

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." 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 remembering several parishioners and families each week. Please remember this week John Barba, Rand and Debra Rand & family, Frank and Lisa Behnke & family, James and Joyce Beiermann & family, Kevin and Theresa Matlaga Bell, John and Patricia Berezny & family, J. Charles Bernard and from the Mission, Richard Neimiller.

Public Liturgies. The Governor of Virginia has issued the seventh revise Executive Order Seventy-two and Executive Order Seventy-nine. 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. 10 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 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 or Bibles or bulletins in church.

Sunday Obligation. The Bishop has revoked the dispensation regarding the Sunday precept or obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy on June 6, 2021. Watching a 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 have been 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 regularly. The chapel continues to 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 we can be united by the same prayer. Visit 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.

Christmas Fast. The forty-day Christmas Fast began November 15th and continues to December 24th. Another name for the Christmas Fast is St. Philip's Fast because the fast began the evening of St. Philip's Day. Today is the commemoration of St. Sabbas. The typicon that guides Byzantine church services is from his monastery called the Lavra of St. Sabbas or today, Mar Saba. It was the monastic home also of St. John of Damascus. Mar Saba is among the oldest continuously occupied monasteries and is in the Kidron Valley by Jerusalem. The tradition is that the last Divine Liturgy before the end of the world will be offered there. Monday is the feast of St. Nicholas, the protector-patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church. St. Nicholas, a council father at the First Ecumenical Council boldly confronted the heretic Arius. St. Nicholas is known for his holiness of life, the good care of the people of his eparchy and especially for his works of charity. His renown continues because of the many miracles or wonders God works through his intercession.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toys for Tots. Epiphany School of Religion, through Quantico Marine Base, will sponsor a Toys for Tots drop site at Epiphany of our Lord. New unwrapped toys may be dropped at either one of the two Toys for Tots drop boxes in the Parish Center main entrance. The drop boxes became available last Saturday November

13. The last day to donate is today, Sunday, December 5, 2021. Access to the donation boxes is available today Sunday 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Your donation is greatly appreciated!

EMC Awards Club. The EMC Fall Awards Club 300 raffle drawings have begun. The prize for the first nine weeks is \$50. On the tenth week, the winner will take home \$1,000. The weekly winners are: 1. Sally Green, #074; 2. Sally Green, #074; 3. Donna Reid, #259; 4. Michael Dalton, #243; 5. Cesar Jaimes, #034; 6. Terry Abel, #198; 7. Michael Dalton, #243. The eighth drawing will be held today, Sunday, December 5th.

St. Nicholas Celebration. Epiphany ECF-SOR sponsored St. Nicholas Celebration today after the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy in the parish center. The presentation will be part-live and part-video. Luncheon will be served after the students' presentation. Parishioners are invited.

Christmas Bread and Chocolate. Epiphany Ladies Guild will be selling freshly baked Christmas Bread, Nut rolls and hand-made chocolate candy after the Sunday Divine Liturgy today and then next two Sundays while supplies last.

Epiphany Ladies Guild Christmas Party. The ELG Christmas party will take place Saturday, December 11, 2021, in the Parish Center. The party will begin at 6:30 PM and feature dinner, refreshments, dessert bar, a live string quartet, Christmas Carols, fun and conversation. ELG members are free. Guests of ELG members are \$10. Bring a wrapped ornament for an ornament exchange. Please RSVP to Daria Parrell by email to DTParrell@gmail.com or phone 703-255-2221.

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 tithing 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.

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.eolbcc.org. It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.

Mission Development. The front entry stoop is completed. The fire rated door and wall are in progress. Jack explains that this is an important part of the work. The adjacent property has completed their septic work and resodded part of the area. The other tree removal damage has been repaired. The electrician will be installing exits signs and emergency lighting. However, the chandelier has not been received yet. Great progress is being made.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop's Appeal 2020. The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began November 1, 2021. The goal for Epiphany of our Lord, Annandale is the same as last year, \$19,800.00. The goal for Epiphany of our Lord Montgomery County Mission also remains the same as the previous year, \$6,000. Parishioners should be receiving your Bishop's Appeal forms shortly. If you do not receive your Appeal information, please call the parish office at 703-573-3986 or email to epiphanyofourlord3420@gmail.com. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 30, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2021, must be attributed to the 2022 tax year. As in previous years, if we reach or exceed our goal, the parish will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

God with Us Online Rejoice All Peoples: The Feasts of the Old Testament, Wednesdays, December 1 and 8, 8-9 PM with Fr. Dr. Sebastian Carnazzo, pastor of St. Elias Melkite Greek Catholic Church, San Jose, CA. Father Carnazzo hold a doctorate in Sacred Scripture from the Catholic University of America. As we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord, we turn to the feasts of the Old Testament, seeking to understand how they foreshadowed the coming of Christ and paved the way for salvation and the restoration of mankind to paradise.

