those assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion should wear a mask. 4) The priest and deacon are to receive from chalices other than the one to be used for the Faithful. 5) Individual spoons must continue to be used to distribute Holy Communion. 6) The priest and deacon must continue to exercise caution in handling the offered and prepared gifts before they are consecrated, and handling, speaking or singing near the Gifts or the metal ware (chalice, discos, zeon) and continue to sanitize their hands prior to touching them. 7) No one should be asked if they have received the covid vaccine in order to allow entrance to the church. 8) People are encouraged to continue to practice safe distancing in the pews and Communion procession. 9) The Bishop has not lifted the prohibition to have the prayer books and Bibles or the bulletins in church.

Sunday Obligation. 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."

Parish 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.

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.

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
Now that we have re-established two Divine Liturgies for Sunday, a Saturday 5:00 pm evening Divine Liturgy for Sunday and a 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of Sunday, Jamie will reschedule those Sunday requests not persolved in 2020 and through the months of 2021.

Church Consecration 10th Anniversary.
Sunday, November 21, 2021, Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving followed by festive meal.

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.

Tax Planning Opportunities. 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.

Condolences. We offer our condolences to Cdr. Theodore and Leslie Dykeman and their family upon the death of Ted's mother, Julia Yastishock Dykeman, Capt., USN, ret. Captain Dykeman was the sister of the late Father Charles Yastishock of our eparchy. She was a registered nurse who served in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm. Funeral was October 28th from St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, Harrisburg, PA. May God grant His departed servant, Julia, peaceful repose. Vičnaja jej pamjat'.

EMC Bingo. New legislation went into effect July 1, 2021, that changes aspects of Bingo in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This legislation allows only those organizations who have corporate offices in Virginia to hold Bingo. Epiphany Men's Club has retained counsel, Attorney John Rodock of Baker, Donalson. A subcommittee of lawmakers has been formed to study the negative impacts of the legislation. Members of EMC Men's Club plan to meet with members of the subcommittee to share the impact the legislation has on our Bingo. EMC is asking parishioners if anyone is interested to work Bingo one Tuesday per month.

Parish Bulletin. The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: www.colbcc.org. It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.

BCY Halloween Party. Epiphany teens of the BCY will resume their annual Halloween party for the children of our parish today, Sunday, October 31st after ECF classes, in the chapel basement from 12 pm

to 1:30pm. Sanitizing and social distancing will be observed. Grab-n-go food will be provided. ECF students can attend in the costume of their choice.

Mission Development. The ground has been cleared for parking and base gravel has been delivered and spread. Fine gravel is in the process of being spread. Concrete has been poured according to approved grade angle to the entrance of the proposed chapel. Gutters and downspouts cost proposals have been made. Trenches for the dry wells have been excavated and drainage pipe laid. The contractors are waiting for the county inspector approval to back fill the trenches and wells. The prothesis and diakonicon will now be built.

Book Store. The Bookstore will be open every Sunday after the Sunday 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

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. Epiphany has received their rebate totaling \$9,030. 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 donation to European eparchies.

Genesis. Join us as we immerse ourselves in the study of the first book of the Bible, Genesis, with St. Ephrem the Syrian, St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian as our guides, Wednesdays, November 3-17 at 8:00 PM. Dr. Andrew Hayes holds a doctorate in Syriac and Eastern Fathers of the Church from Catholic University and is professor at University of St. Thomas in Texas. He observes: The Church Fathers call Christ the "New Adam," the one who restores the "old Adam" to his original glory. Placing Jesus' saving work in the broader biblical context of the stories of the Creation and the Fall, the Fathers presuppose our knowledge of the Book of Genesis as the foundation for the Gospel revelation of Jesus Christ.

Register at www.GodWithUsonline.org

Byzantine Ruthenian Church Assembly. The Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church Assembly is scheduled for Friday, November 5th and Saturday, November 6th at St. John the Baptist Archeparchial Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA. The title of the assembly is "One Body in Christ: Reemerging from the Pandemic." Presenters will include: Bishop Kurt Burnette, from the Eparchy of Passaic; Father Dr. Valerian Minchik, doctor of canon law, from the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh; Deacon Thomas Shubeck, a psychologist, from the Eparchy of Passaic; Christopher Russo, originator of Theosis in Action for Byzantine Catholic young adults, from the Eparchy of Passaic; Archpriest John Kachuba, Father Dr. Andrew Summerson, and Theresa Fetsko from the Eparchy of Parma; and Deacon Basil Balke. For a registration form, please visit the web site of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh at www.archpitt.org.