Pilgrimage to Vienna, Salzburg & Budapest. Fr. Bjorn Lundberg, Pastor at Sacred Heart, Winchester, VA will be the Spiritual Director for a ten day pilgrimage to Europe from September 19-28, 2022. The itinerary includes two nights in Salzburg, three nights in Vienna, and three nights in Budapest. The cost is \$3999 per person with deposit of \$450 and final payment by June 19, 2022. Package includes round trip air fare from most East Coast cities, superior tourist class hotels, escorted guides, air-conditioned motor coaches, daily breakfast and dinner. An early booking discount is available. For additional information and brochures, contact John Tagnesi toll free 1-888-544-4461 or orjtag1964@verizon.net.

28th 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
- Toys for Tots
- ELG Christmas Party
- EMC Awards Club Winners

EMC BINGO
 Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

December 5, 2021

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$1147.00
Building Fund	\$1186.00
Holy Days	\$55.00
Candles	\$81.97
Flowers	\$390.00
SOR	\$96.00
Military Services	\$20.00
<u>St. Nicholas</u>	<u>\$566.02</u>
	\$3441.99

Tithing & Giving. This report represents donations made in person during the week 11/21/21 It does not include online donations. Building Fund is a pass through item from other accounts to be transferred to Building Fund and is not General Fund income.

"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.

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that " the pas



**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!	December 5, 2021	Slava Isusu Christ! Slava na v'iki!
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VIGIL OF TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat. Dec. 04 5:00 PM +Louise and +Jimmy Cason by Monica Koshuta & Family

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sun. Dec. 05 9:00 AM Intention of Parishioners

Twenty-eighth Week after Pentecost

NICHOLAS OF MYRA – ARCHBISHOP

Mon. Dec. 06 10:00 AM Children of Epiphany church and mission by Donor

7:30 PM Intention of Parishioners

Tues. Dec. 07 Aliturgical Day

MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA

Wed. Dec. 08 10:00 AM +Ralph Fabiano by Anthony and Mary Fazio

7:30 PM Intention of Parishioners

Thurs. Dec. 09 Aliturgical Day

Fri. Dec. 10 10:00 AM +Michael George Koshuta by Monica Koshuta & Family

VIGIL OF THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

Sat. Dec. 11 5:00 PM Intention of Parishioners

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Sun. Dec. 12 9:00 AM +Mary Ellen Kepick by David Semanco & Marlene McCracken

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – December 11 & December 12, 2021

Sat. Dec. 11 5:00 PM Michael Sirotniak

Sun. Dec. 12 9:00 AM James Hughes

USHER SCHEDULE – December 11 & December 12, 2021

Sat. Dec. 11 5:00 PM Volunteers

Sun. Dec. 12 9:00 AM Volunteers

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.

<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
Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctifier

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

Except:

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons
3. At the Troparia
Troparion of Resurrection Tone 3 p. 135-136 GREEN
Troparion of the Father Tone 8, p. 376 RED or MAT p. 264
Kontakion of Resurrection Tone 3 p. 136 GREEN
4. Scripture readings:
Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 3 p. 137 GREEN
Epistle: Col. 1:12-16
Alleluia of the Resurrection Tone 3 p. 137 RED
Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatому 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 Svjatому Duchu, spasi nas.

SVJATYJ BOZE – HOLY GOD

Svjatyj Bože, svjatyj kr'ipkij, svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. Slava Otcu i Synu, i Svjatому 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. Alliluia. Alliluia. Alliluia.

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

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

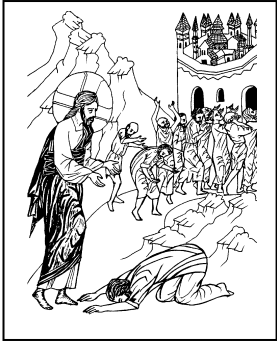
Vid'ichom sv'it istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itocom v'iru istinnuju nerazd'ilňij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklaňajemsja, Ta bo nas spasla jest'.

DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da 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

28th Sunday After Pentecost



And one of them, realizing that he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him...Jesus said in reply, Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” Luke 17:12-19

The gospel according to Luke narrates that “As He [Jesus] continued his journey to Jerusalem He traveled through Samaria and Galilee.” Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem to give Himself to be crucified. On the journey he is approached by ten lepers who stand at a distance -- as the Law of Moses directs that lepers maintain distance to prevent the spread of the dreaded Hansen’s Disease from which there is no cure even today -- and cry to Him to

have mercy on them.

The Law of Moses further prescribes that if a person is cured of leprosy, he or she must present themselves to a priest who will examine them like a doctor would. If they passed the exam, the priest would declare them cured and the cured person could return to their home and their family. This law was to ensure a cure and protect the population from a leper who would return to the people and spread the contagious disease.

So when Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to a priest, even though at that moment they still have the disease, the ten must have enough faith to not persist in begging or following Jesus but to set out to see a priest. Sure enough, on the way they are cured. Nine continue to find a priest to be declared cured so they can see their families again and resume their lives. One, a Samaritan, goes back to Jesus and performs an act of worship, he glorifies Jesus and then he does a prostration before Him.

In the cure on the road to Jerusalem Jesus announces His Gospel. Like the lepers we are subjects of decay because of Original Sin and our own sins. If we ask Jesus “Lord, have mercy” He will save us, but we have to have the virtue of faith to continue on the journey of our life even if the cure is not fully apparent right away. Returning to Jesus and giving ourselves as a gift to Him in worship by our words and bodily actions are expected by Jesus. Why? Jesus married us by uniting His divinity to our humanity and being born of the Blessed Virgin in Bethlehem. Spouses continually give themselves to one another. Jesus has given us life by His cure and we, united in marriage to Him through baptism, continually give ourselves back to Him in worship.

He is the image [eikon] of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation ... For in Him the fulness of God was pleased to dwell. (Colossians 1:15 and 19)

Colossae was a small city in present-day Turkey. St. Paul wrote the epistle to the Colossians from prison because he has received a report from Epaphras about conditions in their church. The problem the Colossians have is that certain visitors are spreading ideas from the Gnostics and some of the members of the church are believing these philosophical ideas. Gnosticism is a kind of dualism of opposites, good-evil, spirit-matter. According to them, these dualities are the basis of everything. For Gnostics, Jesus has to be a lesser being than the angels because angels are pure spirit and Jesus is (by appearances to them) only a man, albeit a special man. The Gnostics are teaching that as such, Jesus is greater than men but less than God and angels and Jesus serves as a type of intermediary between Spirit and Matter. St. Paul writes this epistle to them to correct these errors and stop the confusion from spreading to the risk of their immortal souls.

Fr. Jack Custer explains that St. Paul attempts to state that the Lord (Jesus) is God, to convey that God the Son shares in the divinity of God the Father, and that after the incarnation in the womb of the Virgin Mary God the Son also shares our humanity, but while remaining fully God. As so, by becoming man, God the Son makes the fullness of God visible for humans.

The Navarre Bible, *Luke*. Fr. Jack Custer, *The Apostolic Writings*.

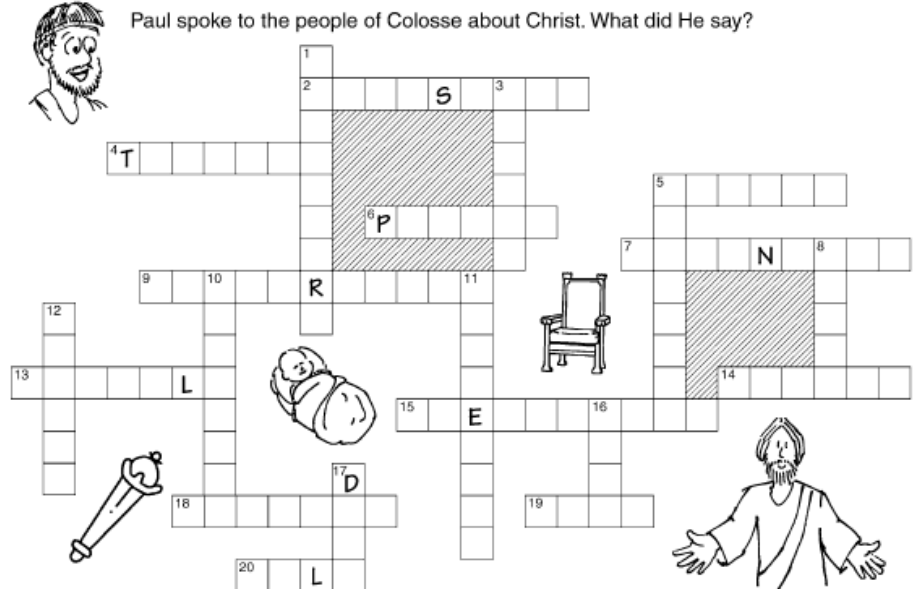
Children's Corner

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Paul spoke to the people of Colosse about Christ. What did He say?

Fit the words from the list into the crossword puzzle. Then fill in the blanks.

- body
- dead
- head
- hold
- image
- before
- church
- powers
- rulers
- things
- created
- thrones
- visible
- creation
- together
- beginning
- firstborn
- invisible
- supremacy
- everything
- authorities



Paul said, “He is the (8) _____ of the (2) _____ God, the (1) _____ over all (5D) _____. For by Him all (12) _____ were (18) _____: (12) _____ in heaven and on earth, (13) _____ and (2) _____, whether (4) _____ or (6) _____ or (14) _____ or (9) _____; all (12) _____ were (18) _____ by Him and for Him. He is (3) _____ all (12) _____, and in Him all (12) _____ (20) _____ (10) _____. And He is the (16) _____ of the (19) _____, the (5A) _____; He is the (7) _____ and the (1) _____ from among the (17) _____, so that in (15) _____ He might have the (11) _____.”