Free FTC Publications. The FTC has made publications available to help people learn about everyday financial issues that help the community identify avoid scams, recover from identity theft, and make sound financial decisions making the most of your money. Also available, a preview of these resources at bulkorder.ftc.gov; consumer alerts by subscribing at ftc.gov/consumeralerts; visit consumer.ftc.gov for articles, blog posts, videos, and graphics on a range of consumer topics.

Iwenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- On Line Contributions
- Amended Safety Protocols
- Two Sunday Divine Liturgies
- Mission Development
- God with Us online
- Bookstore open
- Bishop's Appeal
- Halloween Party Today

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

October 31, 2021

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$ 2,368.00
Building Fund	\$1,090.00
Candles	\$163.50
SOR	\$126.50
Catholic Charities	\$25.00
<u>St. Nicholas</u>	<u>\$26.10</u>
	\$3,793.60

Tithing & Giving. This report represents donations made in person during the week 10/24/21 It does not include online donations .

"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, Steve Seman, Damon Seman, Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross, and Greta Koehl. Please pray for these relatives and friends of our parishioners: Eileen Gray, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, Steve Smith, Caleb Joseph Lugo, and Marie J. Stone.

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that " the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sunday and days of precept [holydays of obligation] (canon 294). This liturgy intention for parishioners is "For the intention of parishioners who attend the Divine



**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!	October 31, 2021	Slava Isusu Christ! Slava na v'iki!
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VIGIL OF TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat. Oct. 30 5:00 PM +George Petersen by Deacon El & Sally Pekarik

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. Oct. 31 9:00 AM Intention of Parishioners

Twenty-fourth Week after Pentecost

Tues. Nov. 02 10:00 AM +Richard Wytko by Diane Deyarmin

Thurs Nov. 04 10:00 AM +George Lichvarcik by Fr. John Basarab

VIGIL OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat. Nov. 06 5:00 PM Intention of Parishioners

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun Nov. 07 9:00 AM +Madonna Jaimes by Noyes Family

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – November 6 & November 7

Sat. Nov. 06 5:00 PM

Sun. Nov. 07 9:00 AM

USHER SCHEDULE – November 6 & November 7, 2021

Sat. Nov. 06 5:00 PM

Sun. Nov. 07 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

Mysteris (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.

Mysteris (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.

Mysteris (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
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
and
Blessed Theodore Romzha

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN p. 152 Resurrection Tone 6

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE:

ALL B
Except:

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons
3. At the Troparia
Troparion of Resurrection Tone 6 p. 152 GREEN
Troparion of the Blessed Theodore Romzha MCI website October 31st
Kontakion of Resurrection Tone 6 p. 152 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
Prokeimenon of Resurrection Tone 6 p. 153 GREEN
Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10
Alleluia of Resurrection Tone 6 p. 153 GREEN
Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

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 Troje'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, prsnoblaženuju i preneporočnuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Čestňišuju Cheruvim i slavňišuju 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 zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože I my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

VID'ICHOM 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 ispolňjatsja 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



23rd Sunday After Pentecost

The entire population of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them...So he got into a boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had come out begged to remain with him, but he sent him away, saying, "Return home and recount what God has done for you." The man went off and proclaimed throughout the whole town what Jesus had done for him. Luke 8:26-39

The gospel appointed for this Sunday, an exorcism by Jesus of the Gerasene man possessed by a "legion" of demons, is recorded in the gospels according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The holy fathers have appointed this account to be read twice during the year, on the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost from the account of Saint Matthew and today on the Twenty-third Sunday from Saint Luke's account of the same work of divine power.

Jesus and the apostles have just completed the crossing of the Sea of Galilee and survived a storm which was so strong that the boat was filling with water although Jesus was asleep. After the apostles wakened Him, He calmed the storm. The apostles are filled with fear and say, "Who, then, is this who commands even the wind and the sea, and they obey Him?" Saint Theophylact of Bulgaria in his scriptural commentary on the gospel of Saint Luke writes that the apostles receive the answer to their question from a fearsome source, the demons who possess a man who meets them on the shore. For, when they make land, they are met by a possessed man and the demons who possess him cry out, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" There is the answer.

Even devils recognize that Jesus is God and man but that does not make them citizens of heaven. Jesus taught, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21). That is the first truth. The second is that devils are not the evil equivalent of God, like the ancient dualism that appears in a modern form in Star Wars. They have to ask permission to enter the pigs. When assailed by evil thoughts or temptations we must turn to God who is stronger than evil.

As stewards of the earth, we wonder why Jesus would permit the destruction of so many animals. While all life is important, the truth God reveals is human life is most important because humans are made in the image of God. What happened reveals the providential care of God, for without God's protection the possessed man and many of the inhabitants would have come to a terrible end long before the arrival of Jesus. Remember that the Law of Moses did not permit the consumption of pork. What this loss teaches is the lesson of the spiritual loss of humans through economic loss. Humans, who are made in God's image, do not live in God's likeness by not observing His commands for God-like living, i.e., eating pork. Of course, now that Jesus has come and completely fulfilled the Law of Moses, the dietary laws that were a guardian of the People of God until God came to earth no longer bind.

The final question is, how did the townspeople live with such evil in their proximity? The reaction of the people to the restoration of the man through the exorcism is barely noticed. Instead, everyone reacts to the loss of pigs. Anxious to protect whatever else they might have from the power of Jesus, the townspeople drive Jesus out instead. Such a crisis of choice exists with people of all times and every place. We cannot get comfortable with co-existence with evil for God will not co-exist with evil. He will leave.

The man is left behind. Catholic and Orthodox Christians are made Christians at baptism which is preceded by the rite of exorcism. Then, each time they approach the Sacrament of Repentance, the Lord Jesus drives sin from them. They are then sent back to where they live as a witness of the loving power of God.

"But God who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life in Christ (by grace you have been saved) raised us up with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus..." Ephesians 2:4-10

There are two ways of existence, two "kingdoms" and these two have opposing principles. While these two ways are observable to everyone, each is spiritual in nature. Each stamps its image on its subjects and requires exclusive allegiance and obedience. The leader of the lesser kingdom is Satan and Satan is a created being. The King of the other kingdom is God the Father. He is uncreated.

How can one get from one kingdom to another? Humans are born in the condition of Original Sin. How can they transfer into the kingdom of God the Father?

In the passage from the epistle to the Ephesians appointed today, God the Holy Spirit writing through Saint Paul says that God the Father who is rich in mercy makes this possible by three things: grace, faith, and good works. Grace is infinite and uncreated while our faith is limited but can grow, and we are saved for good works.

Out of God's love that is without limits, God the Father has sent God the Son to become a human being, Jesus Christ. By Jesus' death on the cross grace can be given to humans in abundance. The virtue of faith, infused by God into every person, can access God's grace if a human puts their faith in God, and believes in Jesus. By placing faith in God, a person transfers obedience from Satan's kingdom to God's kingdom. The transfer is made complete at baptism where we humans who were dead in sin are made alive in Christ and live in the foretaste of heaven while still here on earth. In the meantime, God's grace, accessed through our faith, is to be used to do the good works that are the sign of God's kingdom.

From Ignatius Study Bible: Luke, The Navarre Bible: Luke, and The Navarre Bible.

Children's Corner

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God gives eternal life as a gift, not a reward for good works.

Fit the list of words into the crossword. Then place the words into the verse according to their numbers.

For it is by _____

_____ and this is _____

_____ it is the _____

of _____ by _____, so that

15 _____ 7 _____ 4 _____ 3 _____

_____ 9 _____ 12 _____

10 ACROSS _____ 6 _____ 2 _____

16 _____ 13 _____ 1 _____ 14 _____

NO
CAN
GOD
NOT
ONE
YOU
BEEN
FROM
GIFT
HAVE
BOAST
FAITH
GRACE
SAVED
WORKS
THROUGH
YOURSELVES